

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Fiers S30414 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky, Livingston County toWit:

On this 24th day of September 1833 personally appeared before John Smedley, one of the justices of the County Court, in and for said County and State, William Fyers, resident of said County aged seventy three years the 4 October next, 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 under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That sometime in the year 1777 [sic: probably 1781] (the precise month I do not remember) but it was in June or July, I entered the service as a private, from the County of Sussex, State of Virginia, in the militia of that state, having been drafted, and served under Lieutenant Ralph McGee, Captain Thomas Newsom – from Sussex we marched to Meads Mills (or Burnt Mills) near the town of Suffolk in Nansemond County, which had been burnt by the enemy, at which place we joined General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg, who arrived in Virginia in March 1780]. the regiment to which I belonged at this time I do not now distinctly remember, but the principal officers who were in Command at this and belonging to this division of the American army were Col. [Thomas] Gaskins, Col. Wells, Gen'l Wells, Major Ewel and Major Duvall [sic: Samuel Duval]. From this place we marched to Portsmouth on Elizabeth river, oposite Norfolk, which had been taken possession of by the British. But before our arrival, they had evacuated the place. After remaining here sometime, reconnoitering the country, we moved to Babbs old fields about thirty miles distant, where I was taken sick, and obtained a furlough from Gen Muhlenburgh to return home. In this service I was only two months out, having obtained the furlough before my term was expired having been drafted for three months. At this time the militia of Virginia was divided into divisions of 10, and served in turn. In about six weeks after my return, and I think in the month of November [sic] of the same year, my turn again came, and as a private, I again entered the service in the militia under Captain Nichols and Lieutenant Robert Andrews, and rendezvoused at a Brick church in Sussex County, and marched from thence to Surry Courthouse, and remained there about two weeks. After which we marched to Swann's point on James' river, and crossed over, and proceeded towards Williamsberg to a place (brick church) where a battle had been fought a short time before, and many were left dead. From this place we proceeded to Williamsberg, and remained there four weeks, reconnoitering the enemy's lines, their main force being only 12 miles distant from the place. While stationed here we were in the upper end of the town, in the New Magazine, where Gen'l. Washington joined us [Sep 1781]. Under his orders, we were marched in detachments to diferent points to spy and reconnoiter. Finally we were all ordered to Yorktown, where the Brittish lay. The forces under Gen'l Wells were ordered across James River to Stoner's Mills to get plank &c for platforms &c in the operations against the town. But before our return, Cornwallis had surrendered to Washington [19 Oct 1781]. My term of service was now out, being sometime in October 1781, and I was discharged, having been in this last service nine weeks.

Again, in the early part of the year 1782 my turn (under the regulation before mentioned) came round, and I again entered as a private, under the last-above named officers for a tour of two months, but after rendezvousing at the same place, and marching towards Williamsberg and reconnoitering the country, we were discharged after serving eight weeks only. I do not remember the precise object of this last expedition – at any rate no particular service was done, and the expedition was quite useless.

This is all my service, and amounts only to little better than six months in all. I declare that I have no documentary evidence in my possession which would prove my service, nor do I know of any person now living by whom I can prove my service. I am quite old – have been much afflicted in my life – am quite frail & poor, and may not be able to state my case so distinctly as required.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and I declare that my

name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state whatever.

And the said justice propounded to said applicant the following interrogatories as prescribed by the War Department, to which he made the subjoined answers. towit:

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Sussex in the state of Virginia on the 4th day of October 1760.

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

Answer. I have no record of my age at all – only the tradition of my family which I have no doubt is correct.

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

Answer. I was living in Sussex County Va. when I entered the service After the war I moved to Halifax [sic: Halifax] County N. Carolina, and lived there about twenty years, and then I moved to this County & have lived here ever since.

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

Answer. I was drafted, or took my turn in the class to which I belonged.

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

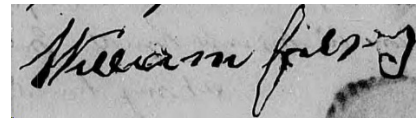
Answer. I received none that I recollect of – if I did, they are lost long ago.

6. State the names of persons to whom you are known 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. I am known to Jonah Hibbs Esq. Philip Bearden, Joel Hankins, James M. Hibbs, Rev. James Johnson, John Berry & others.

7. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I was altogether with militia, except in the expedition to York, and then I only some of the general officers of the army, such as Washington, [Anthony] Wayne, Lafayette &c and in the first expedition I know Major Ewel of the Virginia line, and Major Duvall.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Felt". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Felt".