

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Jones: S8765

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of No Carolina

Franklin County

On this 12th day of September AD Eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court, before the said Franklin county court now sitting William Jones (Lynches Creek [sic: Lynch Creek in the northwest part of Franklin County]) a resident of the county of Franklin and state aforesaid and aged seventy four 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 7th 1832.

In the month of March or April 1776 the day and date not precisely recollected Claimant volenteered as a soldier under Captain Benjamin Seawell to go against the Tories, and was marched to Duplin County N. Carolina and there news arrived that the Tories were defeated at Moores Creek Bridge [on 27 Feb 1776] under General [Richard] Caswell. Captain Seawell marched back his company and discharged his men. The service performed by Claimant in this Tour was only about twenty days and no written discharge was given. He next volenteered on the first of May 1776 under Captain Benjamin Seawell, Lieutenant William Hill & Ensign John [?]'s [page torn] and marched to Wilmington in No Carolina and was stationed there three months. Gen'l. [John] Ashe commanded at Wilmington and Col Dojur, and Major Hogan commanded the Redgement to which Claimant was attached and the service performed at Wilmington was military duty at a station and on the 10th of August he was marched back or took up the line of march back to Franklin and was discharged. There was no written discharge but he served in this expedition three months and an half. and Claimant proves this service by William Person & William Leonard who were with him in the performance of it.

Claimant again volenteered as a Soldier on the 12th of June 1780 under Captain Harrison Macon Lieutenant Richard Ransom and Ensign Ransom Davis and in this company Claimant was Sergeant. He was marched under the command of Col. Benjamin Seawell from the county of Franklin to the Landing near Fayetteville and Col. Seawell returned Home, and Col. Benjamin Exum of Wayne County took command of the Redgement with Major Agrippa Nichols of Warren County and Major Griffin of Martin County. He then was marched through Randolph County and the other counties lying in the way in No C. to the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina and not far from that place we were Joined to the command of General [Horatio] Gates, then we were marched towards Campden [sic: Camden] in South Carolina, and not far from that place perhaps within eight miles General Gates' army and the army of Lord Cornwallis met and had the Battle which ended in Gates Defeat on the 16th of August 1780. at that Battle Claimant was taken Prisoner and marched a Prisoner to Campden same day where he remained a Prisoner till the 16th day of Oct following. From there he was marched on the 16 of October as a Prisoner to Charleston in South Carolina where he remained about 10 days & then was carried to Edisto Island to the south of Charleston. he remained untill some in March 1781 from the he was brought to the Barracks at Haddrells point [across the Cooper River from Charleston]. There he remained until the 24 of May when he left Charleston on Parole & he remained on Parole untill the month of August making this last Tour as well as Claimant recollects the time about fourteen months. And as to the proof of this service Claimant has to rely on his own oath, that he has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no person whose testomony he can procure, who can testafy to his services except Johnathon Stone who was with Claimant from the 12th of June until the day of Gates' defeat when they were seperated, and Claimant taken prisoner, and said Stone well knows that Claimant was absent about twelve months reputed to be a Prisoner, and that Claimant returned among the Prisoners. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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 this day and year aforesaid

12th September 1832

[signed] Will Jones

State of North Carolina
Franklin County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, William Jones who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that in order to meet the objections which have been made to his declaration for obtaining a pension he declares that he was born in Brunswick County, Virginia on the 7th of May 1758, according to a record of his age now in his possession owing to old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than twenty days in the first tour mentioned in his declaration, not less than three months and a half in the second, both of which he served as a private militia man. in the last tour he served as first sergeant and for the term (including his captivity as a prisoner of war) of fourteen months. In his first tour, his company commanded by Captain Seawell was attached to a militia regiment, the name of which is not recollected, under the command of Colo. Nicholas Long; the names of the other officers not recollected. In his second tour, he states that he believes his company was attached to the Second regiment of militia and in addition to the officers mentioned in his declaration, he states that of Colo. Brown of the 1st Regiment. In his last tour he thinks he was attached to the 2nd Regiment of the militia. After his regiment became attached to the army of Genl. Gates this applicant learnt the names of several continental field officers in addition to that of the commander in Chief, to wit, Gen'l. De Kalb, General Francis Marion, Gen'l. [William] Smallwood, Colo. [Charles] Porterfield, Genl. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens], and commander of a troop of horse, Colo. or Major Armary [sic: probably Lt. Col. Charles Tuffin Armand]. After his captivity he learnt the names of Colo. Vaughn [sic: Joseph Vaughan] and Major [John] Patton who were taken prisoners. With regard to the objection that this magistrate has not certified to the credibility of the applicants witnesses, he states that they were sworn in open court by the Clerk, and not before any magistrate out of court. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22^d of April 1833 [signed] Will Jones

NOTE: On 13 May 1857 one Smith H. Powell of Lenoir in Caldwell County NC sent a query to the Commissioner of Pensions as follows: "Widow Jones's Illegitimate Children Administered on her Estate & made use of the [pension money paid to widow Jones] & the s'd Wm Jones Heirs has never as yet Rec'd. any of it. the said Widow died without being married & did not make any will. now I want to know whether the Heirs of Jones can recover the money with interest or any part tho it may have been 11 or 12 years."