

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Riddle (Riddley) S9069
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } SS
Stokes County }

On this 25th day of September 1833 personally appeared before us Samuel Hannes and Charles Banner acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, John Ridley a resident of North Carolina near Rockingham County aged Eighty three years who from the infirmities of old age is rendered unable to travel to the Court house of either Rockingham or Stokes Counties as he resides within a few perches of the Boundary line between said Counties near the N East of Stokes & N West corner of Rockingham, and he 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 the 7th June 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein after stated. (towit) That he first entered the service of the United States some time in the year 1776 he entered the said Service of the United States under the Command of a Captain John Cox in Grayson County [formed in 1792 from Wythe and Patrick counties] in Virginia near Chissels lead mines [at Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County, then Montgomery County] on New River and marched to what is called the long Islands of Halston [sic: Long Island of Holston River at present Kingsport TN], against the Cherokee Indians in this expedition, this applicant served at least four months & two weeks, and that he has no Witness that he can prove the aforesaid Services. that he did receive a written discharge from his Captain Cox aforesaid for the Tour aforesaid but has lost or mislaid the discharge so that he cannot find it. and the next Service he entered the service of the United States as a drafted or a class lot of Militia private soldier in the County of Henry in Virginia under the Command of a Captain [Swinfield] Hillin the September of 1781 & marched through Prince Edward County Virginia to Little York at which place he acted and assisted in making entrenchments & fortifications during the Siege untill the British army commanded by Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Geo Washington [19 Oct 1781] & saw Cornwallis deliver his sword to Washington [see endnote] – and from Little York this applicant was ordered as one of the Guard to convbey the prisoners towards Winchester and on his way before they reached the Blue Ridge of Mountains he was taken Ill & unable to carry his Gun & was compelled to get his fellow messmate to carry his Gun. the Commander in chief was General [Robert] Lawson of Virginia In this service he remained at least three months & rec'd a written discharge which he has lost or mislaid. in all his Services aforesaid he serve seven months & a half for which he claims a pension as a private Militia Soldier

The seven questions being propounded as the directions from the War department prescribe viz. he was Born in N Carolina near Flat River the County he does not recollect. that he has no record of his age only traditionary from his ancestors – That he was living in Grayson County Virginia when he first entered into the Service & afterwards he took the Oath of Allegance in the County of Montgomery Virginia which Certificate of said Oath accompanies this declaration. the next service & last he resided in Henry County Virginia & has resided in Rockingham County N. Carolina ever since the Revolutionary War & lives there at present – that he Entered the service aforesaid as described in his declaration the names of all the officers with whom he march & knew he cannot remember but in the Cherokee expedition Colo Christie [sic: William Christian, often called Col. Christie] he knew commanded the Virginia troops & at the Siege of Little York he knew a number of officers that he cannot name at this time, that his discharges he has lost or mislaid as he never expected to be call'd on for them. he states that he is acquainted with Capt. John Shaffer & W. Benjamin T. Hennes & a number of others who can Testafy as to his charecter for veracity & belief of his services as stated in the foregoing declaration. he Hereby relinquishes every claim

whatever to a pension except the present and declares that he is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any States. Sworn & subscribed before before us

John hisXmark Riddley

I DO hereby certify, that Jno. Riddle hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly intituled An act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal, this Thirtieth day of Sep'r. 1777. Jas. McCorkle

NOTE: Cornwallis, being "indisposed," was not at the surrender ceremony at Yorktown. He delegated the task to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara. Washington, in turn, delegated the receipt of the sword to his second-in-command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.