

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Abraham Carter: R1739: transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of N. Carolina} On this the 6th day of July 1850, personally appeared before me the
County of Yancey} undersigned an acting Justice in the County and State above named,
Abraham Carter a resident of Big Ivy in the County of Yancey and State of North Carolina, aged
ninety-eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the
following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7
1832: That he entered the Service of the United States, as a volunteer (The applicant is not
certain whether he was properly a volunteer, as he entered the service under the following
regulation, viz. When General Washington was preparing for the investment of Yorktown, Va,
he sent a request or demand to the county of Buckingham and from others, to send him, a
company from each county to consist of the single or unmarried men; that if they did not turn
out of their own will for this that he (Washington) should have to compel or press a sufficiency
for his use, from this circumstance he (Carter) thought he and his comrades was volunteers) on
or about the first day of August in the year AD one thousand seven hundred and eighty one, in
a company of Virginia State Infantry commanded by one Peter Gearhan or Geeron from the
county of Buckingham, and state as above mentioned; and that the time for which he enered
was for 6 months, that at the time of his entering said service he was a citizen of Buckingham
County near Maysville (sic: now called Buckingham) and state of Virginia. And further that he
entered said service as a private, and he was not promoted to a higher rank while in said
service, but served out the entire time of his engagement in the aforementioned capacity. He
also says on his oath that the aforementioned companies were when assembled placed under
the command of Colonel William Anderson, but that each company was commanded alone by
its captain untill their arrival at Yorktown, at which place they first began to receive orders
from said Colonel Anderson.

From Maysville the Ch. (sic: court house) of Buckingham he says the company to which
he belonged began their march toward the site of war (which at that time was at Yorktown;
passing (as well as his memory serves) through Cumberland county, thence into Chesterfield,
crossing James River, and thence into the county of Charles City (and probably into the lower
edge of Henrico, but is not certain), then into New Kent, and from there to Yorktown, where
the aforementioned Colonel William Anderson took the immediate command of all the late-
arrived forces. As to the general or field officers who held command over his Colonel he does
not know their names, but says that to the best of his recollection, that he and his colonil(?)
(who acted as a private) was one night under the immediate command of the Frenchman
Lafayette (sic: Lafayette), but says that Washington was the only head commander of which he
had any knowledge. He also says that in this night engagement he received a wound in the left
arm, but was not entirely disabled from doing duty. But on the 19th day of October in the year
1781 he alledges that he received another wound in the right thigh which entirely disabled
him from duty, and after the battle had finally ceased he says that a friend carried him to a
place in the camps where he obtained Medical aid. He further says that from this wound he
was confined to his bed for about four months after the termination of said Battle of York
Town; and that by assistance of friends he was gotten in at a private house, and there
remained until about the first of February in the year 1782 when he became able to make his
way home: That he arrived back again at his father's residence in Buckingham County on the
15th or 16th of February in said year 1782, or thereabouts And there he then made
application for his pay and was payed for seven months wages in Continental money: also that
his Col, William Anderson sent him a discharge, which is now lost or mislaid and has been for
many years. And further more, the declarant deposes on his oath, that he has been a cripple
from and on account of the aforementioned wounds from the time of receiving down to the
present time: and that he is now entirely disabled to getting about his own house. He further
declares that he has never before made any application for a pension on account of his services
in the Revolutionary War, and that he has no claim for a pension in this or any other state,
neither on that of the United States, therefore he has none to relinquish: but he does not
relinquish the present.

Signed Abraham his mark Carter {seal}
Sworn to and subscribed before me the said Justice day and year above mentioned.
(signed) M Harris Justice

State of N Carolina} I, an acting Justice in the County and State heretofore mentioned, do
County of Yancey} hereby certify that Abraham Carter who has made and duly signed the
foregoing declaration is from bodily infirmity incapable of attending on any of our courts, and
has been for many years (about twenty), I also state that he is a highly respected citizen in this
county, and I am firmly of the opinion that he was a revolutionary soldier, and that he served
in the Company and Regiment mentioned in the declaration. I further certify that I believe him
to be ninety eight years of age, and the neighborhood is generally of opinion that he was a
revolutionary soldier: nothing ever being to the contrary that I know of - In testimony of which
I have here unto set my hand and seal on this the 16th day of July 1850

M Harris Justice {seal}