

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Ragsdale W1079 Martha (Patsey) Ragsdale f94NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 3/5/17

[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 6]

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 4th day of September, 1832 personally appeared in open court before me, Thomas Stuart, presiding Judge of the Circuit Court of Williamson County, Tennessee, Benjamin Ragsdale, a resident of Williamson County aged 73 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 7th June, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he was first drafted for a three month tour while residing in Chatham County, North Carolina and in the month of June, 1780 in my 21st year of age and entered into Captain Dillard's [William Dillard's] Company. We marched from Chatham Courthouse down by Ramsey's Mill crossing Pedee River and was continuing our march to join General Gates [Horatio Gates] who had recently been appointed the Commander of the Southern Army, when the news of General Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] reached the men I was, with my Captain, ordered to retreat. It was these marched back thru the Cheraw Hills and into Chatham County, and about this time my tour of three months expired and I got a discharge for that time signed by Capt. Dillard. I remained at home some short time when I volunteered into Col. Aulstin's [sic, Philip Alston's] horse troop, we met at his house where we were organized and Hawkins Dye was my Capt. There was a certain Col. Fannin [sic, David Fanning] whom we were going to capture: we made several unsuccessful attempts. I served with Col. Aulstin until he was taken prisoner.¹ I served in this tour about 15 days. I next entered as a volunteer with what were called the 18 months men. I think into the 71st regiment. I recollect of hearing our men say hurray for the 71st regiment. I entered into Capt. Yarby's [sic, Edward Yarborough's?] company. I recollect two other Captains in this regiment; Captain Langum and Captain Saunders. I recollect the following men in my company: Ben Taylor [Benjamin Taylor], Charles Taylor, Tom Hollenhead [sic, Thomas Hollingshead?]², Ben Hollenhead [sic, Benjamin Hollingshead]³, Augustin Williams, Beny Conner [Benjamin Connor], and Ward. We rendezvoused at Salisbury where Colonel Davidson (uncle of Gen. Davidson [William Lee Davidson] who had been a short time before killed at a ford on the Catawby [sic, Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River]) took command after we marched from Salisbury and crossed the Pedee and intended to join Gen. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] who was not far from Charleston. The British about this time, evacuated Charleston and we took possession. Soon after this the news of Cornwallis' surrender arrived and I think about 4 months

¹ Alston was taken prisoner at the Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779

² [Thomas Hollingshead R5151](#)

³ [Benjamin Hollingshead S16883](#)

of my 18 months tour, had elapsed. I entered this 18 month tour the year Cornwallis surrendered which was in 1781 and about the month of June or July. I know I had been in this company but a short time before 'roasting ears came about.' I got a discharge which was for three or four month's service. The discharge, same as the first, I lost when I moved to this Country which was twenty years after I got them. The 18-month men were to be paid in land. I have never got any myself.

I was born on Cape Fear River, Chatham County, North Carolina, in 1759, where I lived until I was grown when I moved to Moore County, where I staid 10 or 12 years. When I moved to Williamson County, Tennessee where I now live and have been living ever since.

I have been acquainted with all the officers above mentioned but General Gates. I am acquainted with Nathan Lunn, Lancaster Ragsdale, John Satterfield and Robert Davis. I had a record of my age which was in my Mother's bible, but now lost. I know of no person in this country who can prove my service as stated. I have no documentary evidence of my services, except those stated.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except, the present, and declare my name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state.

S/ Benjamin Ragsdale, X his mark

Sworn to in open court The day and year aforesaid

S/ P. Hay, clk &c

We, Robert Davis, a clergyman resident in the County of Williamson and State of Tennessee and Lancaster Ragsdale, John Satterfield and Nathan Lunn, residents of the same county and state, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Benjamin Ragsdale who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be seventy three years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolutionary War and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court 4th September, 1832

S/ P. Hay, clk &c

S/ Robert Davis

S/ John Satterfield

S/ Lancaster Ragsdale

S/Nathan Lunn, X his mark

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The amended Declaration of Benjamin Ragsdale for a pension under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 20th day of May A.D1833 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Williamson State of Tennessee Benjamin Ragsdale a resident of said County who being first duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades that is to say In the first tour mentioned in my declaration

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (1) For three months I served as a private | 3 M. |
| (2) In the second tour mentioned in my declaration for 15 days I served as a private | 15 D |
| (3) in the third tour mentioned in my declaration for three months I served as a private | 3M |

Making in all six months and 15 days service and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me on the day and date above.

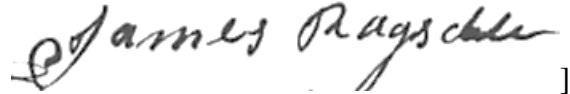
S/ W. Mancy, JP

S/ Benjamin Ragsdale, X his mark

[p 10: On this 8th day of August, 1843, personally in Williamson County, Martha Ragsdale aged

81 years filed for a widow's pension stating that she was married to Benjamin Ragsdale, a US pensioner, in the State of North Carolina in Moore County, in September, 1778 (she thinks based on age of her oldest child); that Benjamin died on the 20th day of March in the year 1842. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 12: On August 8, 1843 in Williamson County Tennessee James Ragsdale a citizen of said County, aged 51, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Martha and Benjamin Ragsdale; that their oldest daughter was about 13 years of age when the affiant was born which would mean that she would now be about 65 years old; that affiant was raised in Moore County North Carolina and always understood that Martha and Benjamin were legally married. His relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.

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[p 20: In an affidavit dated February 3, 1847 given by Sely Elliott, 66, in Williamson County Tennessee, the affiant names the children of the veteran and his wife as follows: Mary, William, Daniel, Dempsey, Lancaster, Kesiah, Dicey, Sarah, John and C H Roda Ragsdale.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 15 days in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]