

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Charles Dequisie: R2896

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia and County of Nelson to wit

On this 15th day of February 1834 personally appeared before me James Wood Jr a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, Charles Dequisie a resident of the County of Nelson and State of Virginia aged Eighty one years the 15th day of June last past who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. that he was a soldier in the french army at Orleans in the war between france and great Brittain that after the termination of that conflict [in 1763] in the latter part of the year of 1776 or the first of the year of 1777 [sic: see note below], Count Destine [sic: Charles-Hector-Théodat, Comte d'Estaing] who was the french commander in that war, together with all his troops and vessels went to the aid of the Americans in their revolutionary war with great Brittain; the service they first performed was a coastin[?] one which had for its object the interception of the land and naval forces of Great Brittain with a view to prevent a communication between them; in the fall of 1778 they landed in Savannah South Carolina [sic] and attacked the British army and after severe battle the British was beaten and a great many of them taken prisoners, and taken charge of by the American Militia he recollects to have seen General Marion [then Lt. Col. Francis Marion] there upon his arrival which was shortly after the battle; in that battle Count Destine was wounded in his leg, and it was amputated by the seargeants [sic: surgeons?]. they then went on their vessels and sailed for france whence they arrived in the winter 1778-9 on that occasion he was in the American service not less than one year and a half to the best of his recollection. on the 12th day of May 1779 they set sail again from France under the command of Count De Grass [sic: not François-Joseph-Paul, Marquis de Grasetilly, Comte de Grasse, but Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau] the french commander; and on the 19th of August the same year landed in newport State of Rode iland [sic: see note below] where count De Rochambo [sic] took command of the French land forces and De Grass continued to command the fleet, from thence they marched to providence from thence to peaks kill [sic: Peekskill NY] where there was some small skirmishing with some troops commanded by General Arnold [sic], from thence to new york where they stayed some time, from thence to Phillidelphia [sic: Philadelphia] where they stayed a while from thence to Baltimore where they stayed some time from thence towards virginia about fifty miles, and incamped a while from thence to annapolice [sic: Annapolis MD] where they stayed a while and then went on board the fleet commanded by Count De Grass from thence they sailed for york [Yorktown VA] and landed there same in hampton, same on James river bay, and same in Goucester [sic: Gloucester VA] then they marched to York where they stayed canonadeing and Bombarding and being canonaded and Bombarded untill cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] surrendered which was in october 1781 they then went to old williamsburg where they were quartered untill the spring following; and his term of enlistment having expired and he being determined not to return to france left the army and has lived in virginia ever since in that tour he was in the American service not less than one year and a half; to the best of his recollection; that his services in aid of the Americans in the revolution in all were not less than three years to the best of his recollection; and for these services he claims a pension, that in the whole of these services he was a private, he has no documentary evidence of his service nor dose he know of any one now living by whom he can prove them his pay was nine pence a day. he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state or territory. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid Charles hisXmark Dequisie

Questions by the Magistrate

1st where and in what year was you born

I was born in france as I have been told in a village called Champaniel[?] [illegible] day of June 1752

2nd have you any record of your age and if so where is it

I have none

3rd where were you living when called into the service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live - I was in the french army at orleans when called into the american service after the revolution I went to the county of caroline in the state of virginia where I lived about 16 years from thence to Hanover where I stayed about three years from thence to goochland where I lived about seven years from thence to Amherst county where I lived till Nelson was taken from that county [in 1808] and have lived in Nelson county ever since and am now liveing in Nelson County

4th did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

I never did because I did not apply for one for fear if I did I would be taken to france

5th how were you called into service were you drafted did you volenteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

I was a regular in the French army that aided the Americans in their revolution

6th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

the French General was Rochambo my colonel was Olville[?] and my Major John Briner[?], and I belonged to the 8th regiment of French regulars I recollect to have seen Washington and Lafayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] and other officers at the Seige of York whose names I do not recollect I know nothing of the no. of any Regiment in the american army and the general circumstances of services are set forth in my declaration as well as my recollection would admit

7th State the names of persons in your present neighbourhood to whom you are known who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution.

Enquire of John H and James H Rodes

NOTE: A correct chronology of the services of D'Estaing, Rochambeau, and De Grasse follows:

1778

6 Feb French-American alliance concluded

13 Apr D'Estaing's fleet departs for America

July Lands off New York

Sep Departs for the Caribbean

1779

16 Aug D'Estaing departs Haiti for Georgia

11 Sep D'Estaing lands troops near Savannah GA

16 Sep D'Estaing demands that Gen. Augustin Prevost surrender Savannah

24 Sep Siege of Savannah begins

9 Oct Spring Hill redoubt stormed unsuccessfully; D'Estaing twice wounded

18 Oct D'Estaing returns troops to ships

19 Oct Siege of Savannah fails and is abandoned

21 Oct D'Estaing departs for France (with both legs)

1780

May French fleet under Rochambeau departs for America

11 Jul Rochambeau's fleet lands at Newport RI; remains almost a year awaiting support

25 Sep Benedict Arnold's treason discovered

1781

5 Jan Gen. Benedict Arnold invades Virginia

22 Mar De Grasse leaves France for Haiti

May Washington and Rochambeau plan to besiege New York

Aug De Grasse receives letter from Rochambeau requesting assistance

19 Aug Combined armies of Rochambeau and Washington leave New York for Virginia

26 Aug De Grasse arrives Chesapeake Bay and lands troops

2 Oct Rochambeau's troops begin entrenchments for siege of Yorktown

19 Oct Cornwallis surrenders