

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Richard Bishop W18598

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } S.S.
Orange County }

On this the 29th day of may 1840 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for the aforesaid County at her own residence, Nancy Bishop, a resident of the said County of Orange aged 85 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, upon her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 4th 1836:

That she is the widow of Richard Bishop, Dec'd. of the aforesaid County, who during the war of the Revolution, was as a private Soldier in the united States' Service, as herein after set forth:

1. And the said Nancy Bishop widow as aforesaid further stateth upon her said oath, that, she has reason to believe and does believe, that some time in early part of the Summer of 1780, her Dec'd. husband the aforesaid Richard Bishop was draughted into the United States' Service, for a three months tour of duty in the militia, that Jo: Johnston [Joseph Johnson, pension application S7093] was Capt. of the Company in which said Richard Bishop was a private and attached to Col. Farmer's Regiment. Under the above officers her Dec'd. husband was marched to the South and was in Gates' [Gen. Horatio Gates's] defeat in the month of August of that year [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] - after the defeat rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro' [sic: Hillsborough NC] and after serving out his three months tour, was discharged by Col. Farmer & returned home, but what has become of said discharge this Declarant has no knowledge.

That in the aforesaid tour her Dec'd. husband was in a legally organized Corps and called into service by Competent Authority.

that as this tour was subsequent to her marriage with the aforesaid Richard, she well remembers the dangers & hardships she had to encounter.

2nd. This Declarant further stateth upon her said oath that she has reason to believe and does believe that some time in the month of June 1781 her deceased husband the aforesaid Richard Bishop was again draughted into the United States' Service - the name of his Captain in this tour she does not now recollect, but remembers that her husband in this tour, which was also a three months tour was in Colonel Malmady's [Marquis Francis de Malmedy's] Regiment. Rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro' was part of the time in the town of Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] was under Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene at the Eutaws [Eutaw Springs SC, site of a battle on 8 Sep 1781], and at the expiration of his three months tour was discharged and returned home. That Col. Malmady she thinks gave him his discharge - but at this distant day, has no knowledge what has become of it.

That in this tour, as in the former, this declarant believes her husband was in a regularly organized Corps & called into service by competent authority —

that when her husband was called into Service it was by draught.

that during the war of the Revolution they were living in the County of Chatham state aforesaid

that this declarant has frequently heard her Dec'd husband speak of the dangers he encountered in the Service

that in said War of the Revolution her Dec'd. husband, as a private soldier in the militia served two tours of three months each, in all six months: that she has no Documentary evidence.

That this Declarant has frequently heard her Dec'd husband speak of Gen'l. [Richard] Caswell, Gen'l. [John] Butler, Gen'l. Gates, Col. [William] Washington, Col. Malmady Col. Farmer & General Greene & others.

that this Declarant is acquainted in her neighbourhood with John Caruthers Esq'r. and G. B. Durham who can testify as to her character for Veracity & their belief of her husband's being a soldier in the war of the Revolution.

that from old age and bodily infirmity is unable to attend Court to make this Declaration. She further Declares that she has a family record which is as follows:

To wit:

Richard Bishop and his wife (Nancy) Ann were married August 14 1777.

John Bishop was born 29th day of June 1778

Elizabeth Bishop was born 21 April 1780

Benjamin Bishop was born 6 December 1781

Mary Bishop was born in the year 1783.

This Declarant further states upon his said oath that the above "family record" hereto annexed, is as it purports, a genuine and true "record" of the date of her marriage with the aforesaid soldier Richard Bishop.

also it contains a true record of the dates of the births of her and the aforesaid Richard Bishop's children.

that both tours of the alleged service was after her marriage.

She further Declares that she believes that the affidavits hereto annexed are genuine and true.

That her husband the aforesaid Richard Bishop was living in the County of Chatham in the State aforesaid when called into the Service

that her husband the aforesaid Richard Bishop, died 25th day of May 1799; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year above written before me,

Nancy herXmark Bishop

Ruffins Mills, N Carolina,

December 15th 1845

Gentlemen:

I have just succeeded in procuring some additional testimony in the claim of Nancy Bishop of Orange County for a Pension.

The Declarant alleged in her Declaration that her deceased husband, Richard Bishop did serve two tours as a private soldier in the militia, in the army of the Revolution.

1. A tour in 1780 in which was Gates' defeat. 2. One other tour, in the following year 1781 in which was the Eutaw Battle, each a three months tour.

The enclosed certificate of the Secretary of State, reciting the act of the General assembly, directing the raising of Troops in February 1779, which troops were designed as a recruit to the southern army, and were "to serve three months after they left the limits of the State" &c

The Hillsboro' Brigade rendezvoused (as well as I can learn, in the latter part of June or 1st of July 1780) in the Town of Hillsboro' to enter on the tour in which was Gates' defeat - both Richard Bishop & George Pearson [pension application R8042] were privates in Captain Jo. Johnson's Company, which was in the Hillsboro' Brigade.

Soon after these troops were marched into the neighbouring state of South Carolina, were defeated, and routed on the disastrous 16th of August 1780, and retreated back into North Carolina - but as soon as could be, were again (many of them) mustered in the service, some at Salisbury, but most at Hillsboro' where the regulars made a permanent stand. Hillsboro' at that day contained Military Stores &c.

I well remember, that those making declarations some 8 or 10 years ago, under Act 7 June 1832 that had served in Gates' defeat, made affidavit, that they (they Soldiers from Orange & Chatham Counties,) after Gates' defeat, rendezvoused again in the Town of Hillsboro' and were marched, (as well as I now remember) to Bell's Mills [on Deep River in Randolph County] or Salisbury, and there their three months service expired; were discharged & returned home. I can specify two cases, viz: that of David White of Orange County [R11406] and that of James Dollar of Chatham [W25535], the affidavits of both the above Soldiers, are on file in the Pension office: (White of Orange & Dollar of Chatham County.)

It also just occurs to me that Hugh Currey [S8267], an United States pensioner residing in this County, proved that he served in Gates defeat and that he was in & under Cap. Jo. Johnson and did serve a period of three months. Mr Curry is a resident of Orange County &

made his Declaration about 1836, as well as I remember. Mr. Hugh Currey is a highly respectable Citizen - none more so —

On referring to the Pension Roll, I see the name of Thomas Steel of Chatham County [S7603]. Mr Steel also alleged he was in Gates' defeat, and served a three months tour of duty. I fixed Mr Steels papers. I remember when I asked him upon whom could he call to support his alleged service in 1780 in Gates defeat; he told me he served that tour under Captain Jo. Johnson of Chatham, that his Cap. was living near Deep River; I went to Captain Johnsons, he had his "Muster Rolls" of that tour; I remember of his examining his roll and saying that Thomas Steel was a private in his Company in Gates' defeat and that said Company was in the service three months. (If I am not greatly mistaken:) and that Captain Johnson accompanied me to the Store of a Mr Faucett and there made affidavit before Mr Faucett who was a Magistrate, that said Thomas Steel was a private in his Company all of the said tour & that it was a three months tour. I think I cannot be mistaken in this and beg that reference may be had to the affidavit of Captain Jo. Johnson, which is on file in the Pension office. Declaration made some 7 or 8 years ago. (Papers fixed in Chatham County)

I might mention other cases - that of Ann Dexim [sic: widow of Thomas Dickson W3963] and Sally King [widow of William King W20332], both of Orange County: my impression is that in their respective affidavits, proof was made that William King & Thomas Dixin did serve in the aforesaid tour each 3 months — But why need I multiply cases. The fact I have endeavoured to prove was that the Hillsboro' brigade (a greater portion of it) did serve a tour in the militia, in 1780, (In which was Gates' defeat,) and that said tour was of three months duration. Richard Bishop & Geo. Pearson, it is alleged, did serve as privates in the Company of Capt. Jo. Johnson, a three months tour — Their Captain made affidavit, that he & Co. did serve in said tour, 3 months and said affidavit is on file as above stated. I also forwarded to the Comm'r. "pay Rolls" in 1780, "original Rolls" that 2 Comp. of the Hillsboro' brigade was paid, one for 93 days service; the other for 106 days service — I hope this may prove satisfactory.

I am Gentlemen, Very truly, James A. Craig

P.S. The fact that Captain Johnson (as my impression is,) has proved the tour in which was Gates defeat was a three months tour and that he & his Company served all of said three months tour; I trust this will of itself suffice in the cases of Mrs. Bishop & Mrs. Pearson - the Commissioner was not hitherto satisfied that this tour was of as long a period as three months. The Captain's affidavit is on file in the office in Steels case. To which I desire reference may be had - J. A. Craig