

resident of said County and State, who first being duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in addition, in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

I was born in the State of North Carolina at a place called New River, in the month of September 1758 -- the name of the County I cannot recollect at this time as I was very young when my father removed from that place. There is a Record of my age in my family, which makes me somewhere near 75 years old. This record has been in the family ever since I could remember. In 1775 I enlisted in the minute service for 6 months under Captain Frederick Harget and Lieutenant John Bush, Colonel Richard Caswell commanded the Regiment. In the time of this tour of duty we were called on to go against the Scotch and Tories, who had embodied themselves at Moore's Creek fifteen miles from Wilmington, North Carolina, whom we defeated this was in February 1776. In the year 1776 I enlisted under William Caswell, Captain and John Allen Lieutenant -- our field officers were Colonel Buncombe and Lieutenant Colonel Irvin for one year -- in this term I was carried on to Halifax on Roanoke River North Carolina, from Wilmington where I enlisted, to Halifax then to New Bern then to Charleston South Carolina then they are this enlistments were reviewed, and I enlisted under the same officers for 3 years -- then we were carried to Philadelphia in the year 1777 we had an engagement with the British near Philadelphia at Gad's Foard [sic, Chadds Ford], on the Brandy Wine River [sic, Brandywine River] -- from thence we went to Germantown and there we had an engagement with the British, and Colonels Buncombe [Edward Buncombe] and Ervin [sic, Henry Irvin] were taken prisoners and died in Philadelphia, our General Nash, was killed on the ground, my Captain William Caswell in the year 1778 resigned his commission and went home. After renewing the ranks after these engagements, I fell into Captain Robert Fenner's Company from thence we went on to Monmouth Court House there we had a severe engagement with the British. I was taken out of my Regiment as one of the Infantry to go with General Wayne to storm Stony Point, which was done in a few minutes after the commencement of the attack. I was under Captain Bowman [Joshua Bowman], he being wounded Captain Cradick [sic, John Craddock] acted as Captain at the time the Fort was taken in the year 1779 I think it was the 16th of July the same year, the southern troops were sent to Charleston in South Carolina, under General Hogins [sic, James Hogun] and Colonel Patton [John Patten, Patton] -- we arrived at Charleston in the year 1780 in the month of March. While in the Town my time of enlistment was out and I went to my Colonel Patton and asked him for a discharge. He told me that times was so difficult that he could not give me a discharge, but he would returned me as a volunteer if the Town should be taken. The town of Charleston was surrendered by General Lincoln -- the Continental officers were all so taken out of the Town, put over at Hadley's Point [sic, Haddrell's Point] and I never saw any of the field officers since. And further that he knows of no person now in life, who can prove his services from actual knowledge.

He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a Pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency in any State -- so far as he knows or believes and this reservation he makes because he has been informed and verily believes that a certificate in his favor passed the War office of the United States several years since, when he made application under the laws then in force for a Pension, but he never received any benefit there from, because he would not take the oath required by a subsequent law, on account of his at that time, possessing more property than would justify his doing so.

S/ Jesse Ricketson, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Q L. C. Franklin, JIC

Test: S/ Thomas Gibson, Clk

S/ William Sell, JIC

S/ John S. Winter, JIC

[James Granade, a clergyman, and Elijah Mallard gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

To the first question he answers -- I was born in the State of North Carolina a place called New River, the name of the County I do not recollect, in the year 1758.

To the 2nd question he answers -- I have a record of my age in my family which has been kept ever since my recollection which will make me somewhere near 75 years old next September.

To the 3rd question he answers -- I was living in Craven County North Carolina when I first enlisted in the minute service, under Captain Frederick Hargett, Lieutenant John Bush and Colonel Richard Caswell -- Since the Revolutionary War I lived in Jones County North Carolina from whence I removed to Georgia, to where I now live in the County of Warren and State of Georgia where I have resided for the last 40 years.

To the 4th question he answers -- My declaration made before the Court this day contains a full answer to this question -- I was never drafted but once and once a substitute, but entered the Continental service by a volunteer he enlistments. I substituted for John Williamson, 3 months.

To the 5th question he answers -- General Nash -- General Greene, board sterling, General Lafayette -- General Wayne -- Colonel Morgan of the Rifle Regiment -- Colonel Mebane -- Colonel Harney -- Colonel Martin who quit the Army after the battle at Germantown and others. General Washington was our commander in chief. I first enlisted in the minute service in North Carolina Craven County then for a year and then for 3 years, was in the battles at Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth -- then at the storming of Stoney Point -- then present at the Siege of Charleston and served two 3 months tours in the Militia in the State of North Carolina, once I was drafted and once substituted -- this Militia service was after my service was completed as a Continental Soldier.

To the 6th question he answers -- I never received a discharge because I enlisted out of one service into another except at the siege of Charleston which I have accounted for in my declaration this day made before this honorable Court -- I was a private and therefore had no Commission

To the 7th question he answers -- I am known to the whole or most of the honorable Court to Daniel Dennis and Solomon Wilder Esquire the acting Justices of the Peace in the District in which I live -- 2 Arthur Munerif [?] the Senator and Dennis L. Ryan Representative from Warren County in the General Assembly of this State -- to James Granade and Elijah Mallard who have certified in my behalf and have known me ever since we lived in North Carolina, say about 50 years in North Carolina and Georgia -- To all these I confidently expect to testify to my character for truth and veracity.

Sworn to in open Court the first day of July 1833.

S/ Jesse Ricketson, X his mark

[fn p. 61]

Georgia Warren County: Personally appeared in open court to wit the Inferior Court of said County being a Court of Record, Benjamin Ricketson aged about 74 years who being duly sworn

on his oath saith, That he has known Jesse Ricketson, who is about to make application for the benefit of the Pension laws of the United States (being his brother) ever since he can remember anything -- That they both enlisted in the Minute service for 6 months, in North Carolina, under Captain Frederick Harget the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Richard Caswell -- that they were together at the engagement at Moore's Creek near Wilmington in said State -- that Jesse Ricketson went with a detachment to Wilmington where I understood he enlisted under Captain William Caswell for 12 months -- The next time I saw him was in New Bern North Carolina and that service -- I did not again see him until after the expiration of about 4 years -- this was after the surrender of Charleston -- It was generally understood in the neighborhood where we had lived that he was during this time in the Continental Service as a private Soldier.

S/ Benj. Ricketson

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court, this first day of July 1833

S/ Q. L. C. Franklin, JIC

S/ William Sell, JIC

S/ John G. Winter, JIC

[fn p. 17: on February 25, 1858 in Newton County Georgia, Mary Ricketson filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Jesse Ricketson; that she married him April 24 1834 and that her husband died February 3, 1835; that her name prior to her marriage to him was ___; that they were married in Warren County Georgia by Daniel Dennis; that her husband's pension certificate was burned up and the court house in Warrenton in 1854. fn p. 23: on April 12, 1858 in Newton County Georgia, Mary Ricketson, 64, filed a 2nd declaration seeking a widow's pension under the 1853 act.]