

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joel Riggan (Riggins) W4322 Nancy Riggan SC NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 Aug 2015.

Original Claim of Joel Riggins of the County of Davidson, State of North Carolina
County of Davidson Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions March term 1828 On this 21st day of March
Anno Domini 1828 personally appeared in Open Court (meaning the Court aforesaid) and being a Court
of Record for the County aforesaid, Joel Riggins aged about Sixty Eight years and a resident in the
aforesaid County of Davidson who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the
following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March
1818 and first of May 1820. that he the said Joel Riggins enlisted for a term of three years or during the
War on the [blank] day of [blank] Perhaps in the year 1778 or 1779 at Halifax in the State of North
Carolina in the Company of Capt. Meddesy [sic: Cosmo de Medici] and in the Regiment commanded by
Col [Gideon] Lamb in the line of the State of North Carolina on the Continental establishment, that he
marched under Lieut. [Edmund] Gamble to the State of South Carolina and joined Gen'l [Benjamin]
Lincoln, when after some of service he was discharged and immediately enlisted again in the State of
South Carolina in the Company Commanded by [blank] attached to the Regiment Commanded by Col
Oree [sic: Daniel Horry] and marched with him to Charleston & from thence to the Siege of Savannah
[24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779] where he was left with others to take charge of the Sick and Wounded, and in
proceeding in a Vessel to transport the Invalids to Charleston, he was Cast away and taken prisoner by
the British and carried to St Augustine, and finally to Long Island in New York; and after receiving the
most cruel treatment, he got away from them, and reported himself at the head quarters of Gen'l
Washington perhaps at Stony point, where he received a free discharge, and that he has no evidence of
his service except by his own Oath. And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly
swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th of March 1818 and that I have not
since that time by Gift, Sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent
thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an Act of Congress entitled an Act to
provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the
Revolutionary War passed on the 18th of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for
me any property or securities contracts or debts due me nor have I any income whatever, and have no
property whatever, except my wearing apparel and one bed, that I was raised by occupation a Farmer, but
that from age and Infirmary I am unable to do much work for the maintainance of myself and an Infirm
wife together with a Daughter living with him an unfortunate Dwarf aged about thirty three years who is
entirely helpless and has to be nursed like a child, that his children have all left him, and are poor, that at
this time he with his wife & unfortunate daughter lives with one of his sons who is poor with a family of
small children & lives on rented land who is scarcely able to afford his father and mother a pittance from
his labour after supporting his poor children, he further maketh oath that he hereby relinquishes every
claim whatever to a pension except the present, that to the best of his knowledge his name is not on the
roll of any State except the Continental establishment of the State of North Carolina, that in the year
1818 he was not worth fifty dollars and that he did not apply for a pension earlier because he did not
wish to become a burthen to his Country as long as he was able to work

Joel hisXmark Riggins

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Davidson County } May Term 1828

This 14th day of May Anno Domini 1828 Came Joel Riggins in Open Court, meaning the Court
aforesaid the same being a Court of record. an applicant for a pension from the United States. and in
addition to his declaration heretofore made. to wit. at March Sessions of said Court AD 1828 and made
oath in due form solemnly that at no time since the 18th of March 1818 he had any property whatever,

excepting his wearing apparel a bed and a wheel worth two dollars; and that he has not any more at this time. He further maketh oath that on the 18th of March 1818 he was a resident Citizen of the United States.

Joel hisXmark Riggins

NOTES:

On 5 Aug 1830 Joel Riggan stated that he had previously lived in Guilford County NC.

On 3 June 1843 Nancy Riggan, 78, applied for a pension stating that she married Joel Riggan on 16 Feb 1785, and he died 11 Aug 1840. The file contains a copy of a bond signed in Warren County NC on 15 Feb 1785 by Joel Riggan and Jacob Riggan for the marriage of Joel Riggan to Nancy Carter. In the file is a family record from a New Testament printed in 1786, transcribed below.

Jiels[?] Riggan the sun of Joel Riggan and nancy Riggan was born feruary the 12 1786

Jacob Riggan Son of above was Born the 25th day 1788

William Riggan Son of above was Born march 12th 1790

Molten Riggan Son of above was Born April 6th 1792

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