

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Wade Mosby W3856

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, Powhatan County, to wit;

On this 19th day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of Powhatan, Wade Mosby a resident of said county, in the state of Virginia, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his corporal oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he is now in his 72nd year of age; that he was born in the county of Powhatan, then Cumberland; that he has always resided in the county of Powhatan, with the exception of a short residence of Eighteen months, some years ago, in the City of Richmond, a residence of about two years in Cartersville in Cumberland county, near the Powhatan line; that the family register of his age is now in the possession of his brother Benjamin Mosby: That the first term of duty which he performed was in or about the year 1777 or 1778 when he united with a number of his brother students then at Hampden Sidney Academy, soon after established as a college, in Prince Edward County, state of Virginia, and formed a Volunteer company, under John B. Smith, one of the Professors, as their Captain, Samuel Venable as Lieutenant, and Sam'l. Hackley as Ensign; that they marched to Williamsburg, and joined the troops stationed there; that to the best of his recollection this tour lasted about six weeks, when they were discharged and returned home; that he was then about sixteen years of age: that his second tour was also about six weeks, and about a year after the first, when the same company again volunteered, and marched under the same officers to Petersburg, and that neighborhood; nor does he remember at this time the exact occasion which induced the call for troops: That after that tour he quit college, and during the fall of the year 1779 or spring of 1780 his brother the late Gen'l. Littleberry Mosby, then acting as a Captain, raised a Volunteer Company of Cavalry, in which this affiant was a second Lieutenant, and Horatio Turpin first Lieutenant; they marched to Petersburg, where they joined the Army commanded by General [Robert] Lawson, and Colo. Banister commanding the Horse, where they were stationed some time; and remained in service from six weeks to two months, and were discharged; the occasion of this tour as well as he remembers was the appearance of some hostile naval force that threaten Richmond and Petersburg, and the country below there [probably raid of Commodore George Collier and Gen. Edward Mathew, 9-24 May 1779]. That sometime afterwards, and after the defeat of Gen'l. Gates, at Camden [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], there was a heavy call upon the militia in this part of the state; that this affiant marched as a Volunteer attached to the company commanded by his brother-in-law Capt. Rob. Hughes, and acted as adjutant to this Regiment; when they arrived at Moore's Ordinary, in Prince Edward, about 50 miles on their march, Capt. Cannon from Buckingham having been taken ill on the road and unable to proceed, this affiant was appointed by Gen'l. Lawson to command his company; which command he continued in during that tour; that he was in the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], and remained in service to the end of the tour, which, from a comparison of recollections with others, he thinks would not be much short, if any, of three months: that the Officers accompanying him in this expedition were Colo. Beverly Randolph, who commanded the Regiment, and the late Judge [St. George] Tucker and Colo. Henry Skipwith as majors: That at the Battle of Guilford Colo. Edward Carrington, of the Continental army acted as quarter master General, and laid off[f] the battle ground: That the 5th and last tour of service which he performed was a very short time afterwards, and grew out of the following circumstances; During the time Mr. Jefferson acted as Governor of Virginia he addressed a letter to this affiant's brother, Littleberry Mosby, calling upon him to raise as many Cavalry as he could, and come to the assistance of the Marquis De LaFayette; that his brother called upon his old subalterns Horatio Turpin and this affiant, who in the course of a week or ten days raised two Companies of Cavalry; this affiant having the command of one, and Horatio Turpin of the other, and his brother Littleberry acting as Major; that they marched to Petersburg and remained there until forced to evacuate the place by the appearance of Gen'l. Phillips [William Phillips, early May

1781]; that the Cavalry to which his company was attached covered the retreat of the army as they left them, and was employed in taking up the Bridge after they passed; that they were afterwards kept very much upon Vidette service in the neighborhood of Petersburg and Richmond; that the Cavalry was at this time commanded by Colo. [Richard] Call; the length of this tour according to his recollection was between two and three months; that this was the last regular service performed by this affiant but it may be proper for him to state, that upon his return home his father being the militia commandant of the county, kept this affiant at irregular periods frequently engaged in Vidette service in watching the movements of Lord Cornwallis's army during the time of his being about Richmond and above there, which might have been from 4 to 5 weeks:

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 and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid. (signed) Wade Mosby

NOTE: On 1 Oct 1838 Susannah Mosby, 71, applied for a pension stating that she married Wade Mosby on 13 Apr 1785, and he died 1 June 1834. The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 13 Apr 1785 by Wade Mosby and John Garland for the marriage of Mosby to Miss Susannah Truehart. Her application was supported by the deposition of her twin children, Benjamin Mosby and Judith M. Smith, aged 63. They referred to three other children born before 1794: John C. Mosby, Mary C. Morrison, and Littleberry N. Mosby.