

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

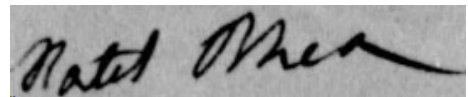
Pension Application of Robert Rhea W10235 Mary Rhea VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee } County Court April Sessions 1834
Knox County }

On this 9th day of April 1834 personally appeared in open court before the court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting, Robert Rhea a citizen of Monroe County in said state aged about 71 years old and who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed on the 7th June 1832.

That he was born in Mecklenburg County N.C. in April 1763 as well as he is able to compute the time of his birth where he lived about five years, when he moved to South Carolina within about 90 miles of Charleston – where he lived about 7 years, when he moved to Montgomery County Va. now Wythe where he lived untill the commencement – during the continuance – and at the termination of the Revolutionary war and afterwards untill about the year 1790 – he states that sometime in the Fall of 1778 as well as he now recollects he entered the army of the United States as a volunteer and was enrolled at the Lead mines [at Austinville] in the said County of Montgomery into a company of horse commanded by Captain Isaac Campbell, and Lieutenant Michael Gleaves [possibly Michael Glavis] – from the Lead mines he marched to New River and kept down the River [i.e. northward] to somewhere below Peppers ferry and at one McDaniels he met with some of the Whig troops from Bedford County – we marched all around through the country wherever we could hear of any tories took several killed some, and after dispersing them thoroughly returned home – applicant states that he was in service in this campaign four months – applicant states that after remaining at home about ten days he marched again under his same officers and with the same men from the Lead mines up New River – had a skirmish with the tories at the Round meadows killed some and made others prisoners – applicant states that he recollects of hanging an obnoxious tory by the name of Zachariah Goss upon the gate of Captain Cox on New River, and after scouring the whole country and suppressing the outrages of the tories and disaffected we returned home – applicant states that he was three months in this campaign – applicant states that sometime shortly after this last campaign he thinks in July 1780 he went again as a volunteer under his same Captain Campbell and Lieutenant Billy Dean [William Dean] – he marched from the lead mines crossed the mountain at the Flour gap [sic: Flower Gap near Poplar Camp], and marched on to the Moravian towns N.C. [Bethabara, Bethania, and Salem] – here and in its neighbourhood we remained some time dispersing capturing and killing the tories untill Captain Campbell was solicited to bring all his aid to the Kings mountain campaign which was then in contemplation – Captain Campbell marched his company back from the moravian towns to the lead mines for the purpose of recruiting and increasing his forces – after remaining but a short time at the Lead mines we marched up New River and crossed the mountain in the nearest direction to Kings Mountain, being then under the command of Col [“Major” interlined] Joseph Floyd [sic: Maj. Joseph Cloyd] and having been joined at the Lead mines by Capt. Newells [probably James Newell’s] company. Before we had reached Kings mountain we took some prisoners who informed us of their disasters there [Battle of Kings Mountain SC, 7 Oct 1780] – upon which Major Floyd altered our march and lead us against a body of tories which lay at the Shallow ford of the Yadkin – we here met the tories and defeated them [14 Oct 1780] – killing several and taking some prisoners – Captain [Henry] Francis of our troops though not then in command was killed – after this battle we marched to meet our victorious army on their Return from Kings mountain after meeting them we marched with them and their prisoners to the Moravian Towns where we were stationed attending upon the wounded and guarding the prisoners untill a disposition was made of them when we marched home – applicant states that he was eight months in this campaign – applicant states that sometime during the next winter or spring he was again called out under his said Captain Campbell and marched first to Elk Creek in what is now Grayson County Va. and after scouring that part of the country -we marched to

the head of Holston – and after scouring that part of the country – we marched over to Sandy river and after marching up and down that river and traversing the whole country for some time we marched back to Montgomery County and scouted about over the whole country for some time – we then marched to Whitsil’s Mills [Wetzel’s Mill] which he thinks is in Guilford County N.C. crossing the mountain at the Flower gap – at these mills we had a skirmish with the British and Tories [6 Mar 1781] had some killed and wounded and we were compelled to retreat after the affair at Whitsil’s Mills we marched about through the country on Haw river and through all the contiguous country wherever we could be most useful in dispersing the Tories – applicant states that his marches and countermarches were so frequent and diversified that he cannot now detail them in their order but he feels confident that he was in service in this campaign more than nine months – besides the campaigns above enumerated he was frequently out in short scouting parties which it is impossible now to detail – applicant states that he was in the service of the United States as a private during the Revolutionary war as above described for a period of two years for which he claims a pension – he states as the reason of his making application in the County of Knox rather than the County of his residence, that he was not informed of the provisions of the law of 1832 until a few days ago and just after the court of his own County had been held, and which would not again set for three months – also because he once lived in the County of Knox for several years and the only witness he could procure who could testify to his services, lived convenient to Knoxville and being old and infirm he could not conveniently attend at the county where applicant lives – besides it is but little further from where applicant lives to Knoxville than to his own county town – applicant states that there is no clergyman living in his neighbourhood – he states that at no time of his service was he with any of the Regular army – he states that the information he has that he is 71 years old – he states that about the year 1791 he moved from Montgomery County Va. now Wythe to Knox county Tenn. where he resided three or four years when he moved to the adjoining County of Blount, where he has lived several years when he moved to the adjoining County, Monroe, where he has lived ever since – he states that the persons to whom he is known in his present neighbourhood who can testify to his veracity and his reputation for having performed military services in the Revolutionary war are H. Garmley, John McGhee and others besides George Caldwell [pension application S3141], Charles McClung and John Williams in the County of Blount and Knox – he states that he got written discharges for each of his campaigns from his Captain, Campbell, but he has long since lost them – he states that he has no documentary evidence whatever of his said services, nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure, except that underwritten, who can testify to his services – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present provided the claim be allowed, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state only on that of the agency of East Tennessee



[The following documents relate to Rhea’s application for a disability pension for injury during the War of 1812.]

Having examined Robt Rhea a private in Capt McCamy’s Company of Col. Johnson’s Reg’t of East Tennessee Militia, I certify that he is incapable of performing military duty in consequence of a fracture of the Patella. Fort Strother Jan’y 2 1815 James Barry/ Surg’n. S.B.W.T.M.

This day Came George V Black First Lieutenant in Captain McCamy’s Company of East Tennessee Militia before me Hugh Bogle a Justice of the peace for Blount County and made oath that Robert Rhea a private under his Command in the Month of December in the year 1814 was disabled in one of his knees which rendered him unable to perform duty and as the said Lieutenant believes has rendered him incapable of procuring a subsistence by manual Labour as he had formerly been & that the said Rhea received the hurt at Fort Strother on the Coosa river in the line of his duty and in the service of the United States
[signed 31 Mar 1818] George V Black liet

The State of Tennessee }
Blount County }

On examining Robert Rhea I find him disabled by a transverse fracture of the patella which separates about four inches when he attempts to raise his leg – an affliction which undoubtedly will always render him ineffective.

Edward Gantt M.D.

[1 Apr 1818]

NOTE:

Although the file jacket is labeled “Va.,” Fold3 has the file under “Non US.”

John Williams of Knox County stated that Robert Rhea was under his command during the War of 1812. On 7 April 1851 Robert Rhea’s widow, Mary Rhea, gave the following details: “[he] was a private in Captain Joseph Duncans’s Company in the Regiment of East Tennessee Militia Commanded by Colonel Bunch... was mustered into service in said Company on or about the 10th day of January A.D. 1814 for the term of six months...” and that he “volunteered as a private in Captain David McKamy’s Company in the Regiment of Tennessee Militia Commanded by Col. Wm Johnson... mustered into service in said Company on or about the 20th day of September A.D. 1814 for the term of six months.”

On 7 April 1851 Mary Rhea, 85, applied for bounty land for her husband’s service in the War of 1812. She stated that as Mary Stephens she married Robert Rhea in what became Wythe County on or about 25 Jan 1787, and he died on 15 Feb 1850. On 1 Jan 1851 Mary Rhea was said to be 83 and living in Chilhowee TN when she applied for a pension for Robert Rhea’s services in the Revolutionary War.