

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Boyt W5844

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia County of Nansemond Sc

On this 13th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open open court before Josiah Riddick, Hardy Cross, Edward R Hunter, & Edwin B Sumner, the court of Nansemond County, now sitting William Boyt a resident of Nansemond County and state aforesaid aged 75 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. He says that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated; that he entered as a militia man (drafted) on his own account on the [blank] day of [blank] in the year (time not recollected), under Captain Demsey Sumner, Lieutenant Michael Howell, and Ensign [blank] Colonel Wills, Major Thomas Wells; that he served only 6 weeks, then, was again called out; that he served several 6 weeks tours, and under different officers, all not now recollected, sometimes under Colonel Josiah Parker, and sometimes under Major Josiah Riddick, that he served in all more than six months that he marched through the Counties of Nansemond, Norfolk, Isle of Wight, Surry &c; that he was at Portsmouth where some works were dug down; that he recollects none of the officers of the regular troops with which he served; that he has no documentary evidence; and that he thinks he can prove the same by Elijah Jones and David Boyt [elsewhere signed David Boyt, Sr.]; that he has no discharge in writing, nor never had any; that the record of his age is worn out from time and destroyed, that he was born in the County of Nansemond, and has always lived here to the present day; that he was as stated, a drafted militia man, that he has stated all he knows about the regular troops; further he cannot recollect. 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, and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

(Signed) William Boyt.

State of Virginia, }
County of Nansemond, }

I, William Boyt, of the aforesaid County and State, being duly sworn according to law, doth, on my oath, make the following amended Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. – That I have no record of the services I performed during the Revoutionary War, and by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory, I cannot swear possitively as to the precise length of my service; but, according to the best of my recollection, I did serve my Country during the Revolutionary War, as a private in the militia, a period not less than seven months, and for which service I claim a pension.

That, to the best of my recollection, I performed this service during the years 1778, 1779 and 1780, and in the following manner. I served two tours of six weeks each under Captain Dempsey Sumner who was then under the command of Colonel Book Wills of Isle of Wight County, Virginia in 1778; I also served two tours of six weeks each under Captain Willis Parker in 1779, and one tour of six weeks under Captain James McClenney in 1780; Colonel Josiah Parker and Major Josiah Riddick, I think, were the field Officers when I served under the two last mentioned Captains; that these are the only Officers whose names I can now recollect to have served under during the Revolution. That I was called into service by competent authority, that my service was performed in the field, in the Counties of Nansemond, Isle of Wight, Norfolk and Surry, Virginia, and that I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of this service. – Sworn to and subscribed, this 9th day of Nov’r. 1833

[signed] William Boyt Sr

NOTE: On 28 Dec 1843 Sally Boyt, 72, applied for a pension stating that she married William Boyt in August 1792, and he died on 8 Oct 1843. The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 4 Aug 1792 by William Boyt and Watson Stott for the marriage of Boyt to Sally Jones.