

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Roper: S31945

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia} Inferior Court, October adjourned Term
Gwinnett County} 1832

On this fifth day of October in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court (it being a Court of Record) John Roper a resident of said County aged sixty nine 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 7th June 1832 That he entered the service under the following named officers & served as herein stated towit In the year 1780 in Northampton County & State of North Carolina where he then resided he entered the service as a Volunteer for three months in the Company Commanded by Capt Samuel Lockhart and Lieutenant ___ Barnett. Marched to Halifax & then joined Col Etherington's Regiment & was attached to Maj'r Robert Peebles [sic: Peebles] Battallion which belonged to Gen'l Allen Jones' Brigade - then marched to Newbern [sic: New Bern] thence to Cross Creek [now Fayetteville] - then to [sic: toward] Camden in South Carolina & joined Gen'l Gates' [Horatio Gates's] Army on our way near the mouth of Rocking River [sic: Hanging Rock Creek?] - and was in the Battle when the Army under Gates was defeated [16 Aug 1780] and the army dispersed. in about one month the army was again collected or that portion to which he was attached - and marched under the command of Brig Gen'l. Jones to Smithfield in the State of North Carolina and was there discharged. In the month of February in the year 1781 he was drafted in the same State and County for to serve a tour of three months and marched under the command of Captain Benjamin Drew and attached to Major John Shorts Battalion which was marched to Halifax County in North Carolina and attached to the Regiment under the command of Colonel Andrew Haynes from whence he was marched to Guilford County and joined Genl. [Thomas] Eaton about the 10th day of March and about the same time militia with the army under the command of Genl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]- was in the battle of Guilford in the same month [Guilford Courthouse, 15 March 1781] - in which he was wounded slightly on the head. After the Battle of Guilford the Army retreated to a place called Speedwells Iron works [on Troublesome Creek] from whence in a day or two they were marched in pursuit of Cornwallis to a place called Ramsey's Mills on deep river [in Chatham County] - from thence they marched to Camden in the State of South Carolina at which place deponents time of service having expired he received his discharge [apparently before Battle of Hobkirks Hill, 25 Apr 1781]. John Hapton[?] was one of the men[?] in this service He then returned home - in a short time again entered the service as a substitute for the term of three months and after having served that tour out - About the 1st March 1782. he was again drafted for three months as one of a guard of a military store in the County of North hampton [sic] during which time he was under the command of Captain Thomas Williams whose Son Benjamin Williams was Lieutenant & Benjamin Peebles Ensign. Thomas Sweet was Commissary during this period and had charge of the Stores.

After the expiration of this period about the month of September he again entered the service as a volunteer for three months and marched under Captain Johnathan Jackson to Little York in the state of Virginia and from thence to Williamsburg as a portion of the guard of a magazine at which place he again received his discharge the term for which he entered the service having expired. After this time until the close of the War he was variously engaged in scouting parties after the Tories at one time under Col Polk and other times under Capt Burt - He has a copy of the Record of his age which shows that he was born 24 February 1763 in Brunswick County & State of Virginia - after the War he resided about 2 years in Northampton County - then removed into Cumberland County then to Mecklenburg County - in North Carolina Thence to Gwinnett County Georgia where he now resides. That he knows of no persons living by whom he can prove said service except John Guttery nor has he any documentary evidence whereby he can establish the same. That all his discharges have been long 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. [signed] John Roper

NOTE: On 15 Nov 1839 Roper applied to transfer his pension to Benton County AL for the following reasons: "He is becoming quite old and infirm in addition to which he has suffered in a great measure the loss of his sight. His Children mostly migrated to the State of Alabama upon the conclusion of the treaty with the Creek tribe of Indians, and for the purpose of enjoying their society, support and protection in his old age, and almost helpless condition he emigrated also to Alabama."