

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Riggs W9252

Rhoda

fn44NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/7/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State Illinois County of Williamson

On this 21st day of April, 1853, personally appeared before William M. Eubanks Judge of the County Court of the County and State aforesaid Rhoda Riggs, a resident of the County aforesaid aged eighty-five years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th of July 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of Thomas Riggs, who was a private soldier in the war of the Revolution, in the State of North Carolina. That he entered the service in the County of Orange North Carolina he was a resident of said County and served as she has often heard him mention in the Militia at various tours for the term of one year or more. She cannot say under what officers he served, or the time he entered the service. She thinks he served under Colonel Little [Lytle?] or Colonel Copeland. She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Riggs on the __ day of __ in the year 1785. That he the aforesaid Thomas Riggs died on Easter Sunday night which was in March or April of the year 1815.

That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 -- viz.: at the time above stated. She further swears that the reason why she has never applied for a pension until now was that she has enjoyed good health and had means of her own to draw upon, but alas, for her they have now nearly failed and with them health and strength likewise. She further swears that she is now a widow and that she has never before made any application for a pension.

S/ Rhoda Riggs, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me

S/ Wm W. Eubanks, Co. Judge

State of Illinois County of Williamson

Before the subscriber William M. Eubanks Judge of the County Court of the County and State aforesaid duly authorized by law to administer oaths personally came Samuel Riggs and Nancy Thompson and after being by me duly sworn on their oaths depose and say that they were in his lifetime acquainted with Thomas Riggs late husband of the above mentioned Rhoda Riggs and that he is dead and died in Caswell County in the State of North Carolina on or about the 26th day of March in the year 1815, and that she the said Rhoda Riggs still remains his widow; and that they are disinterested in the matter.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 21st day of April A.D. 1853

S/ Wm M. Eubanks, Co. Judge

State of Illinois Williamson County

Be it known that before me William M. Eubanks County Judge within and for said County personally appeared Samuel Riggs and after being by me duly sworn on his oath declares that he is the Legitimate Son of Thomas Riggs and Rhoda Riggs his wife and that he was born in the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina on the 15th Day of April in the Year 1804 as he has always been told and believes and is now 49 years old that he is the eldest child now living and that he was the 5th Child of his parents that his mother and father was married in the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina as he has always understood in the [year] 1783 -- 84 or 85 he further declares that the object of this affidavit is to prove the marriage of Rhoda Riggs the applicant who has claimed for a pension due her for the services of her husband Thomas Riggs in the Revolutionary War.

Attest: S/ John H. White

S/ Samuel Riggs

S/ James Macks

Subscribed and sworn to before me this July 5th 1853

S/ Wm M. Eubanks, Co. Judge

[fn p. 25]

North Carolina Caswell County

This day came Thomas Johnston of the County aforesaid and after being duly sworn according to law by me Benjamin F. Stanfield one of the acting Justices of the peace in said County, the said Thomas Johnston says that he was well acquainted with Thomas Riggs who married a Miss Rhoda Robertson of said County and that from his knowledge of them, that they must have been married some 12 years or more before he was for they had some several children before he was married and that his marriage was in the year 1799, and that it was always believed that the said Thomas Riggs was a Soldier of the war of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this the 30th day of July 1857

S/ Benjamin F. Stanfield, JP

S/ Thomas Johnston

[fn p. 27]

North Carolina Caswell County

This day came before me Benjamin F. Stanfield one of the acting Justices of the Peace in & for the County of Caswell William Lea who being duly sworn according to law says that he knew Thomas Riggs who married a woman by the name of Rhoda Robertson that they must have been married sometime in the year of 1788 or before that they lived together for many years as man & wife and had quite a number of children and then the said Thomas Riggs died in this County and he understands that his widow the said Rhoda Robertson moved away & now lives in the State of Illinois he further states that the said Thomas Riggs was quite an old man at his death, and that the said widow Rhoda Riggs was always believed to be a woman of truth & that he would of believed her either on oath or not. He also says that he was well acquainted with John Douglas & knowed him to be a Justice of the peace. Sworn to & subscribed before me this the 30th of July 1857

S/ Benjamin F. Stanfield, JP

S/ William Lea

[fn p. 29: Elijah Morton and Mary Morton, his wife, testified on July 30, 1857 in Caswell County North Carolina that they knew that Thomas Riggs and Rhoda Robertson lived together as

husband and wife and Caswell County North Carolina; that Thomas Riggs was reputed in the neighborhood as a revolutionary soldier; that Thomas and Rhoda had at least 5 children at the time they first knew them in 1805; that wrote Riggs moved to Illinois; that Rhoda Riggs has a sister living in Caswell County who intermarried with Benjamin Stephens, deceased.]