

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Riggs S9068

fn39NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/6/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina County of Orange

On this the 27th day of May in the year of 1841, personally appeared before the undersigned, one of the Justices of the Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, for the County of Orange, James Riggs, a resident of Orange aforesaid, aged 81 years, 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

1. This Deponent sets forth upon his said oath, that, sometime in the year 1780, there was a draft for 3 months militia man, to serve the United States in the war of the Revolution. That one James Freeland of the aforesaid County was drafted to serve said tour, and that this Deponent did substitute & served in the place of said James Freeland, all of said tour as "private of Dragoons."

That this Declarant was attached to the company commanded by Captain Hodge and Taylor's Regiment (Cavalry). That this Declarant was marched to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) then a place of rendezvous, where we were joined with other Companies. From Cross Creek, we were marched into South Carolina -- and after visiting and being stationed at several points for a short period -- we were marched to Cheraw Hill -- where we also remained some time -- and while at this last station, to the best of this Declarant's remembrance, 2 months of the tour had expired, and they were permitted to return home, but whether they were excused, in consequence of being Cavalry from serving the balance of the tour, or whether they were still held to duty till the expiration of 3 months for which the men were drafted, he does not distinctly recollect at this distant day -- and therefore and this tour claim service as a private of Dragoons for 2 months only.

That in said tour, this Declarant as a Substitute was in a legally organized corps and called into service by the property [sic, proper] authority.

That he got a discharge he thinks for said tour from Colonel Taylor, but that it is now lost. This tour this affiant proves by Gasper Long (No.1)

2. The said James Riggs, further declares, that in the early part of the month of September 1781, he was drafted to serve a tour of three months in the militia, in the United States service, to aid Butler's Army, and when about to march to join General Butler, information which had that the Town of Hillsborough had been captured by Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] -- then a draft was had in his Company to procure men to increase the number of men then engaged in guarding the Town of Hillsboro -- this Declarant was one of the number drafted

to guard said town, and did accordingly served as private of Infantry in guarding said Town, from about the 15th of September 1781, till the 15th of December following -- that in said service, this Declarant was attached to the Company commanded by Captain Lowe -- Jackson Lieutenant and John Taylor Colonel. That under the above mentioned officers he served all of said tour; and at the expiration thereof, was duly discharged by Colonel Taylor -- that his discharge is now lost.

That in the above tour this affiant sets forth that he was in a legally organized Corps and called into service by the proper authorities.

This tour this Declarant proves by affiant Joseph Woods, whose affidavit is hereto annexed and marked (No. 2).

3. This Declarant further states upon his said oath, that, in the spring following, to wit in 1782, there was a draft for men to serve another tour in guarding the aforesaid Town of Hillsboro -- when this affiant did substitute and serve a 3 months tour of duty as a private of Infantry, in the militia in guarding the said town of Hillsboro; that he substituted for one Andrew Collins, who was drafted to serve said tour, but that said Collins is now dead, and has been for many years, as has also been James Freeland.

That in this tour this affiant was attached to the Company commanded by Captain Richards -- and latter part of the tour Perrill was in command of said Company & that Farmer was Colonel and also B. Thomas Colonel part of the term part of the term he thinks.

That at the expiration of said 3 months service, this affiant was regularly discharged by Captain Perrill (he thinks it was) and returned home. That said discharge is now lost.

That in this, as in the foregoing tours this declarant was in a regularly organized Corps and called into service by the proper authority.

This tour this Declarant proves by Thomas Horner¹ whose affidavit is hereto annexed and his Mark (No. 3).

Recapitulation

1st Tour 2 months as private of cavalry in 1780 substituted for James Freeland.

2nd drafted and as private of Infantry did serve 3 months and 1781

3rd tour Substituted for Andw Collins and did serve 3 months as private of Infantry 1782 and for such service this Declarant claims a pension.

He was born in Orange County

That he has no record of his age.

That he was living in the aforesaid County of Arms, when called into the service.

That in the first & 3rd tours he substituted.

That in the 2nd tour he was drafted.

That he was acquainted with Colonel Mebane, Colonel Lytle, Captain Lytle, Captain Donoho, General Butler, Colonel Thaxton [sic, Thackston], Colonel Taylor, Colonel Farmer and others

That he received discharges but that they are now lost.

That he is known in his neighborhood to Charles Wilson Esquire A C Nichols. This declarant further states upon his said oath that from old age & bodily infirmity is unable to attend Court.

That in each of the foregoing tours, this Declarant proves his services by living witnesses who served with him.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present,

¹ FPA S8682

and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.
Sworn & subscribed the day & date first written before me
S/ H. Parker, JP S/ James Riggs, R his mark

Supplemental Proof

State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 23rd day of November 1841, personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the Courts of pleas & quarter Sessions for the aforesaid County, James Riggs, a resident of said County, aged 82 years, in May next, -- who being first duly sworn according to law deposes and saith as follows, to wit: as additional & supplementary proof, to his original Declaration

Question. When were you drafted to guard the Town of Hillsboro in the aforesaid County, how far did you then resided from said Town?

Answer: about 8 miles

Question. How often was you permitted to visit home during the said tour of 3 months?

Answer. I was permitted but once to visit home, and said tour, and then was ordered and did return to duty on the afternoon of the same day.

Question. By whom was you called into service?

Answer. By the Governor of the State.

Question. What was the object of guarding the Town of Hillsborough in the fall of 1781?

Answer. There will were many prisoners at that time in confinement in said Town -- besides there was military stores & provisions deposited there.

Question: What number of troops do you suppose were stationed there when you were engaged in guarding said town?

Answer. As well as I remember there were 2 or 3 companies of Infantry employed in guarding said Town.

Question. Were said companies all called into Service by competent authority?

Answer. I so understood.

Question. Who was Commissary for the troops?

Answer. Alexander Mebane was hid commissary and John Taylor associate Commissary and Colonel part of the tour.

Question. Who was Quarter Master at that time?

Answer Brice Thomas, I think, all of the tour.

Question. Who was Pay master?

Answer. Absalom Tatom or John Estes not positive which.

Question. In the last tour you served, to wit, in 1782, were you then called out by the proper authority?

Answer. I was.

Question. Was you engaged for the same purpose, and with the same view in guarding Hillsboro in this last tour that you were in the first?

Answer. The same: there were both prisoners and military stores to protect.

Question. Were your troops as large this spring as they were in the preceding fall?

Answer they were as large or perhaps larger, as the Town had been surprised and taken by the Tory forces in the September previous.

Question. Who was Colonel of the troops stationed in Town in 1782?

Answer. Colonel Farmer.

Question. Who was Pay master in the last tour?

Answer. John Estes.

Question. In both of said tours, were you in Corps called into service by lawful authority?

Answer. So, I have always understood & believed.

And further the Deponent saith not.

Sworn & subscribed this the 23rd day of November, 1841 before me

S/ William Pearson, JP

S/ James Riggs, X his mark

[fn p. 19]

State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 27th day of May, 1841, James Riggs, who has this day made the foregoing Declaration, who being duly qualified according, deposeth and saith as follows, additional to what he stated in his Declaration.

That the reason why he did not applied earlier for a pension was, that 5 out of the 8 months he served in the war of the Revolution, he served as substitute, and early after the passage of the pension law of 1832, he made inquiry as to his becoming and United States pensioner -- but was informed, that as he had served only 3 months besides what he served as a substitute, he could not become a pensioner -- and did not understand otherwise till sometime in the year of 1839.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date first above written before me.

S/ H. Parker, JP

S/ James Riggs, X his mark

[Charles Wilson and Alves Nichols gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 16]

State of North Carolina Orange County

No. 3

On this the 26 day of November 1839 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Horner a United States pensioner aged 78 years, who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that in the year of 1782 he served a 3 months tour in the militia in the United States Service in Captain Richards' Company and subsequently under Captain Perrill in guarding the Town of Hillsborough. In all of said tour this deponent remembers that James Riggs of the aforesaid County as a private Soldier served all of said 3 months with him.

S/ Thomas Horner, X his mark

[fn p. 18]

State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 25th day of May in the year of 1841, personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the Courts of pleas & quarter Sessions for the aforesaid County, Joseph Woods a resident of said County of Orange, aged 81 years, who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that, in the war of the Revolution he served a tour of duty in the militia in the United States Service, a private of militia. That in said tour he served as a substitute for his brother, Eli Woods, that said Eli was drafted for said 3 months tour, that this affiant substituted and served in said tour for said Eli Woods.

That in this tour Lowe was Captain, James Jackson Lieutenant, John Taylor Colonel; -- That this draft though designed to aid General Butler's Army -- was ordered to serve and did accordingly served in guarding the Town of Hillsboro, which had been but recently surprised and

captured by Colonel Fanning -- that said tour commenced about the middle of September 1781 and terminated about the 15th of December following -- that in all of said tour to this affiant's knowledge James Riggs of the aforesaid County, who is now applying for a pension, was a private soldier in said Lowe's company and did serve all of said tour.

This affiant did not serve in any tour but the one above mentioned, and has therefore never applied for a pension.

S/ Joseph Woods

Sworn & subscribed the day and date first above written before me
S/ Charles Wilson, JP

[fn p. 31]

War Office Hillsboro October 16th 1780

Instructions for Mr. John Taylor Commissary of Issues in the Town of Hillsboro.

1st As a principal Magazine of State Provisions and Forage will be kept up at this place -- you are therefore to receive the same from the County Commissioners and give them proper receipts.

2nd If Store Houses all wanting you are to impress such outhouses you deemed necessary, not injuring private families conforming themselves to that case to the act of Assembly.

3rd You are to have proper Pasturage procured for Cattle delivered to you, to prevent their falling away before they are slaughtered; over which Guards must be placed.

By order

S/ Alex. Martin

State of North Carolina, Secretary of State must be S. Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify, that the above is a true copy of an original paper on file in this Office.

Given under my hand this 7th day of December 1841.

S/ Wm Hill

[fn p. 38]

State of North Carolina Orange County No. 1

On this the 22nd day of May in the year of our Lord 1841 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the courts of pleas & quarter sessions for the aforesaid County Gasper Long² a resident of said County aged 78 years who being first sworn according to law maketh oath that in the war of the Revolution he was in the United services a private of Infantry and cavalry & that in the year 1780 he served a tour of 2 months in a company of cavalry under command of Captain Hodge & Taylor was our superior officer this deponent served all said tour as private of cavalry.

Said company rendezvoused at Fayetteville in North Carolina and were discharged at the Cheraw Hill near the Pedee River in South Carolina. In all of said tour this deponent remembers that James Riggs of the aforesaid County served as a private of cavalry having substituted for one James Freeland. This deponent understands that this James Riggs is now applying for a pension for his Revolutionary services.

Sworn & subscribed the day & date first above written before me.

S/ George P. Freeland, JP

S/ Gasper Long, X his mark

² I could not find that anyone by this name filed for a federal pension claiming service in North Carolina. This may be the only record of this man's service during the war