

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Aquila Blakely (Blakely) S31558

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

On this 18th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court Before Harston Mead The Judge of the County Court Blount County now sitting Aquilla Blakely a resident of [blank] in the County of Blount and State of Alabama aged ninety two 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

That he entered the service of the united States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the fall of the year That the Sun was totally eclipsed the date not recollected, but believes it was in the month of September 1776 he enroled himself as a volunteer in the company of Capt Henry Lynes under the command of Col Christy of the Virginia Militia and at the time of his enrolment resided in Patrick County [sic: formed from Henry County in 1791] in the State of Virginia and the day he left home the Sun was Eclipsed and it was so dark the fowls went to roost & he was in the service Three months in Christys Company against the Cherokee Indians Capt Henry Lynes [Henry Lyons's] Company - marched alone from Patrick County to the three Springs six miles above the Long Islands of Holston River & Rendevouzed with the Militia of Virginia & some other States - supposed in all to be five or six thousand - and remained four or five Days & from thence marched to the Indian Towns on the Telico plaines & Destroyed the fields of Corn Beans and Potatoes & Burned their Towns called Draggon Canoe, Settico & Chillhowey & in one of these Towns we took five swivels [swivel guns?] - which this deponent was informed was captured of Col Bird [William Byrd] by the Cherokee Indians. This Deponent was in no Battle in said Campaign and was discharged in the month of December of the same year & his discharge is Lost. he was a private during said Campaign Peter Hurston [sic: Peter Hairston] was his Lieutenant and Thomas Jones Ensign all resided in Patrick [sic: Henry] County Virginia And this Deponent again volunteered and Entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated - he enrolled himself as a volunteer in the company of Capt. James Lyon Virginia Malitia and was an orderly Sergeant in said Company and at the time of his enrolment resided in Patrick County Virginia & marched from said County in August or September (the year not recollected But thinks it was one or two years after Christys Campaign) to Parris Fort [sic: Pearis Fort near present Pearisburg] on New River and at the mouth of Walkers Creek and were stationed in said Fort Two months and were marched Back to Patrick County and discharged in the latter part of the fall of the same year after being in the service three months - there was But one Company on this Tour. Samuel Hurston [sic: Samuel Hairston] was the Lieutenant and William Barks [probably William Birch] the Ensign of said Company and all resided in Patrick County. the Deponent on this tour was in no Battles and got no written discharge. And this Deponent again Enrolled himself as a volunteer from the County of Patrick in the company of Capt. James Shelton of the Virginia Militia in the Fall Season the year not recollected - and was stationed at the Flour Gap in Patrick County Virginia [sic: Flower Gap in present Carroll County] one month and discharged in the Last of Autum of the same year. There was But one company in this Tour Daniel Ross was the Lieutenant in said company & The Ensigns name forgotten - this deponent was a private in this Tour & got no written discharge. And He again volunteered as a private in the company of Capt James Poteet of the Virginia Militia under the command of Col. Abram Penn of Patrick County Virginia and this deponent at the time of his Enrolment - which was in the Fall of the year 1780 as well as he recollects resided in the said County of Patrick and marched from thence to the Shallow ford of the Adkin [sic: Yadkin] River in North Carolina against the Tories who were on a march to join Lord Cornwallis then in North Carolina - here Col Penns regiment captured Eighty or ninety Tories [see note below], - this deponent was engaged about one month in said Tour and discharged sometime in the fall of said year

And he again Enrolled himself as a substitute in the place of Thomas Goff in the Company of Capt George Hairston of the Virginia Malitia at the time of enrolment resided in Patrick County - & entered the service about the first of March 1781 and from the County of Patrick March'd to

Guilford Court House in North Carolina and the day after the Battle [15 Mar 1781] the said Company joined Gen. Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army, Gen [Robert] Lawson & Gen Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] commanded the Virginia Militia & does not know the name of the Col. the company marchd alone from Patrick County to Gen. Greens Army near Guilford Then marched with Gen Greens Army in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis & his Army, and pursed him as far as [Ramsey's Mill on] Deep River and Gen Greens Army & Earl Cornwallis Encamped within three miles distance of each other both on the North side of the river and the Latter immediately on the Bank of the same and there killed & Butcherd fifteen or Twenty Bullocks - and in the night made a Bridge by cutting large saplins Long enough to reach from one rock to others that projected above the water in said River & upon said saplins were placed fence rails across the River and at this River Gen Green stoped the pursuit & from there Capt Hurston and his Company were ordered to [illegible word] fires[?] & there joined Lees [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's] Light Infantry and remained there about four Days and were there Discharged in the Last of March or first of April in the year 1781 in this Tour he served one month — Joshua Renfro was the Lieutenant in this company and the name of the Ensign forgotten — at Haw River a Solder was hung on a walnut Limb for Desertion - and at Deep River another was hung for the same crime on a White Oak tree both Belonging to Gen Greens Army. The later was hung at Lord Cornwallis Camping Ground the next day after he crossed Deep River. this Deponent was soldier among the regular Troop Knew but few officers & has no Documents to prove his services and knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure who can Testify to his services 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

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Aquilla Blakley

The Answers of Aquilla Blakely to the several Interogatories propounded to him by the County Court off Blount in pursuance of the Instructions of the War Department — Answer to first I was Born in Forqure [sic: Fauquier] County Virginia in the year 1740.

answer to Second Inty. I have no record of my Age — Answer to third Inty - I always lived in Patrick County Virginia when I was called into Service — 4th I was always a volunteer But once & then substitute in place of Thomas Goff in Capt Hairstons company

5th I was with Gen Green a short time & have already stated my march with him - I saw a regular officer either Gen or Col Lee & the Regular Troops on Capefair [sic: Cape Fear River] in North Carolina - Gen Lawson and Stephens commanded the Virginia Militia when I was a Tour in North Carolina But I do not recollect any of the Militia Colns Being only about one month on the Tour to Gen Greens Army — & on Christys Campaign he recollects Col Christy & Col Lewis there were other Colonels & field officers But there names are forgotten the & have stated as well as I recollect the Gen Circumstances of my service

answer to 6th Inty - In my return from Christys Campaign I was discharged by Capt Henry Lynes & the same is lost & the Second Campaign got no written Discharge & received no written discharge on the Tour with Col Penn and on the Last tours he received no written Discharge

Answer to 7th I am known in my present neighborhood by John Fielding Samuel Cargo Esqr Goodin Killian Caleb Murphree and they can Testify to my character for verasity and they all Believe I was a soldier of the Revelation

Aquilla Blakley

Since the revolutionary war I removed to Grayson County Virginia & lived there eight or Ten years then moved to Jefferson County Tennessee & lived there about five years then removed to Blount County Alabama where I now live & have been here over fifteen years - Aquilla Blakely

On the first day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Marston Mead Judge of the County Court of Blount County now sitting Aquilla Blackely a resident of [blank] in the County of Blount and State of Alabama aged Ninety three years on the 10th day of October next who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration as an amendment to his Declaration made in this court on the 18th Day of September 1832 in order to obtain the Benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That since filing his original Declaration reflection on the past events of the American Revolution satisfies him that he enroled himself as first stated in his Declaration in the early part of September 1776. he enroled himself in the company of Capt Henry Lynes and served three months Tour as therein stated &

Discharged in December in the same year and recollects he did not get home until after Christmas of the same year

2nd and in his Second Tour under Capt James Lyon as an orderly Seargent - that in month of August in the year 1778 he enrold himself as in his original Declaration that the Corn was in Roasting years [sic: ears] when he got to Paris's Fort. he can not recollect the Day of the month but believes it was early in august in said last mentioned year and was in active service three months as before stated.

3rd And he again enroled himself as before stated the third time under Capt James Shelton - that he has reflected and is satisfied that he enroled himself as aforesaid near the last of September (in the next year after his second Tour) in the year 1799 [sic] and was stationed at the Flour Gap two months instead of one month as I before stated and returned home the last of November being in active service all the time

4th The Fourth Tour under Capt James Poteet under Col Penn - he enroled himself near the last of September in the year 1780 and served one month under Col Penn and during this Tour was as orderly Seargent and discharged some time in November in said year.

5th on the last Tour under Capt Harston he can make no alteration - and hereby Declares that he has lost all the Discharges he ever received and has no documentary evidence to prove his serves as a revolutionary soldier and knows of no living witness who can Testify to his revolutionary serves and believes none can be procured and believes there are no documents in existance to prove his services as aforesaid & he again hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and Declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state
[signed] Aquila Blakley

NOTES:

The Cherokee campaign of Col. William Christian, often called Christy, occurred in the autumn of 1776, but I could find no record of a solar eclipse at that period. The nearest was on 9 Jan 1777. Col. Christian with Col. Charles Lewis left Fort Patrick Henry at Long Island of the Holston (present Kingsport TN) against the Cherokees under Chief Dragging Canoe. They destroyed Tellico, Settico, Chilhowee, and Big Island Town.

There was a skirmish at Shallow Ford of Yadkin River at the time Cornwallis was in North Carolina in Feb 1781, but Col. Penn is not thought to have been present, and only four or five prisoners were captured, all apparently British soldiers. Blakley apparently meant the skirmish at Shallow Ford on 14 Oct 1780 where militiamen under Col. Joseph Cloyd captured dozens of Loyalists.

A Treasury Department document states that Ruth Anderton received the final pension payment of Aquila Blakley up to the date of his death, 7 Dec 1838. On 25 Nov 1850 Ruth Anderton assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits due her as the only known surviving child and heir of Aquila Blakley.