

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Rains W5659

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } On this 13th day of August 1833 Personally appeared before the
Carter County } Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County John Rains a
resident of said County & State, aged Seventy Eight years past who being first duly sworn
according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits
of the provisions of the act of congress passed seventh June 1832 That he was born in Caroline
County State of Virginia in the month of April 1755 and was principally raised therein that at
the commencement of the Revolutionary war he resided in Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County
Virginia, and in the year 1777 in the spring of the said year in the County of Spottsylvania [sic:
Spotsylvania] Virginia under the provisions which had been made in the state of Virginia, that
such class or number of men should furnish a man for Eighteen months he entered the service &
took the bounty (or money) of one hundred and Eighty two dollars from the class for eighteen
months, and enrolled under Capn John Holady of Col Nelsons command, and marched under
said officers to the white plains [NY] where was the main army and head Quarters, that Col
Mathews was in command at said place, & shortly after his arrival said Mathews took the militia
& marched them to Williamsburgh [probably Williamsburg in Queens County NY], and the
regulars and state troops remained at said place until the ensuing spring under Col. Pulaskie
and marched from the white plains to the South [sic: Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski, spring 1779], and
whilst on the march of the troops to the South his first eighteen months expired, & he enlisted
for the term of two years under Capn George Stubblefield of Pulaskies Regiment and marched
on to Camden was in the Battle there [see note below], and was attached to G1 Gates' [Gen.
Horatio Gates]. was in the defeat of Gates and marched on with the main army to the junction
with Washington and was under him at the Siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and continued
until the surrender of Cornwallis, and was discharged by Capn Thomas Winslow (which
discharge he was authorized to give, owing to the sickness & confinement of Pulaskie [sic!]).
Which discharge he kept until by the accidental burning of his house the same was destroyed.
He states that he served more than four years altogether from his first entrance into service
until the close of the servitude. That he was wounded in the right arm in the battle of Gates
defeat and also at Guilford [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] was bayoneted.
That He has no record evidence nor has he any positive proof of his said services but B Moorely
[Morley] Esqr & Aaron Stalcup[?] are persons known to him & he to them and by whom he can
establish the reputation of his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a
pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the
agency of any state, That he has no record of his age but that the same is traditional & he
believes the same to be correct. That there is no resident minister of the Gospel in his vicinity by
whom he can establish the facts required by the War Department John hisXmark Rains

NOTES:

Gen. Pulaski died on 11 Oct 1779, two days after being wounded at the Siege of Savannah. Remnants of his Legion then joined Col. Charles Armand's Legion and was present at the Battle of Camden SC on 16 Aug 1780. The "Capn George Stubblefield" referred to may actually have been Col. George Stubblefield of the Virginia Militia.

On 25 Mar 1853 Nancy Rains applied for a pension stating that as Nancy Edwards she married John Rains in Wilkes County NC on 14 Aug 1827, and he died at Stony Creek in Carter County on 22 Nov 1848. The file includes a copy of the marriage bond dated 10 Aug 1827 with Joshua Mitchell as surety. In an application for bounty land dated 6 Apr 1855 her age is given as 63. On 25 Jan 1866 while living in Sullivan County TN she applied for restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, during which time she had earned her living "partly by spinning on the Little wheel flax, towe & cotton for her neighbors." On an application for an increase in pension dated 4 Mar 1869 she was said to be 77. In a document dated 27 Jun 1879 she is said to be 88 and living at Union Depot in Sullivan County. On 23 Apr 1888 her

pension was increased by an act of Congress that stated that she was “the oldest pensioner on the Revolutionary rolls, to wit, ninety-six years next June.”