

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jeptha Rice W5700  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Nancy Rice

f32NC  
9/25/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee Sumner County } Circuit Court October Term A.D. 1838

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 1838 personally appeared in open Court (before the Honorable James Rucks one of the Judges of the Court of Law for the State of Tennessee now holding Court in the County of Sumner in the town of Gallatin at the October Term 1838) Nancy Rice a Resident of the County of Sumner in the said State of Tennessee aged seventy-five or seventy-six years – her precise age she cannot state having no family Record of the Same who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on her oath, make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1836 and of the Act explanatory of the Same – That she was married to Jeptha Rice in the County of Caswell State of North Carolina as well as she remembers in the year 1781. She knows distinctly that they were married a short time before the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis her Husband the said Jeptha Rice entered Revolutionary Service as well as she remembers either in the company commanded by his Father Captain Hezekiah Rice or the company commanded by Captain Winn Dickson and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Henry Dickson [Henry “Hal” Dixon] of the North Carolina line her said Husband Enlisted for seven years or during the War soon after he entered the Service he was promoted to the the Rank of First Lieutenant which Grade he held until about the Close of his service when she was informed he took the Rank of Captain – in what way he was promoted to the Rank of Captain this Declarant does not know so it is she knows that about the close of his Service he was called Captain Rice – the most of his service was however performed as first Lieutenant – he entered the service as before stated for seven years or during the war and continued in the service until the end of the war – her said Husband was taken sick and was Furloughed and came home while on this home visit he and Declarant intermarried <sup>before his term of service expired</sup> after their marriage which was as before stated as well as she can remember was on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 1781 – her said Husband went on one tour of Duty to the Army after their marriage and after his return home he held himself in Constant readiness to return to the Army whenever called on until the whole Revolutionary Soldiers were disbanded – her Husband the said Jeptha Rice performed much hard service in the Revolutionary War he was in the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]<sup>1</sup> – in Gates Defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], in the battle of

<sup>1</sup> It strikes me as unlikely that the veteran could have been married on August 27, 1781 in Caswell County, NC [which is on the border with Virginia] and fought at Eutaw Springs [which is in the middle of South Carolina] on September 8, 1781. He would have had to travel the roughly 270 miles between the two locations in what would have been a very short time during those days when, at best, he would have been traveling on horseback. At 30 miles a day, the trip would have taken at least 9 days.

Guilford [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] and several other engagements she thinks he was in the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and Monmouth [June 28, 1778] the last two battles she has not so distinct a Recollection as the other three engagements before named – She remembers however to have heard him often speak of being engaged in a severe engagement which was fought on a warm day when many of the soldiers were overcome by the excessive heat and while in this condition drank freely of cold water – from which several of them died – and she thinks this battle of which her Husband spoke was the battle of Brandywine – but in this however she may be mistaken – in one of those engagements he was wounded in the fleshy part of his breast the scar of which was visible to the day of his death. Declarant and her said Husband lived in the County of Caswell North Carolina after their marriage until the year 1812 when they moved to Tennessee he was then too old to enter the service of his country a second time it was with difficulty however that his family could dissuade him from it and nothing would satisfy him but the determination of his three sons that they would join the Army which they did and one of them continued in the service for five years – Declarant’s Husband continued to reside in Sumner County Tennessee until the year 1822 when he died – Declarant has continued to reside in the same County ever since and has never married again. Since the death of the Husband Declarant was informed that a grant had issued from the State of North Carolina for twenty-five hundred and sixty acres of land – as a compensation for the military services of her said Husband – she employed Major James Blackmore of this County to attend to the business for them and Declarant and her children have obtained this land which is located in the Western District of Tennessee – it is however of but little value being an indifferent Location. She however mentions this fact as furnishing conclusive evidence that her said Husband was a soldier of the Revolution with the Rank of first Lieutenant – Declarant has no family Register of her marriage – and she has been informed that no record of marriages were kept in North Carolina at the early day at which she was married – She knows of no person by whom she can prove her marriage except by the testimony of Mary Byson of this County and perhaps Susan Dern of Wilson County she is confident that Mrs. Byson was at her marriage – Declarant asked for a Pension under the provisions of the Act of Congress made for the benefit of the officers and soldiers of the Revolution and she hereby releases and relinquishes all right or claim to a pension whatever except the present.

S/ Nancy Rice

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Rice". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

[p 6: On October 19, 1838 in Sumner County Tennessee, Mary Byson a citizen of said County gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Nancy Rice and knows that Nancy Rice married Jeptha Rice having been present at their marriage in Caswell County North Carolina. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

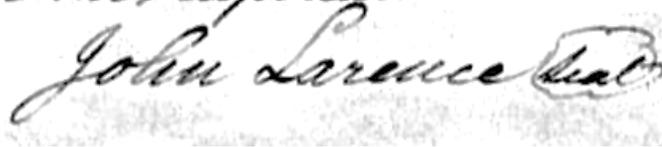
[p 8]

State of North Carolina Carteret County} SS

This may certify to all whom it may concern that John Lawrence came personally before us George Gillikin & Elijah Whitehurst two of the acting Justices of the County aforesaid and made solemn oath that he was well acquainted with Hezekiah and Jeptha Rice brothers and sons of Hezekiah Rice Senior a Welshman who settled in the State of Virginia prior to the revolutionary war he was a neighbor to my father and had three children Hezekiah, Gideon & Jeptha Rice, Gideon was lame with the white swelling in his right knee, Hezekiah Junior &

Jeptha Rice received commissions in the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war against England Hezekiah died in the service with the smallpox. Jeptha was said to be killed he never returned. Gideon Rice had two children Churchwell and Dempsey. Dempsey was lost at sea without issue, Churchwell is now the only surviving heir of said Hezekiah and Jeptha Rice provided the 6 children of Titus Leach who married the widow of Gideon should not be considered as lawful heirs. I have lived in the neighborhood of the above Rices and moved from Virginia with Gideon Rice and his family to this State and further this deponent saith not. Sworn to and subscribed before us August 23, 1821

S/ John Larauce {Seal}



S/ E. Whitehurst, JP  
S/ George Gillikin, JP

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State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

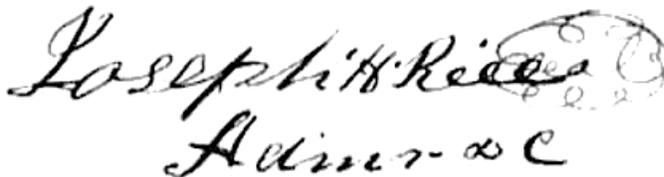
I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the evidence on which the Commissioners appointed pass upon all applications for military land warrants for services performed in the revolutionary war ordered a Warrant to be issued to the Heirs of Jeptha Rice and Ensign No. 958 for 2560 Acres.

Given under my hand at Office

in Raleigh 16 November 1840

S/ Wm Hill

[p 11: On June 14, 1853 in Davidson County Tennessee, Joseph H Rice, 49, son and administrator of Nancy Rice, filed an application for an increase in the pension paid to her from \$60 per annum; he states that in 1825 the heirs of his father filed for the bounty land due his father for his service in the revolution; that that action resulted in the issuance of a warrant for 2560 acres of land to Baldwin Rice, Levi Smith & Polly his wife, Kenae Rice [?], William Rosea & Elisabeth his wife, Matthew Rice, Elisha Gibson and Patsy his wife, Joseph Rice, \_\_ Smith and Axey his wife & Henry Rice; that a portion of the land grant was occupied by the descendents of the veteran; that Nancy Rice, the widow of the veteran died in Sumner County Tennessee October 19, 1844 survived by the following children, Axey Smith, Matthew Rice, Patsy Gibson, Henry Rice and declarant; that declarant's father served one year as a private after which he was promoted to Lieutenant and towards the latter part of the war was appointed Quarter Master.



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[p 31]

Raleigh 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1854

R. McClelland Esquire Secretary of the Department of the Interior

Sir

Your letter on the subject of Jephtha Rice's Services in the revolutionary war is received, and I will now give you a statement of the manner in which his name stands on the musterrolls of the Continental line in the Office of the Secretary of State, and a printed book of settlements of the Army Accounts. – In the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Jephtha Rice [sic] Ensign entered the service 15 March 1777 “not mustered after January 1778” – 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment Jephtha Rice Quarter Master Sergeant 15<sup>th</sup> May 1781. Nothing more said of him on the Rolls. On the printed book of settlements, Jephtha Rice was allowed for services as a Lieutenant by a Board of Commissioners at Halifax which set in 1783 & 4 £38.10.4 drawn by Tilman Dixon [Tilghman Dixon]. In payments made in 1782 to the 12 months Drafts \$30 was allowed for the services of Jephtha Rice, paid to the Treasurer. In a list of final settlements certificates issued by the Comptroller in 1785 is 12 Jephtha Rice for \$30 delivered to John Hall of Caswell County. This is all that appears on the musterrolls or book of settlements respecting Jephtha Rice.

I am entitled to fees for my services, and think I have labored enough in this case to earn \$5.

Yours respectfully

S/ Wm Hill [North Carolina Secretary of State]

P. S. The Comptroller has much evidence of revolutionary services not to be found in the Office of the Secretary of State.

S/ Wm Hill

[Veteran's widow was initially pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum but subsequently increased to \$262.78 per Adam commencing June 4, 1831 and ending with her death on October 19, 1844. The amount of her pension was initially based upon her husband service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line and subsequently increased as a result of his service as Quarter master Sergeant, Ensign & Lieutenant in the 9<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment under the command of the veteran's father, Colonel Hezekiah Rice.]

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Another Version

**Pension Application of Jephtha Rice**, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 2032, Application #W5700

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

Carteret County, North Carolina, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1821, John Lawrence came personally:

“...and made solemn oath that he was well acquainted with Hezekiah and Jephtha Rice (brothers), and sons of Hezekiah Rice, Senior, a Welshman who settled in the state of Virginia prior to the Revolutionary War. He was neighbor to my father and had three children, Hezekiah, Gideon and Jephtha Rice. Gideon was lame with the white swelling in his right knee. Hezekiah, Jr. and Jephtha Rice received commissions in the Continental line of this state in the Revolutionary war against England. Hezekiah died in the service with the small pox. Jephtha was said to be killed. He never returned.”

“Gideon Rice had two children, Churchwell and Dempsey. Dempsey was lost at sea without issue. Churchwell is now the only survivor of said Hezekiah and Jephtha Rice provided the six children of Titus Leach who married the widow of Gideon should not be considered as lawful heirs. I have lived in the neighborhood of the above Rices and moved from Virginia with Gideon Rice and his family to this state and further this deponent saith not.”

Sumner County, Tennessee, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1838, personally appeared, Nancy Rice, aged 76 years:

“That they were married a short time before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. Her said husband, the said Jephtha Rice entered Revolutionary service as well as she remembers, either in the company commanded by his father, Hezekiah Rice or the company commanded by Captain Winn Dickson [*or Dixon*] and was attached to the regiment commanded by Colonel Henry Dixon of the North Carolina line. Her said husband enlisted for three years or during the war. Soon after he entered the service he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, which grade he held until about the close of his service she was informed he took the rank of captain...”

“Her said husband was taken sick and was furloughed and came home. While on this visit home, he and declarant intermarried before his term of service expired. After their marriage which was as before stated as well as she can remember, was on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 1781. After her marriage, her said husband went on one tour of duty to the army and after his return home he held himself in constant readiness to return to the army whenever called on until the whole Revolutionary soldiers were disbanded.”

“Her husband, the said Jephtha Rice, performed much hard service in the Revolutionary War. He was in the Battle of Eutaw Springs, in Gates’ Defeat, in the Battle of Guilford and several other engagements. She thinks he was in the battle of Brandywine and Monmouth. The last two battles she has not so distinct a recollection as the other three engagements before named. She remember however to have heard him often speak of being engaged in a severe engagement which was fought on a Monday when many of the soldiers were overcome by the severe heat and while in this condition drank free of cold water from which several of them died, and she thinks this battle of which her husband spoke was the Battle of Brandywine, but in this however, she may be mistaken. In one of the engagements he was wounded in the fleshy part of his breast, the scar of which was visible to the day of his death.”

Davidson County, Tennessee, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1853, Joseph H. Rice aged 49 years, personally appeared:

“That he is the son and administrator of the said Nancy Rice, who was a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States... That he has often heard his father, the said Jephtha Rice, speak of his services in the Revolutionary War. That at the beginning of the war, he was living in Caswell County in the state of North Carolina, and that he entered the service in said county and state in the company commanded by his father Hezekiah Rice. This was at the commencement of hostilities in North Carolina. This service was performed as a private, as declarant thinks.”

“That sometime subsequent to his first enlistment, to wit, in or about the year **1776**, as declarant thinks, his father was promoted to ensign, and soon thereafter to lieutenant in the regiment commanded by Lt. Colonel Henry Dixon, who had been promoted from captain. That his father continued to serve as a lieutenant in said regiment for several years. That after his father’s death, to wit, in the year 1825, a suit was brought by the heirs of his father, the said Jephtha Rice, to recover 2060 acres of land, being the amount of Warrant No. 958 issued in the name of his father, the said Jephtha, and which had been located by some person or persons for the University of North Carolina.”

“The Court decided that they were the heirs of the said Lieutenant Jephtha Rice and adjudged them the title thereto, and a grant No. 25456 was issued for 2560 acres to Baldwin Rice, Levi Smith and Polly, his wife, Henry Rice, William Posea and Elizabeth, his wife,

Matthew Rice, Elisha Gibson and Patsy, his wife, Joseph Rice, \_\_\_\_ Smith and Amy, his wife, and Henry Rice. This land was located in Bardin and McNairy Counties, Tennessee, and a portion of it is now in the possession of some of the children, who reside thereon.”

“...That he believes an error occurred in the allowance of only sixty dollars per annum to his mother, as that allowance appears to have been made to her as the widow of Jephtha Rice who was a private, and he never understood that his father served as long as one year in that capacity. That his service as a private was performed in the first part of the war, after which as before stated, he was promoted to a lieutenancy and served as such for several years as he always understood from his father, after which and during the latter part of the war, he was appointed quartermaster and in that capacity continued to serve, but for what length of time he is unable to state...”