

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Rice S9062

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/4/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina County of Nash

On this 14th day of May A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of Nash County aforesaid now sitting John Rice Senior aged seventy-seven years, a resident Citizen of the County & State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That as well as now recollected in the year 1778 he enlisted for 2 years in the light Horse under Captain Dekezer [sic, Lehancius De Keyser¹?] (who as he understood and believes was afterwards promoted to Colonel) in Wilmington North Carolina. After remaining some time there was permitted by his Captain to return to Nash County North Carolina his native place of residence for the purpose of recruiting men -- that he succeeded in recruiting to Nathaniel Howard and William Wyatt both of whom accompany him back to Wilmington & enlisted for 2 years.

The name of the Battalion or Regiment to which he belonged he cannot now recollect, but recollects that Colonel John Baker was the Commander generally, those sometimes there was a Colonel Scriven who had the command.

From Wilmington North Carolina we were carried by water to the mouth of Winyaw or Peedee [Pee Dee] George Town in South Carolina thence marched to Charleston South Carolina whether our Horses had been sent by land and where a part of us received our horses and marched to Savannah Georgia, thence to Sunberry [Sunbury], thence to the frontiers near the Ogeechee [Ogeechee] River, where our company joined the Battalion or Regiment under Colonel Baker, thence marched to a place called Fort Howe on the Hallamahaw [Altamaha] River fifteen miles above Darien, where we built the Fort called Fort Howe, and where we remained during the summer reconnoitering & harassing the Tories during which term we were attacked by a company of Indians and lost sixteen regular soldiers sent to our assistance from Darien. In the Fawl [fall] of the same year we were marched back to Savannah by which time our company had got pretty much broke to pieces and dispersed. The few however that remained of us received orders and marched thence to Augusta where we took up our winter quarters. The spring following in the month of March or April myself and a Lieutenant Cogdell obtained a furlough of Captain or Colonel Dekizer for 3 months and returned to our homes. After the expiration of the Furlough my Lieutenant Cogdell refused to return with me to the Army, and I applied to Colonel

¹ The War Department interpreted this as "De Keyser"]

Hunter a Militia Colonel of this Nash County to know what I should do who told me that the Light Horse Company to which I belonged had been discharged whereupon I declined going back and consequently obtained no discharge having served a little over 15 months of the time for which I had enlisted.

After which sometime in the year 1780 as well as now recollected, I obtained a Lieutenant's Commission in a Company commanded by Captain James Battle of the Nash Regiment of Militia of North Carolina, which Commission I held, till sometime in the year 1783 when a Company of Drafted or rather men designated by Ballot, were called for and raised for a 3 months Tour and the command of which said Company was given to the said Captain James Battle, and myself as Lieutenant under him which Company we marched to Halifax North Carolina where we remained about 5 weeks when our men were taken and put under Regular Officers and the Militia Officers of said Company dismissed: That he has no Documentary Evidence of his services nor does he now know of any living witness by whom the same can be proved.

He hereby relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ansr: I was born as I have been told and believes own Redbud Creek in what was then called Bute, now Franklin County North Carolina in the year 1755.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ansr: I have none nor do I know of any --

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ansr: In Nash County North Carolina where I have lived ever since & where I now reside.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ansr: I first as before stated enlisted into a Company of Light Horse for two years as a Private, and secondly volunteered as Lieutenant in and Infantry Company of balloted men for a three months tour.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ansr: In the first Campaign or term of service besides the officers already mentioned I recollect a Colonel Malberry [sic Malmedy?] -- Captain William Hill, lieutenants Robinson, Cannon & Asberry -- In the 2nd Tour recollect Colonel Brickle, Major Theophilus Thomas, Captain Swan Trouton & Lieutenant William Farrell, but at this time am unable to designate which were Regular, Continental or Militia Officers with any degree of precision further than it appears from the foregoing declaration --

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Did you ever receive a Commission & if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ansr: I never received any Discharged as before stated in my Declaration; but did receive a Lieutenant's Commission in the Company of 3 months men signed as I now believe by Colonel

Thomas Hunter a Colonel of North Carolina Militia

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ansr: The Reverend Jordan Sherrod, John Arrington Esquire & the Reverend David Winbourne Esquire

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court the day and year aforesaid.

Attest: S/ Benjamin H. Blount, CCC

S/ John Rice

[Jordan Sharod & David Winborne, Clergyman, and John Arrington Senior gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that a land Warrant was issued to John Rice a Lieutenant for 2 years service in the line of this State in the revolutionary war, on the 19th of December 1808, by Resolution of the General Assembly.

Given under my hand this 4th day of November 1833

S/ Wm Hill