

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Fitzgerald: S16796

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina}

Guilford County}

On this 20th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before Wm Adams Benj Ross & Wm Parmerr the Court now Setting William Fitz Gerald, a resident of Guilford County, aged Seventy one years or thereabout who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of an act of congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under following named officers & served as herein stated.

That he belonged the 2nd Reg't of Maryland State troops, that he lived in the County of Carlile [sic: Caroline?] in the s'd State of Maryland - at about the age of 21 years, to the best of his recollection in the month of August 1778 he became a Substitute for one Resden Bosman, who undertook therefor to provide for his widowed Mother and two children. that he marched to Philadelphia under Col. Smith & Capt. Shepherd, was there armed and cloathed, Returned to Anapolis in the s'd State of Maryland - marched there under Gen'l Giss [sic: see note below] to North Carolina where he joined Gen'l Green at Rougleys Mills in sd State. thence to the Cheraw Hill in Soth Carolina thence to Guilford, North Carolina by way of Salisbury. was detached with a party to Prince Edward Co Va. for Stores &c when the battle of Guilford was fought. that he rejoined the army at Ninety-Six South Carolina, was wounded at the Siege of that place in an attempt to storm the enemies works under Capt. Huger. marched from there to the high hills of Santee, thence to Camden. was in the action at hobkirk hill also at fort thompson. thence to Bacons bridge & the Eutaw Springs under Col Sumpter as a pilate [pilot?]. was in the action at the Springs under Cols Stuart & Egleston & Capt price. that he marched thence to Chalston was stationed on James Island where he remained until peace was made. that he was then embarked on board the Comadore Nichelson Seventyfour[?] & returned to Anapolis in his native State of Maryland after an absence of about five years. That he was there released on furlough for a few months when he was called in and regularly discharged. That he hath lost his discharge by the burning of a house in which it was deposited & that he hath spent five years of the prime of his life in the Service of the United States without compensation, being now old and infirm he throws himself on the bounty of his government

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to pension or anuity except the present and 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 Wm F hisXmark Gerald

NOTES:

The deposition is thoroughly confused. The following is a chronology of the events referred to:

1780

- 16 Aug MD troops decimated at Camden SC; Gen. Mordecai Gist returns to MD to recruit
- 2 Dec Gen. Nathanael Greene at Charlotte NC takes command of southern army
- 26 Dec Greene takes part of army to Cheraw Hills SC

1781

- 28 Jan Greene takes army westward to join Gen. Morgan being pursued by Cornwallis
- 5 Feb Greene's army near Salisbury NC
- 15 Mar Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC
- 4 Apr Greene decides to return to South Carolina, passing near Rugeley's Mill
- 25 Apr Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC
- 22 May Greene begins Siege of Ninety-Six SC; Gen. Isaac Huger commands VA Continentals
- 14 Jun "Forlorn Hope": unsuccessful assault on British redoubts at Ninety-Six
- 19 Jun Greene abandons Siege of Ninety-Six; retires to High Hills of Santee

8 Sep Battle of Eutaw Springs SC; Gen. Thomas Sumter not present; Col. Stuart, Col.
Ecleston and Capt. Price unknown
1 Dec Greene and part of army near Bacon's Bridge
1782
Jan Greene besieges British in Charleston for almost a year; patriot forces on James Is.
14 Dec British evacuate Charleston

A letter dated 20 Jul 1836 refers to the applicant's deceased brother, Charles Fitzgerald.