

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Rife (Riffe) ¹ S9063

f78NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

[p 5]

State of Virginia County of Wythe

On this 14th day of May 1834 personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Wythe & State of Virginia, Peter Rife a resident of Wythe County & State of Virginia aged seventy-two years who being first duly sworn, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1780 with Captain Langhorn (commonly called Langum) [sic, Elias Langham] in Salisbury North Carolina, who was then a recruiting officer. That sometime after his enlistment he was detailed to work in the armory, which was superintended by Captain Gamble [Edmund Gamble], and that he continued in the armory until the close of the war -- with the exception of a short period when he was ordered from the armory into Lee's Legion [Henry [?"Light Horse Harry?"] Lee's Legion] and marched in the Legion from Salisbury NC to Salem, then to Guilford Court House then to Hillsborough, from thence returned to Guilford Court House where the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] occurred he continued in the Legion until the Army crossed the Pedee [River] at the grassy island from whence he was ordered back to the armory. He enlisted in the town of Salisbury in the State of North Carolina

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

S/ Peter Rife, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

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To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled
The undersigned, a citizen of Wythe County in the State of Virginia, hereby represents that he was a soldier and artificer in the war of the revolution, and served in the two capacities about fifteen months, for which he has received no bounty or pension. The petitioner entered the service at Salisbury in the State of North Carolina in the Spring or Summer of 1782 [sic], under Captain Langhorne, and after remaining in Barracks about 2 weeks, was transferred as he understood obedience to an order of Major Joel Lewis with his brother and six others to the Armory temporarily established at that place, as artificer, and that he remained there engaged

¹ BLWt26406-160-55

nearly twelve months, when he was transferred from this Armory to the Army under the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], and was with that Army at the time of and engaged with it in the battle of Guilford, and in various skirmishes with Tarleton and the british forces, till they left the Carolinas, and were then sent back to the Armory at Salisbury and remained there for some months after peace had been declared, before he was discharged. Your petitioner begs leave to refer to his declaration heretofore filed at the Pension Office for a more minute recital of his Services, and humbly hopes that his narrative, his character, and the universally concurring opinion of all who have known him through life, will secure for him in the evening of a long life, a part of which was freely directed to achieve the independence and liberty of his country, that bounty which a great formation has already bestowed on thousands of others, who contributed less than himself.

S/ Peter Rife

[p 36]

Montgomery County Virginia November 23rd, 1844

I do hereby Certify that I have known Peter Rife since the year 1774, and always considered him a man of truth as far as my knowledge extends. I also recollect of his returning from Carolina and living at my father's house for the space of two years.

The above certificate was the declaration of Francis Charleston² an old revolutionary soldier who was in a very low state of health and could not bear interrogation without becoming confused to the best of [my] knowledge

S/ John Grills, JP

[p 22]

This day Peter Rife made the following Statement viz. – That as a soldier in the war of the Revolution he served in the Corps of Colonel __ Lee Commanding a Troop of horse; under Captain Gambol whose Company was attached to Colonel Lee's horse troops after the battle at the Cowpens = That his petition presented to the last Congress of the United States to obtain a pension for Services rendered in the war of the Revolution was presented by the Honorable George W Hopkins a member of Congress from the State of Virginia and that the act passed for his relief as a pensioner was approved on the 8th day of August 1846; and he further states that he is the identical person named, and referred to in said petition.

Given under my hand this 1st day of December 1846

S/ Peter Rife, X his mark

[p 8: in 1855 while living in Pulaski County Virginia, Peter Riffe, 92, filed for his bounty land entitlement stating that he was a pensioner at the rate of \$30 per annum for his services in the revolution in the companies commanded by Captains Dowell, Holstein and Langhorne in the state of North Carolina in a Regiment of Cavalry commanded by Colonel Campbell.]

[p 18]

Draper Valley, Pulaski County Virginia March 14th, 1855

Know all men by these Presents, That I Peter Riffe of the County of Pulaski and State of Virginia, a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$30 per annum do hereby constitute and appoint Lafayette W Gray of Lynchburg my true and lawful attorney for me and in

² [Francis Charlton W3657](#)

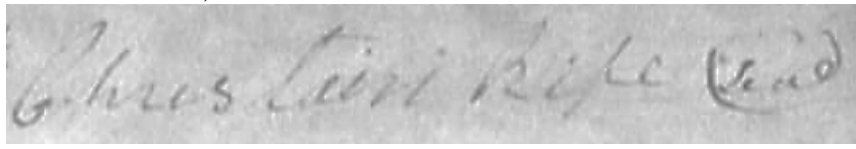
my name to investigate my claim for an increase of Pension, Services in the militia Service in Captain Holsten³ Company, Roan County [Rowan County] North Carolina and discharge in this tour near the mouth of ___ on the Adkin [Yadkin River] near the Grassy Island, three months tour – next tour of three months under Captain Dowell⁴ from the same County & discharged at Salisbury. Next time he enlisted (about three months after he was discharged) under Captain Langhorne in Salisbury North Carolina for the term of twelve months or during the war, in the service about 18 or 20 months and was discharged after the battle of Guilford, on a ridge near the Dan River, I do hereby revoke all other powers of attorney & make the said LW Gray my sole attorney for the purpose [of] getting me an increase of Pension.

Witness

S/ Mary H. Riffe

S/ Peter Riffe, X his mark

[p 13: On January 18, 1859 and Pulaski County Virginia, Christian Rife a citizen of Wythe County Virginia filed a claim in his capacity as the son and one of the heirs of his father Peter Rife, deceased, for the bounty land entitlement of his father; he states that his father died December 20th, 1858.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Christian Rife (son)". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The word "son" is enclosed in a small circle.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing January 1, 1844, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]

³ I am unable to identify a likely candidate for this officer

⁴ Possibly the third George Dowell or Richard Dowell, both of whom served as captains in the Rowan County militia