Pension Application of John Rains S5969  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }  SS.
Lewis County }  

On this seventh day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of Lewis County court John Rains a resident of the county of Lewis and State of Virginia aged seventy six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777 or 1778 with the Virginia line on continental establishment and served (as he now recollects in the 10th Regiment under the following named officers. He enlisted at Culpepper courthouse in the year 1777 or 1778 under a certain captain John Gillison, Lieutenant John Hackley in the regiment commanded by Col John Green, he thinks 10 Regt of the Virginia line in continental service. He marched from Culpepper courthouse, He thinks in the year 1777 to Valley Forge near Philadelphia took up winter quarters from thence to Jersey was in the battle at a place called Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], went from there to a place called White Plains thinks it was in State of New York. had a battle there [sic: 28 Oct 1776] from Thence to a place called Cheacea[?] district or some such name, from to Jersey State again was kept on duty at places not recollected went into winter quarter again at a place called Middlebrook [11 Dec 1778]. Spent the next summer in Jersey as well as he now recollects. He was soon after marched back to Virginia was at the capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. went as a guard to prisoners at or near Winchester was discharged sometime in the winter following. his discharge he has lost long since. affiant served out the term of his enlistment which he thinks was three years many particulars of his campaign has escaped his memory in more that a century which has elapsed since

He hereby relinquishes every 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 of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
[signed] John Rains

[Notes by W. G. Singleton, who, with Nathan Goff, investigated fraudulent pensions from Lewis County. See pension application of David W. Sleeth for details.]
John Rains. Pensioner. receives $80—

Saw this man July 1, 1834. Says he is 78 yrs. old October next. born and raised in Culpepper County Virginia. lived there until within the last twenty years. that the year after the Battle of Brandywine [sic: Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] & Germantown [4 Oct 1777], he was drafted for an eighteen months tour & marched from Culpepper to Valley forge on the Schuylkill River. got there in the winter. Staid until Spring. then marched through New Jersey & to Monmouth at which place a Battle was fought between the contending armies in which the American army prevailed – after the Battle marched up in New York on the North River to a place called white plains. from thence to Stoney Point [sic: Stony Point] & from thence to Middlebrook where the army went into winter quarters. his tour of service expiring at Middlebrook he was discharged & returned home. on setting our from Culpepper as before stated there were about twenty men along. they were commanded by a Lieut Williams. a Mr. Hackley was the ensign on going from Culpepper to Valley Forge. passed through Lancaster and on joining the army at Vally forge he was attached to Capt. John Gillison's company. Williams & Hackley before mentioned was his subaltern's. was attached to Weedons [Gen. George Weedon's] or Waynes [Gen. Anthony Wayne's] brigade dont recollect which. John Green was the colonel of his Reg't. (the 10th Vig'a.) during the whole of the term above mentioned. Gen'l Washington was along. – he served this tour out (18 months) after his return and being at home a few months was drafted again for three months & marched under Capt Fisher to Blackwater & Petersburg where the contending armies had a little Brush there [possibly Battle of Petersburg, 25 Apr 1781] now a good many men along. dont know who commanded them. there was a Major McClure (or
some such name) along. he was a frenchman. [More likely Maj. Charles Deklaman, pension application R13678.] Served this tour out and returned home. Was drafted again for 3 mos. and marched under Capt Gasper Hains (dont recollect the names of his subalterns) to Richmond, Petersburg & Yorktown. Was at the latter place at the surrender of Cornwallis. thinks that he served another 3 mos. tour under a Capt Dickerson before he served the tour last before mentioned, but his memory in reference to it is somewhat indistinct.

Jonathan Wamsly wrote his declaration, contracted with him & Johnson F Nealan. agreed to give them the first years pay. they have received $80. told Wamsly that he was in the service between one & three years.

the forgoing statement made by the undersigned having been read and finding the same taken down as given I hereto subscribe my name.

Witness John Rains
Nathan Goff.

A copy of the original in my possession W. G Singleton
Respectfully Reported W. G Singleton, Special Agent

To James L. Edwards Esq. Com. of Pensions

Virginia }
Lewis County } Towit

Be it remembered that on this 6th day of July 1835 before Weeden Huffman a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of Lewis personally appeared John Rains of the said County, and being lawfully sworn, upon his oath makes the following explanation in reply to the letter of the Commissioner of Pensions of the 16th March 1835. He states that his services as given into Mr. Singleton are the proper services he rendered during the Revolutionary war, that he only served Eighteen months under his enlistment in 1777 that if his declaration is different from the statement given to Mr. Singleton that was not his fault but the fault of Jonathan Wamsley who wrote it, he give in his services to Jon’n. Wamsley the same as given to Mr. Singleton. He further states that the reason why he did not apply for a pension under the act of 1818 was that he lived remote where information seldom reached, that he supposes it was several years after the law passed before he knew of it, and then his information was by rumor only, that he talked with several person who he supposed might give him correct information on the subject who were enabled to give him but little satisfaction on the subject, and understanding that the law required applicants to swear that they were unable to support themselves and being able to work and support himself on his farm although in very moderate circumstances, he abandoned the notion of applying for a pension until a short time before the Act of 7 June 1832 when he learned more correctly the provisions of the law of 1818 and had determined to apply under the act of 1818 but when the law of 1832 passed he was advised that his better course would be to apply under that law as it was more simple and that the pension would be the same. He further states that he has no recollection of having received either by himself or an agent his depreciation pay. He further states that while he was in the regular service under capt. John Gillison he knew a man by the name of Rains and thinks his name was John Rains he belonged to the same Regiment (10th Virginia Regiment) but not to the same company that this affiant belonged to, he does not recollect the name of the capt. whose company said Rains belonged to. he was only tolerably acquainted with said Rains. he recollects while at the Valley forge of wrestling with said Rains he was a pretty stout fellow and threw affiant that Capt. Gillison was present and remarked that his man was thrown but that he was sorry for it

[signed] John Rains

[The following is from the pension file of John Cutright (W6626).]

Clarksburg May 14th 1835
J. L. Edwards } Com’r of pensions

[First paragraph relates to the pension application of John Davis, file not found.] 

Weeden Huffman of Lewis County has requested me to write you on the subject of John Cutright [pension application W6626] & John Rains, – Mr Singleton & my self examined those
two, - and according to my recollection they were among the few of that County reported
entitled — Mr Huffman says you have enquired of him why the discrepancy between their
original declarations & the report made by Mr Singleton - The reason why is very obvious - and
this - They who drew their original declaration drew up such a history of services as would
entitle the applicant to a pension - entirely disregarding truth facts &c &c — The old men would
give a true history of their services and would swear as they would think to what they had stated,
The agent then would go home & concoct any thing, entirely laying aside what the applicant had
told them - They never pursued the truth, even where the truth would answered the purpos —
I will be glad to here from you on the above - as I shall not get clear of them untill the
department has acted deffinately Yours &c Nathan Goff

NOTE: On 15 Mar 1836 Adam Rains, 72, of Madison County VA deposed that he had been
drafted from Culpeper County and served two months in the fall of 1781, and that he knew that
John Rains had been in the same regiment with him at the Siege of Yorktown. On 14 Apr 1836
Thomas Bland deposed that he had heard John Rains and John Gibson discussing their services
in the Revolutionary War, and Gibson stated that he knew Rains at Valley Forge. On 14 May
1836, Elizabeth Day of Albemarle County VA deposed that her brother, John Rains, “served two
tours of duty in the Revolutionary War — that he was drafted & she thinks served the term of
twelve months the first time - she also recollects that he was in service a second tour, which she
believes was near the end of the war.”