

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Radcliff S9049

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[A note in the file states that the original application was sent to District Attorney Washington G. Singleton on 9 Aug 1834 for his investigation of pensioners from Lewis, Harrison, and other counties in present West Virginia. For details of this investigation see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth and the note below. The following is Singleton's report.]

William Radcliff of Lewis County. receives \$80.

Weedon Hoffman a Magistrate of Lewis county, on the 30th June made the following communication, - that on Saturday the 29th June 1834 William Radcliff was at his store in Weston, when Hoffman asked him if he had heard that there was an agent in the county examining the Pensioners - and how long he had served in the war of the Revolution as soldier, to which Radcliff replied that he had heard of the agent, and that he had only served one tour of six months, and that he had only claimed for six months service in his Declaration.

On the 30th July I saw Mr. Radcliff and received from him the following narrative of his services in the war of the Revolution to Wit - in his 16 or 17th year of age he hired as substitute in the place of Adam Harpol [possibly Adam Harpold] for two months & marched from Hardy county Virginia under he dont recollect whom, nor where to & immediately after the defeat of Cornwallis at little York Virginia [19 Oct 1781] he marched from Hardy County to Winchester Virginia under Capt James Stephenson and served under him at the latter place for two months, guarding the British Prissoners - Capt. Stephensons company except 5 or 6 men including himself were discharged at the end of two months, at which time Capt. Jos. Berry came to Winchester with a company. himself & the four or five men last above mentioned were attached to Capt. Joseph Berry's company and served under him guarding the Prissoners for two months then Capt. Berry company (except the 5 or 6 men including himself above mentioned) was discharged - they the five or six other men including himself were then attached to Capt. James Simeral's [James Simerall's] company and served under him two months. - a Colonel [David] Kennedy commanded at Winchester. thinks he went to Winchester about the first of October and got his discharge about the 20th of May which was signed by Col. Jos. Holm's [sic: Joseph Holmes]. Capt. [Jonathan] Wamsley write his declaration. expects that the narrative now given is the same given to Wamsley. by contract, Wamsley was to have the half of the first draw. In Witness that this statement is strictly true I hereto subscribe my name

William hisXmark Radcliff

Test Nathan Goff [Pension Agent at Clarksburg]

A true Copy W. G Singleton

Note - the statement of Radcliff is untrue in all particulars except as to the contract with Wamsley — this is one the cases upon which suit has been instituted

Respectfully Reported W. G Singleton Nov. 1, 1834

Franklin Pendleton county Virginia July 28th 1847

Dear Sir: There is residing in this county an old man by the name of William Ratchiff who says he has been placed on the roll of Revolutionary pensioners from the state of Virginia that his pension warrant has been lost or misplaced so that he has been prevented from drawing his pension for several years. He wishes to be informed what evidence he must produce to inable you to issue a duplicate pension certificate.

He has also forgotten at what period he ceased to draw his pension. Will you provide the date? Your answers to the above inquirys will much oblige the pensioner. You will address your answers to me.

Yours respectfully James Boggs

Hon: William L. Marcy

NOTE: Radcliff's pension of \$80 per year indicates that his application claimed service of two years rather than the six months in his statement to Singleton. Jonathan Wamsley was alleged to

have recruited many old, illiterate men and tricked them into putting their marks on false declarations. As in many other cases, Singleton cited no evidence that Radcliff's statement was untrue. The 1847 letter suggests that either Radcliff's pension had been restored or he was never informed that it was suspended.