

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Joseph Forsyth S23636

fn41SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/16/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.]

State of Pennsylvania County of Allegheny

On this 31st Day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before Charles Shaler Pres. & his associate Judges the court of Common Pleas now sitting Joseph Forsyth [sic] a resident of Jefferson Township in the County of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania aged 70 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 7, 1832, -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated

That he was drafted in the Army in the month of October 1779 from Rockbridge County State of Virginia under the command of Capt. Thomas Bell, being then in the 18th year of my age, we marched to Stanton where we were inspected by Col. Sampson Matthews, from thence we marched to Hillsboro old Orange County State of North Carolina where we fell in with that command of Major Ridley where we remained for some time in the Spring of 1780 we marched to Salisbury where we remained a short time from thence we marched to Carlote [sic Charlotte] in the County of Macklinburg [sic, Mecklenburg] State of South Carolina [sic, North Carolina] where we fell under the Command of General Greene from thence we marched to the Cheraw hills at which place we remained during the winter during which time General Greene send a company of men down the Pedee River after the Tories under the command of Col. Lea [sic, Lee] of which I was one after being there a short time we received orders to return to General Greene, who was then on his march to Guilford [sic, Guilford] Court house at which place we joined General Greene's Army in the spring of 1781 on the next day after we joined the Army we were attacked by Lord Cornwallis' Army our Army was divided into 3 lines the 2nd line which I belonged to was troops from Virginia during the time of the Engagement was very warm I received a wound inflicted by a bayonet in my left thy [thigh] which rendered me unable to continue on with the Army after I recovered the term of 18 months for which I was drafted having expired I did not follow the Army to get a discharge or to draw my pay in the first of May, I went as a substitute for Lattimore Edmons who attended to my wound for the term of one month as a militia man to General Merians [sic, Francis Marion's?] Camp on my arrival in Camp I enlisted under Capt. Henry Lenew [sic, Henry Lenu] attached to Col. Peter Oreas [sic, Peter Horry's] Troop of Horse for the term of one year immediately after my enlistment we had a small engagement at Bigen [sic, Biggin] Church¹ which place the British burned and marched off the next day General Marion sent a small detachment of us to learn which way the Enemy marched after we had proceeded a few miles we fell in with Col. Lee's Troop of Horse who also pursued on after the enemy to we came up with them at Hewgees [or "Newgus" ?] Brige [sic, Huger's Bridge?] cut off their rear guard took 80 prisoners 6 baggage wagons and 6 field pieces Just as this battle was over Generals Marion and Sumter with their Brigades arrived and pursued the

¹ July 16, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/bigginsh.htm>

enemy to Qunby Brige [sic, Quinby Bridge]² where we had a small skirmish with the enemy retreated across the bridge and took shelter in a large frame house and some small Negro houses where we had a severe engagement which was on the 17 of May 1781 immediately after that I was ordered to Georgetown South Carolina to join Col. Horry's Troop for which I had enlisted soon after a part of our Troop had received their equipage we were sent back to General Marion to do duty. I remained in Marion's camp to the Battle of the Eutaw Springs³ which I was on that day attached to Col. Lee's troop the next engagement that I was in was the battle of Wambaw Creek⁴ when Col. Horry's men were defeated in February 1782 after serving 9 months and about 16 days of my enlistment I was discharged on condition that I would enlist for a longer time I then enlisted in the foot service for the term of 3 years under William Swinton a recruiting officer on Pedee River Darlington County South Carolina from which place I was sent to George Town [sic, Georgetown] where I was under the command of Capt. Alexander Rooks and done duty with artillery men commanded by Capt. McCure we continued there during that summer soon after the British left Charleston we marched then at this time I was attached to Capt. Phelix Warleys [sic, Felix Warley's] Company to serve out my time our company was attached to Major Hern's Battalion Col Thompson's Region, Gen. Hewgus Brigade [sic, Huger's Brigade] in the Spring of 1783 I was sent along with a company of men to the State of Georgia with the goods for the Indians at the request of Gov. Benjamin Garrett and 1 June returned back to Charlestown and was discharged on the 9 day of June 1783 Signed by General Greene -- after serving one year and some days of my Enlistment which discharge I have since lost --

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity 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

S/ Wm Mc Candlness

S/ Joseph Forsyth, X his mark

[Thomas D. Baird, a clergyman, and Michel Snee gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

Questions:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: In Chester County Pennsylvania in the year 1762

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

Answer/ I had a record of my age and I left it at my Grand Father's in the State of Virginia

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer -- I lived in Rockbridge County State of Virginia when I was drafted and since the war, I have been over several States for the last 30 years I have been a resident in Washington and Allegheny Counties Pennsylvania

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer -- I was drafted for the term of 18 months the first tour

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer -- Capt. Henry Lenud, Col. Peter Horry, Col. Lee, General Marion and General Sumter and General Greene were all officers which I served under and was in several engagements with

² July 17, 1781, <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/quinby.htm>

³ September 8, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/eutaw.htm>

⁴ February 24, 1782 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/wambaw-cr-br.htm>

them

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer -- I received a discharge given by General Greene on the 9th day of June 1783 which discharge I have since lost.

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

Arthur Morrow, Michel Snee, Peter Hayer, Matthew Morris

[fn p. 9]

Western District of Pennsylvania County of Allegheny

On this 21st day of October 1829 personally appeared in open court, being a court of record of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylvania, now sitting at the City of Pittsburgh, Joseph Forsythe, resident in said County, aged 68 years in February last past, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818, and the first of May 1820; that he the said Joseph Forsythe enlisted, for the term of one year, on the first day of June in the year 1781, in the State of South Carolina, in the company of "Horse" commanded by Capt. Henry Lenew [sic, Henry Lenud], in the Regiment commanded by Col. Peter O'Rea [sic, Peter Horry], in the line of the State of South Carolina on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in said Corps until February 1782, when the company to which he belonged was destroyed by a defeat at Wamba Creek [sic, Wambaw Creek], & he was discharged from the "Horse" on condition that he would enlist in the infantry; that he did enlist about the 15th day of March 1782, in the same State, in the company commanded by Capt. Felix Warley, in the Regiment commanded by Col. Thompson, in the line of the same State; that he continued to serve in said last-mentioned Corps until the 9th day of June 1783 when he was discharged from the service in Charleston in the State of South Carolina; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present; that his name is not on the roll of any State, except South Carolina; and that the following all the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension: -- first that he did make application in the year 1819, but that he was not able, at that time, to swear that he was not worth \$200, which he understood was necessary; and that since that time he has lost all the property which he then had; & further he says that he could get no witnesses to identify him until now.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or other wise disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. That, since the 18th of March 1818, the following changes have been made in my property -- to wit -- that, since that time, all my property has been sold for the rent of the house in which I then lived, by virtue of a landlord's warrant except the property contained in the list signed by me, and that the list signed "D. Darragh" is a true account of the property sold by virtue of said warrant.

Sworn to and declared on the 21st day of October 1829 before
S/ E. J. Roberts, Clk S/ Joseph Forsythe, X his mark

Schedule of my property

One Horse worth	\$15
One Milch Cow	\$10
Corn in the Stack	3
Farming Utensils	3
Kitchen Furniture	<u>5</u>
	\$36

I am by occupation a farmer. But am old and unable on account of "Rupture" to pursue it. I have no family except myself & my wife: she is, I think 81 years of age, and of course is unable to contribute to our support. I owe upwards of \$50, which I am unable to pay. I have never received any compensation from government for my services. Since the 18 March 1818, I have not myself disposed of any of my property; but, as will appear in the deposition of D. Darragh Esquire, the most of my property was sold on a Landlords warrant. What was left is contained in the above schedule.

The sale of the landlords warrant took place in August 1821.

Test:

S/ W. H. Lowrie

S/ Joseph Forsythe, X his mark

City of Pittsburgh

Before me an Alderman in and for said City personally appeared John Warner⁵ to me well known as a Revolutionary Pensioner, and generally reputed and believed to have been a Soldier of the Revolution, and a man of veracity, who being by me duly sworn according to law to depose for the whole truth in his knowledge of what he may know of Joseph Forsythe who is also now present, and is making application to be put on the Pension List Roll as a Revolutionary Pensioner -- doth depose and say -- That he was first acquainted with said Joseph Forsythe in South Carolina while the deponent was under the command of General Marion. That he well recollects of seeing and knowing said Forsyth at that time in the regular Service & of having been on duty with him. That both this Deponent and said Forsythe were part of the time in the Cavalry and deponent knew him well -- part of the time was under Lee & part under Marion -- & when I left that part of the Country the said Forsyth was in the foot Service & remained there but under whose command deponent cannot say. The next acquaintance that Deponent had with said Forsyth was about, or within 2 years past, and by comparing our experience & talking over our old exhibits -- we fully recognize each other, and deponent knows that said Forsythe to be the same person who served with him in South Carolina during the War of the Revolution -- & further deponent saith not

Sworn & subscribed before me September 15, 1829.

S/ M. B. Lowrie

S/ John Warner

⁵ This MAY be the same man whose application appears in FPA S40641. This claimant lived in Allegheny County, Penn. when he made his first claim in 1820, but I cannot find in his HeritageQuest file any reference to his having served under Marion in SC. I looked at the other "John Warners" listed on HeritageQuest and couldn't identify a more likely candidate.