

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of James Givens S1879
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn42NC
8/12/08

State of Tennessee, Franklin County

On this 5th day of September 1832, personally appeared before the Worshipful, the County Court of the County & State aforesaid, James Givens, a resident of the said County & State, aged 68 years on the 8th day of April last, who being first 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 --

He states that he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers. I first entered the service of the United States in the County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina, where I was born & raised, in the month of August 1780 – in the Company Commanded by Captain William Alexander, ___ [blank in original] Aikins was the Lieutenant. I was drafted for a tour of duty of three months. We were marched to General Sumpter's (sic, Thomas Sumter's) headquarters, which was on the 12 Mile Creek, in South Carolina a few miles from the line of North Carolina – we remained there a few days, when the Army marched against a Fort occupied by the enemy called Rocky Mount, near Catawba [River]. The Fort was taken after firing a few rounds of cannon. Colonel Miller of our Army was killed at this place. Some four or five of the enemy were killed in the fire, & the balance taken prisoners. From Rocky Mount, we recrossed the River to the East side, & marched to a place called “the hanging rock” on the road from North Carolina to South Carolina, about 35 miles from Camden, the then head quarters of Lord Cornwallis. Here we had a skirmish with a detachment of the British, in which they were defeated. From hanging rock, we marched back to Mecklenburg North Carolina. Cornwallis had left Camden with his Army, marched of the Catawba to Beatties Ford, & from there to Charlotte – where he crossed the River & remained until February 1781 – I served out the three months tour & was discharged General Sumter returned into South Carolina.

After the expiration of that term of service to wit, in the winter of 1780 – 81 – I volunteered as a private in Captain David Wilson's Company of mounted Gun men, & immediately went into service – there was no engagement for any particular length of time. We marched in the direction of Salisbury, & before the battle of Guilford, Captain Wilson returned home, & I joined a Company of mounted riflemen, Commanded by Captain Robert Campbell – Rich Rankin, Lieutenant – a detachment of about 150 men, in which I belonged, was ordered against a party of Tories on Dan River – they had dispersed but we took a few prisoners. We were marched into Virginia – Captain Campbell resided in Augusta County Virginia. We were at Charlottesville the next day after Tarleton of the British Army left that place. We proceeded to Richmond & Williamsburg. About 12 miles below Richmond, was General Lafayette's headquarters where we joined him, the day not recollected but on the day of our arrival, two of his soldiers were shot for desertion. We were under the immediate command of General William Campbell of Virginia. From that place the Army marched towards Williamsburg & encamped 6 miles from that place – where the Army remained some time. General Campbell died while the Army was lying here. I was taken sick about the last of July, & was discharged & permitted to return home. The news of the capture of Cornwallis reached us about the time of my arrival at home.

When Lord Cornwallis took up his line of march from where he had been stationed in Lincoln County, N. C. in the winter of 1780 and his Army crossed the Catawba River at Cowan's Ford, on 22nd February 1781. It was at that place General Davidson was killed. The cannon & baggage wagons crossed at Beatties Ford, where my father resided. Cornwallis & his staff breakfasted in my father's house – my father was taken prisoner & marched off – he was then 65 years of age -- & claimed exemption in the service of his age & that he did not belong to the Army. He was told, if he did not, his sons did – He had then seven sons, including this applicant, who were in the service of the United States, fighting his battles. My brother Major Samuel Givens, had been taken prisoner at Gates defeat

at Camden. He has no documentary Evidence in his possession or power to produce. He placed no estimate at the time upon the discharges he received. He served without pay or emolument of any time, and did not look forward to the period when the U.S. would be able to make compensation. He fought for liberty & obtained it.

He states that he was born in the County of Mecklenburg, State of North Carolina, on the 8th day of April 1764. He removed from thence to Kentucky in 1789 – where he resided until the year 1809, when he removed to this County where he now resides.

He has no documentary evidence in his possession or power to prove his services or any part thereof. He can prove the same in part however by Major John Armstrong, a Citizen of this County, who was born & raised in the same neighborhood with himself. He is known to the Reverend Robert Dugan, Colonel James Lewis, the Reverend Mister Gwynn & others who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency of any State.

S/ E. Russell, Clerk

S/ James Givens

By S/ W. B. Wagner, D. C.

Major John Armstrong, aged about 65 years, a resident of this County being first duly sworn, saith on oath, that he was born in Lincoln County & raised in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He has been acquainted with the applicant James Gibbons who has sworn to & subscribed the foregoing declaration, since his boyhood, having resided in the same neighborhood in Mecklenburg County – this affiant was too young to be in service, but well recollects that it was said & understood at the time, that the said Givens was in the service of the United States during the War of the Revolution; & he has no doubt of the fact. He has been acquainted with Captain William Alexander, under whom said Givens first served. He has been acquainted with said Givens ever since, except during the time, that he resided in Kentucky: he is a man of unquestionable veracity, & every way worthy of Credit. He further states that he to have heard during the War, of the movements of the Army to which he belonged as stated in his declaration, & of the capture of Rocky Mount & the battle there, & that said Givens was in the battle. He knows he was from home.

That he kept sworn to in open Court September 5, 1832/

S/ John Armstrong

S/ E. Russell, Clerk

[Robert Dugan, a clergyman, and Colonel John Lewis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[veteran living in Gibson County, Tenn., as of Dec. 22, 1835 when he applied for a transfer of his benefits.