

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Hawes Coleman S16732

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 Sep 2014.

Virginia:

At a Court of Monthly Session held for Nelson County, at the Courthouse, on Monday the 22nd day of December, 1834.

State of Virginia, County of Nelson, to wit:

On this 22nd day of December, 1834; personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Nelson County, now sitting, Hawes Coleman, a resident of said County and State, aged seventy seven years the first day of January last past, 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 entered the service of the United States as a Militiaman in the State of Virginia, and County of Spottsylvania [sic: Spotsylvania], in the year of 1774 or 1775 to the best of his recollection, (the day or month not recollected,) under Captain Thomas Bartlett, and, he thinks, Lieutenant Sharp [probably Thomas Sharpe], and an Ensign by the name of Mountiene, this company and another drafted at the same time in the same County was put under the command of Major [Beverley] Winslow, and marched by Hanover Courthouse, from thence to Williamsburg, and remembers to have met in this march, he thinks in New Kent County, the noted old Guthrie, who had been taken prisoner as Pirate or Tory, and was then in chains under guard being conducted up the Country, when they arrived at Williamsburg they were attached to General [Thomas] Nelson's command, and Major Winslow was promoted to Colonel. At that place they were stationed during that tour, which was not less than three months, to the best of his recollection. As he is not positive what year this tour was performed, he adds that he well recollects that it was while Patrick Henry was Governor of Virginia [5 Jul 1776 - 1 Jun 1779]. The next tour he served was also as a Militiaman, drafted in the same County, he does not recollect in what date, but says that it was some time after his first, having been drafted and hired a substitute between his first and this tour. He marched on this occasion from Spottsylvania under Captain [James] Taylor, and in the County of Hanover they were attached to Col. Thomas Meriwether's Regiment and moved about in different directions in the Counties of Henrico, Hanover and Louisa, for some time, watching the movements of the enemy. they were then attached to General Lafayette's command, and marched through Spottsylvania to Culpeper Courthouse, where they staid sometime, from thence they returned into Orange, where they were joined by General Wayne's troops [Anthony Wayne, 10 Jun 1781]; he was then discharged after a tour of not less than three months to the best of his recollection. The next tour he served was also as a Militiaman drafted in the same County, but a short time after his last named tour expired, and marched under Captain Nicholas Payne to Hanovertown, in the County of Hanover, where they were attached again to Colonel Meriwether's Regiment, and General Muhlenburg's [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's] Brigade. in this tour he was marched about for some time from place to place, he recollects to have been formed for battle at Dandridge's Mill [on Goldmine Creek near Rockville] at Bottom's Bridge and below New Kent Courthouse, at this latter place the advance guard of our army was attacked and retreated, having sustained some injury from the enemy. the army maintained its position for sometime; expecting to be attacked, but was not. – from that place he was marched back past New Kent Courthouse across the Pamunkey river into King William County, where they were stationed for a considerable time until he was discharged after a tour of not less than three months to the best of his recollection. The next tour he served was also as a Militiaman drafted in the same County, not long after his last named tour expired, and marched under Captain John Chew, within four miles of Yorktown (it was said) where they joined Colonel Meriwether's Regiment again, and General Muhlenburg's Brigade – at that place they were stationed and detached in rotation to work on the intrenchments of York, till a short time before the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], when he was discharged after a tour of not less than three months to the best of his recollection. His whole services

was performed as a private in the Virginia Militia, which amounts in the whole to not less than twelve months to the best of his recollection, and for those he claims a Pension, and knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court, with the answers thereto: –

Question 1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Spottsylvania in the State of Virginia, in the year of 1757 as I was informed by my parents.

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

Answer. I have no record of my age but I have seen one frequently in a Bible belonging to my parents.

Question 3d. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. I have stated where I lived when called into service. I continued to live in Spottsylvania until 1789, when I moved to Amherst County, Virginia, and now live in Nelson County; that being taken from Amherst.

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

Answer. I was drafted.

Question 5th. Did you receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. If I ever received a written discharge, I do not now recollect it.

Question 6th. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served.

Answer. In addition to those named in the body of my Declaration, some of which were regular officers as I understood. I recollect to have seen General [Baron von] Steuben and Colonel Matthews, but they were only passing from one place to another, without being stationed at any place where I was, as well as I now recollect, nor am I positive they were regulars, but think they were, nor do I recollect the No. of the Regiment to which I was attached.

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

Answer. The Court will enquire of Robert Rives and Alexander Fitzpatrick, who can testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a Soldier of the Revolution. The Court will also please enquire of the same gentlemen whether they believe me to be as old as I represent, and whether I am reputed and believed in my neighbourhood to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and whether they concur in that opinion.

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 or Territory. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Hawes Coleman

NOTE: Note that Coleman claimed to have served three tours of three months each between early March and mid October of 1781.