

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Robert L. Tait W1330

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia } Court of Ordinary
Madison County } January Adjourned term 1833

On this fourteenth day of January in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and thirty three personally appeared in Open Court before Robert Groves John Meroney Noah R Pittman and James Long Justices of the Inferior Court now sitting as a Court of Ordinary Robert L. Tait a resident of Capt. Morgans Company District of Georgia Militia in the County of Madison & State of Georgia aged Sixty Seven 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 & served as herein sated (to wit) he entered as a substitute for John Johnson the balance of Eighteen Months Service under Capt. Denham [Archibald Denham or Denholm] and served eight months — this service he entered in November or December 1780 — about the month of August or September seventeen hundred and eighty one he enlisted under Capt. John Anderson for a term of service of three years or during the war from which service he was discharged in the fall season of the year seventeen hundred and eighty three shortly after peace was ratified [3 Sep] — when as a substitute under Capt. Denham in Col. Campbells [Richard Campbell's] regiment which he joined at Chesterfield Court house in Virginia he marched to Hawe [sic: Haw] River North Carolina where he joined General [Nathanael] Greene — he then marched in pursuit of the British army and overtook a part of said army and had a skirmish at Ramstours Mills on deep river [sic: Ramsey's Mill, 19 Mar 1781] — from thence to Camden [SC] still under the command of Gen'l. Greene — when Gen'l. Green came in view of Camden finding no advantage could be taken he marched around and got on the Charleston road — one circumstance he relates - a party of British and Torys had entrenched near some mills Col. Campbell obtained leave to take a party of men and route them - this he did so effectively that he nearly destroyed the whole of them [22 Apr 1781] — Gen'l. Green marched back again near his first station - but having no field pieces was unwilling to engage them — the day before the engagement a Drum Major deserted and Informed them of the situation of Greenes army they marched out in Columns to engage his army about that time some artillery arrived which being discharged upon them with grape or canister shot destroyed a Number of them [see note below] he was then marched after Rawdon and engaged in some skirmishes to the battle of eutaw springs [Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] — in this engagement Col. Campbell was wounded and died these were the principal engagements - but remained under the command of Gen'l. Greene in the Southern army untill discharged in 1783. he knew Col. Greene - Col. [Samuel] Hawes - under whom he served after the death of Col. Campbell — when he enlisted he was in Col. Hawes regiment — he knew Gen'l. [Isaac] Huger - Maj'r Pickins was adjutant he has lost or mislaid both of his discharges — he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no evidence he can procure who can testify to his services except the affadavit of William Ward[?] which he expects is on file in the war department when he made application for a pension on a former occasion which he begs may be taken with this declaration — when he enlisted he was Six feet two inches high - fair complected and his name was entered on the Muster Roll Robert Tait the L. was not inserted in his name nor not known as a part of his name untill a number of years afterwards — about the year 1790 when about to remove to Georgia he found in his fathers register his name written Robert Lee Tait since which time he has written his name Robert L. Tait

In answer to the Interrogatories presented by the War department and propounded by the Court he answereth as follows to wit

Answer to first } he was born in Hanover County Virginia the 27th day of July 1765
Interrogatory }
Answer to Second } he has a record of his age at his own house
Inter }
Answer to third } he was living in Hanover County Virginia when he entered the service

Inter. } and remained in Virginia untill 1790 when he removed to Wilkes County
Georgia from thence to Elbert County from thence to Madison County
Georgia where he now resides

Answer to fourth } he substituted at first for eight Months - he then enlisted for three
Inter } years or during the War

Answer to fifth } he refers you to the officers already named - Col. Green commanded a
Inter } regiment from Maryland - he has stated the principal circumstances of
his service in his declaration

Answer to Sixth } he received a discharge for the first eight months from Col. Campbell -
Inter } for the balance of service he received a discharge from Capt. Johnston -
both of which are lost or mislaid —

Answer to Seventh} he refers you to James Sanders - Edward Ware - Robert Groves - Hiram
Inter } Hampton - William Hodge &c.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and
declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] Robert L Tait

NOTES:

Tait's declaration barely touches on the Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden on 25 Apr 1781, in which Greene was defeated by Gen. Francis Rawdon. After the battle Greene did not pursue Rawdon, but the British evacuated Camden on 9 May.

On 11 July 1853 Mary Tait, about 65, applied for a pension stating that she married Robert L. Tait on 13 Aug 1840, and he died 15 May 1846. A copy of the marriage record is in the file. On 2 Apr 1855 Mary Tait, then 68, was living in Athens in Clark County GA.