

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Gustavus Rape¹ W1318

Transcribed by Will Graves

Barbara Rape

f59SC

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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 10]

State of Tennessee Davidson County} SS

On this 17th day of April 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of the court of pleas & Quarter Sessions of Davidson County & State of Tennessee Gustavus Rape a resident of Davidson County & State aforesaid aged 69 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States sometime during the year 1778 [sic, 1781]² with Captain Peter Burns & served in the first Regiment of South Carolina State Troops under Wade Hampton as Colonel [sic, Lt. Col.] & Rutherford [James Rutherford] as Major as a private in said Regiment. Our Regiment was enlisted at the same time with six others who were all under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. At the time of my enlistment I lived in Mecklenburg County North Carolina & was sworn to serve in the three States of North Carolina, South Carolina, & Georgia. I enlisted for ten months for of which I served under Captain Peter Burns, our regiments mustered at Charlotte, we went from Charlotte to Colonel Hill's [William Hill's] Iron-works from that we marched to the Congaree River, we lay there some time & then crossed the River, but were forced to retreat again to Ancrum's plantation on the other side of the River, at which place I think our six regiments were reduced to three & I was placed under the command of Captain William Alexander with them I served the remainder of the 10 months above mentioned. At this place Colonel Hampton called for volunteers to do a service which he did not specify. I with 50 others volunteered & we marched to the other side of the River where we stormed a picket guard of the enemy killing 20 of their number & retreated after some difficulty without any loss. I was with General Sumter at the storming of the Fort of Orangeburg in South Carolina.³ We marched from Orangeburg to the Congaree & from that to the Eutaw Springs. I was in the battle of Eutaw⁴ & out of 12 men in our platoon but 5 came out with their lives; it is needless for me to speak particularly of this battle as the facts of it are well none. I do not recollect the time at which I left the service with sufficient distinctness to speak positively in regard to it. I was not regularly discharged in consequence of my being at the time of the discharge of my Regiment at a distance from the Main body of the Army engaged in doing

¹ BLWt28560-160-55

² The South Carolina State Troops were not organized until April 1781

³ May 11, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html

⁴ September 8, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

duty as an express, consequently I have no documentary evidence of my services. I served also four months in North Carolina in the militia under Captain John Stames [John Sterns], Major James White & Colonel Caleb Fifer [Caleb Phifer]. I lived at this time in Mecklenburg County, I do not recollect the year exactly. There is no person now living who can prove the facts stated in this declaration that I know of. I have no record of my age. I am known to William Lytle & William Gower & many others who will I have no doubt certify as to my character for veracity & their belief that I was a soldier of the Revolution. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

S/ Gustavus Rape, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court

S/ Henry Ewing, Clerk of Davidson County Court

[William Gower, a clergyman, and William Lytle gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 14: Marriage license dated August 13, 1816 issued for the marriage of Gustavus Rape to Barbary Johnston, issued in Davidson County Tennessee]

[p 6: On April 9, 1853 in Dickson County Tennessee, Barbary Rape, 79, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Gustavus Rape a pensioner at the rate of \$46.66 per annum for his services in the Revolution; that she married him August 20, 1816; that they were married by Larkin Lawson a minister of the gospel in Davidson County Tennessee; that her name prior to her marriage was Barbary Johnston; and that her husband died February 27th, 1852 in Dickson County Tennessee. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 17: On April 16, 1855, Barbary Rape, 79, filed for her bounty land entitlement. In this document she gives her name prior to her marriage to the veteran as Barbary Johnson. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 31: On August 17, 1863 in Dickson County Tennessee the widow executed a power of attorney under which she appointed John H Green of Nashville Tennessee her attorney to pursue the arrears of pension due her since 1861.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months in the South Carolina militia and State Troops. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]