

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Rawleigh C. Christian W18892
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Elizabeth Christian VA

To the honourable the Congress of the United States

The petition of Rawleigh C. Christian respectfully represents that he entered into the service of his country as a private soldier in the month of April 1774 and continued in the army until some time after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at little york [Yorktown, 19 Oct] in the year 1781 that during that period he was in severe engagements with the enemy to wit the battle of Trenton on the 26th of December 1776, the battle of Princeton on the 3rd of January 1777 the battle of Monmouth on the 28th day of June 1778 the battle of Brandywine on the 11th day of September 1777 the cannonade of Trenton on the 2nd of January 1777 and the battle of Guilford on the 14th of March 1781 [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] in the battle last mentioned your petitioner received two wounds one on his left hand which broke one finger and has rendered that hand almost useless, the other in his right thigh a little above the knee from which the bullet was extracted by doctor Green of the 3rd Regt of Infantry. Your petitioner sets forth that for many years past he has been dependant on his children for support, the have now all married except his only son who is now and has been for ten years past in the Army of the United States. Your petitioner being left alone with an aged wife is incapable of earning a support by his own labour, he is sixty three years of age and feels as he advances in life much more sensibly the injury done to his thigh during the revolutionary war. thus situated he has determined to lay his case before the legislature of his Country. Your petitioner will further state that he enlisted in the 5th Virginia Reg't. under the command of Col Richard Parker and belonged to the Company of Capt'n Thos. Gaskins. his service expired at the end of two years he then again enlisted in the same Reg't. and was taken into the life guards of General George Washington and continued in that service for three years. he was then furloughed to visit his parents. In some short time after general orders were issued that all those who were on furloughs in Virginia should proceed to the southard and join the army under the command of General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]. this order your petitioner obeyed & marched under the command of his first Capt'n who had been promoted to the command of a Regiment and was then Col. Thomas Gaskins. Your petitioner having thus devoted the prime of his life to the service of his Country and being now incapable from the effects of his wounds received in that service and his advanced age from procuring the means of supporting himself and his aged wife, throws himself on the justice and bounty of the Congress of the Unites States under the most thorough assurance that the will not suffer the worn out soldier of the Revolution to pine in want for that pittance which would be like a drop from the Ocean when taken from the coffers of a great and wealthy Country. Your petitioner therefore prays that your honorable body will grant him something for his immediate support and also such an annual pension as you may think just taking into consideration his services & situation

Northumberland County Virginia December 17th 1817

Rawl C. Christian

District of Virginia

Northumberland to Wit,

On this 8th day of February 1819 before the Justices of the County Court of Northumberland now holding a Court for the County aforesaid within the district of Virginia aforesaid personally appears Rawleigh C. Christian aged 65 years resident in the County of Northumberland in the said district who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" That he the said Rawleigh C. Christian enlisted in the County of Northumberland in the state of Virginia in the Company Commanded

by Capt Thomas Gaskins in the 5th Virginia Regiment on the 10th day of April 1774, having enlisted for two years and having continued under his immediate command as private 18 months, he was then transferred to General George Washingtons body guard Commanded by Capt Caleb Gibbs where he the said Christian served the remainder of the two years for which he had first enlisted & when the term for which he had enlisted as aforesaid had expired to wit in the spring of 1776, he the said Rawleigh C. Christian reenlisted at Valley Forge as private in the same corps (to wit Gen^l. Washingtons body guard) Commanded by Capt Gibbs afs'd, and shortly after this last enlistment he the said Christian being on Furlough in Virga. to see his friends, rec'd. orders through Col. Thomas Gaskins who was then in the Continental service to join the southern army Commanded by General Greene which the said Christian accordingly did & was attached to the 4th regt commanded by Col. Stephens [sic: Adam Stephen] and continued in the Southern army until after the Seige of York when he rec'd. an honourable discharge in Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania having served in the Continental Army from the date of his last enlistment three years that he was in the following battles to wit, Taking the Hessians at Trenton in 1776, At the Battles of Princeton in 1777, at Brandywine in 1777 – At Germantown [4 Oct] 1777 – At Monmouth in 1778 and at Guilford courthouse in 1781 & at the last battle he was wounded in three places – and that his discharge being attached to his land warrant which he sold it is out of his power now to produce it, And that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of his Country for support. That he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

Sworn to & declared in open Court the day & year aforesaid – [signed] Rawleigh C. Christian

District of Virginia

Northumberland County to wit,

On this 9th day of July 1821 personally appeared in open court, (being a court of record for the said county, being expressly made a court of record by the laws of this Commonwealth by which it was created) Rawleigh C. Christian aged 69 years resident in the said county of Northumberland who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows; that he joined the Company of Capt. Thomas Gaskins of the 5th Reg't. Virg'a. line on continental establishment in the year 1774 and continued in the service as a private until the year 1776 when he was honourably discharged, that his original declaration is dated the 8th day of February 1819, his pension certificate is numbered 7039. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

[signed] Rawleigh C. Christian

Schedule as follows

Real estate to wit – a life estate in 103 $\frac{1}{3}$ acres of land in North'd. County Va.

Personal estate to wit – necessary bedding & clothing excepted – three head of cattle, twelve head of hogs, six flag'd chairs – one table – three pots – one dutch oven

[signed] Rawleigh C. Christian

Occupation and ability to pursue it.

A farmer – from his age and a wound he received in the revolutionary war he is able to do but little.

Number of his family residing with him – names ages & their capacity to support themselves

Elizabeth Christian his wife, seventy years old not able to do any thing.

[signed] Rawleigh C. Christian

[The following is in the [bounty-warrant files in the Library of Virginia:](#)]

State of Virginia

Northumberland County Sct. [22 July 1822]

Rawleigh C. Christian of the same County being sworn on the Holy Evangelists doth depose and say, that he enlisted in the County of Northumberland and state of Virg'a in or about the [blank] day of [blank] 1774 into the company commanded by Capt. Thomas Gaskins in the 5th Virginia regiment commanded by Col. [Charles] Scott for one year – these troops were raised by the then colony of Virginia: that when troops were raised by the United States the regiment to which he belonged was marched to the head quarters of the commander in chief Gen'l. Washington in the state of Pennsylvania that when the term of his enlistment had nearly expired, he reenlisted for the term of three years and at the expiration of that period he again enlisted for the war and faithfully served the whole period. That immediately after his second enlistment he was detailed for the body guard of the commander in chief in which guard he served nearly the whole of the war with the exception of the campaign of 1780-1 when he was with the southern army under Gen'l. Greene and again returned to his Excellencys body guard at Little York in Virg'a. immediately after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis – that he marched back with the main army to the State of Pennsylvania and was honourably discharged at Philadelphia toward the close of the year 1781 – that his discharge has been many years lost, tho' he does not know by what means he lost it. He was in the battles of Trenton, Germantown, Brandywine, Siege of York and received three severe wounds. That he has never received any bounty in land for his service – He will be seventy years of age on the 6th of September next – he supposes he was at the time of his enlistment of light complection and eyes, with brown hair – and is at this time five feet nine inches high.

[signed] Rawleigh C. Christian

NOTE: On 15 July 1839 Elizabeth Christian, 86, of Lancaster County VA, applied for a pension stating that she married Rawleigh C. Christian on 4 July 1782, and he died on 4 July 1828. The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 4 July 1782 by Rawleigh Christian and John Christopher, Jr. for the marriage of Christian to Elizabeth Pope, a widow. A Treasury-Department document states that "one of three child'n of Elizabeth Christian" received her final pension payment up to the date of her death, 28 Jan 1840.