

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension app of Paul Findley (or Finley) W9440
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn53Ga

State of South Carolina, Abbeville District

On this fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before Richard Gantt one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Paul Finley a resident of Laurens District in the State of South Carolina aged Seventy years since January 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 act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he the said Paul Finley entered the service of the United States at the age of fourteen years on the fifteenth day of August Seventeen hundred and Seventy six; that he was an enlisted soldier or recruit and enrolled as such by one Sergeant Emmet for the particular service of a Corps of mounted horseman called to the best of the applicant's recollection by some one of the following names: the Georgia Regulars or Provincials or Rangers, whose sole duty appeared to be the frontier protection of the Whigs against Indian depredations and Troy revolt in the State of Georgia; that he enlisted under the said Sergt. Emmet on the fifteenth day of August one thousand seven hundred & seventy six for the term or time of Eighteen months; that on the day of his said enlistment he was a resident of and living in Craven District afterwards known as Ninety Six District and at present called Laurens District in the State of South Carolina; that he with other recruits of like character were marched from the place by the said Sergt. Emmet to a place in the State of Georgia called Kettle Creek, where he was placed under the command of one Capt. ___ [blank in original] Mc Farlin [McFarlane ?] who it appeared had rendezvoused his company at Kettle Creek for about the period of one month & from thence was marched under said Capt. McFarlin's company by him to a place called Nails or Neal's fort on the frontier of Georgia where this company joined another but under Capt. the applicant does not recollect; at which place about the number of three companies were embodied, collected, organized and from thence the applicant was marched with the said troops under the command of Major ___ [blank in original] Marberry [probably Leonard Marbury, also spelled Marbrey] either Leonard Marbury or to a place called fort Barrington on the Altamaha River in the State of Georgia which place was designated their Headquarters & from which place the troops alternately issued and moved in small squads & scouting parties up & down the said River & over the North & South bank through the country to check and intimidate the inroads of the Indians & other enemies of the Country for about the period of seven months ending in April or May 1777 seventeen hundred & seventy seven from fort Barrington the said troops were marched under the command of one Col. John Baker to East Florida near the sea coast and near the month of St. John's River & from thence was marched by change of course up to a place called Nassau Swamp where the said troops were defeated to the number of about one hundred & twenty by a much greater and superior force of Indians & British who by stealth & address gained the superior advantage of enfilading the troops of Liberty between this impenetrable swamp & the enemies' lines in so embarrassed a situation as to terminate in their defeat and success to the Indian & British Victors. The remnant of the troops who

individually escaped from this defeat subsequently met at Col. John Baker's plantation called Midway in the State of Georgia in a few days after their defeat at Nassau Swamp. From Col. Baker's plantation the troops were marched under his command to fort Barrington again where the applicant remained with the troops about one month, when he was taken sick & removed to a hospital at a place called Darien about the month of June seventeen hundred & seventy seven. After the applicant's recovery he joined the said troops again at a place called fort Cochrane on the frontier of Georgia still under the command of Col. John Baker about the month of September in the year seventeen hundred & seventy seven. From fort Cochrane the said troops were marched in the month of January seventeen hundred & seventy eight to the City of Savannah by the said Col. John Baker, who with the troops remained in the city about one week ; thence marched to Augusta in Georgia where the applicant remained with the troops for four or five weeks, and to the end of the applicant's full term of enlistment for Eighteen months when he received an honorable written discharge (which is now lost or destroyed) from a Major Dekizen [?] who had been with the troops for some time & promoted from the rank of Captain. The applicant forgot to mention in its proper place a battle the troops had with the Indians while stationed at fort Barrington which terminated in the defeat of the Indians with a loss on the part of the troops of five or six men & the loss on the part of the Indians not known to applicant. Also another battle fought by the troops against a Florida Scout of Tories or enemies on the banks of the Altamaha River about fifteen miles above Fort Barrington which battle terminated in favor of the Whig troops without loss, the enemy baggage was taken & they put to flight. The said Paul Finley says that his term of enlistment as aforesaid was fully served out by him viz, eighteen months and that with it ended his service in the Georgia Campaign to wit February seventeen hundred & seventy eight.

This applicant subsequently entered the service of his country or of the United States as a drafted militia man for the term of three months under one Capt. William Richey who was attached to the Regiment commanded by Col. Williams in Genl. Williamson's Brigade in the month of February Seventeen hundred & seventy nine, drafted in Craven County, Ninety Six District now Laurens District. The applicant was then marched in this company to Savannah River with other troops opposite to Augusta on the Carolina bank, where the said troops remained vigilantly guarding & protecting their post from the advances of the British who were posted in Augusta & who evacuated Augusta in about a month after the arrival of the American troops on the bank of Savannah River as aforesaid. The applicant says that while he was stationed on the River with the American troops aforesaid, a number of Tory prisoners was brought in by Genl. Pickens & others to the number of about one hundred & fifty & were placed under the guard of Col. Williams' troops. From thence the applicant with the American Troops were marched guarding the said prisoners to the town of Cambridge or Ninety Six where the prisoners were lodged in Jail and the Jail guarded for the remaining & full term of three months when the applicant was verbally discharged.

The applicant again entered the service either in the month of March or April seventeen hundred & eighty as a drafted militia man for the term of three months under Captain William Richey and a Lieut. John Carter who commanded the company in the absence of Capt. Richey who was not with the company in this tour of duty which Company with others were placed under the command of a Col. McCrary & marched

from Craven County or Ninety six District now Laurens District where the applicant was drafted to a place called Cupboard Creek in Georgia within a few miles of Augusta. From thence he was marched across Savannah River into Carolina and from the course towards Granby where the news of a large & superior force of British being near, which as this applicant believes induced the officers of the weak American force to dismiss them to effect escape from any enemy able for their destruction. The applicant says he was out in this tour of duty at least two months when he was verbally dismissed or discharged as aforesaid.

The applicant then says that he entered the service again in June seventeen hundred & eighty one as a volunteer under the command of a Capt. William Harris in Ninety Six District now Laurens under whom the applicant marched to the Cherokee nation by order from Col. Kilgore who commanded & conducted the expedition, in which the Indian's towns were burned, their corn destroyed, & several of them killed after which the army returned to the settlements after an absence of about thirty days. The applicant still continued in this company performing active & constant duty against an outlying handful of Tory robbers on the borders of South Carolina until the full of the year 1782 month of September when peace was measurably restored to the Whigs & friends of Liberty in South Carolina. This ends the entire service of the applicant in the defense of his country the United States of America.

The applicant 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.

Answers to certain Interrogatories

Ansr. to 1st Intg.: The applicant says he was he was born in what in now Newberry District SC in the month of January seventeen hundred & sixty two.

Ansr. to 2nd Intg.: The applicant says he has no record of his age, but certainly is he impressed with a belief of its correctness that he has no doubt relative to it from the fact of his having seen the record of his age in his father's family bible at the age of sixteen or seventeen years, which bible is lost or otherwise destroyed.

Ansr. to 3rd Intg.: The applicant says that he always entered the service in Craven County Ninety Six District now Laurens District and that he has lived in the same place or District since the Revolutionary war, where he now lives.

Ansr. to 4th Intg.: The applicant says that he once enlisted, that he was twice drafted & that he once volunteered into service as before stated.

Ansr. to 5th Intg.: The applicant says he cannot answer this Question with certainty

Ansr. to 6th Intg.: The applicant says he never received but one written discharge from the service that was given to him by Major Dekizen, which discharge is lost.

Ansr. to 7th Intg.: Andrew Burnsides, Aley Fuller, Col. Turner Richardson, William Ligon and Genl. Thomas Jones are persons to whom I am known in my present neighborhood & who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

S/ Paul Findley

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year above written.

S/ Richard Gantt

State of South Carolina, Abbeville District

I John Finley a resident of the Village of Abbeville in the District and State aforesaid do solemnly swear that I am an elder brother of Paul Finley whose Declaration as an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832 accompanies this affidavit, that the facts therein stated and set forth from the period of his enlistment on the 15th day of August 1776 under Sergeant Emmit in a corps of troops raised for the frontier service of Georgia and as I am inclined to believe called the Georgia Rangers for 18 months service as well as all the subsequent detailed statements of service mentioned in his Declaration down to the period of the battle of Nassau Swamp are strictly true and substantially correct, that these statements of fact are known to the deponent, from the fact of his enlistment with his brother Paul at the same time, under Sergeant Emmit, in the same corps of Georgia Rangers or troops, & of having performed the same service, which his brother has stated down to the period of the Nassau Swamp Battle, where he separated from his brother Paul having two days before this battle, his horse shot dead from under him, & his escape to be effected upon foot, but was taken prisoner, of the further service of his brother Paul as related in his Declaration is Deponent has no knowledge, but believes the same to be true, from the character of which his Brother Paul has always sustained as a man of truth & veracity and from the well-known fact of his Whig principles & Revolutionary Services.

Sworn to before me

S/ John Finley

S/ Geo. Shillito, JP, this

18th Oct. 1832

South Carolina, Laurens District

Personally came Andrew Burnside¹ before me a Justice for said district and made oath according to law Depose and saith that he was well acquainted with Paul Finley the Subject of this probate that the said Burnside was on a tour of duty with Paul Findley against the Cherokee Indians of one month which tour of service was done in the year 1781 and that this deponent does recollect that the said tour of service of one month was faithfully done and performed by the said P. Finley. Sworn to and Subscribed before me this sixth day of January 1836.

S/ Martin Shaw, JQ

S/ Andrew Burnside

South Carolina, Spartanburg District

Personally came Captain James Tinsley² before me and made oath that in the year 1779 he was on a tour at Augusta Georgia of three months and that Mr. Paul Finley served in the same Regiment he believes all the time.

Sworn to before me the 30th day of December 1835.

S/ Joel Dean, JQ

S/ James Tinsley

1 [Andrew Burnside \(Burnside\) S9300](#)

2 [James Tinsley S21426](#)