Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Rains (Raines) W982 Letitia fn40NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 12/10/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of Tennessee Bledsoe County

On this 13th day of November 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the worshipful Justices of the court of pleas and quarter Sessions of the County of Bledsoe aforesaid, now sitting, John Raines, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-three 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated -- That he was drafted in the militia of Randolph County in the State of North Carolina, about the first day of December 1779, in a company commanded by Captain James Robertson – William Arnett was his Lieutenant, -- William Rainey was his Ensign. He was in a skirmish, in a detachment commanded by Major William England with some British or Tories, or some of both, near the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina at the time of this skirmish they were under the command of Colonel John Littrill [sic, Colonel John Luttrell] who was in camp about 16 or 18 miles from where they had a skirmish. He was discharged by Captain Robertson about the first of March 1780, after having been in service 3 months. In June or July following he was taken a prisoner by the Tories, who carried him within 2 miles of Wilmington when he made his escape and returned to his father's with whom he then lived, after being in custody 3 or 4 weeks, -- In April 1781 he was commissioned by Colonel John Collier a Captain of a company of Rangers which he was authorized to raise. He was ordered to range through the counties of Randolph, Chatham Cumberland and Moore, and in the discharge of these services, he was in actual service 6 months with his company. William Aldridge was Lieutenant in his company. He was frequently in company with Captain John Knight who commanded a company of Rangers. He was acquainted with Captain William Smith, an officer in the regular service in the Maryland line, as well as he can now recollect.

He received a discharge as a private from Captain Robertson, which together with his commission has been lost or destroyed by age.

He was born the 2nd day of August 1759 near Fredericksburg in Caroline County in the State of Virginia, of which he has no record, but has frequently seen it in his father's Bible. From Virginia, while a boy he moved with his father to Randolph County in the State of North Carolina, where he continued during the revolutionary war, after which he returned to Virginia when he married and then moved to Sevier County, Tennessee, where he lived 21 or 22 years, from there, he moved to Overton County Tennessee, where he remained about 3 years and then moved to Bledsoe County, Tennessee where he now, and has ever since resided, being about 26 years.

He has no documentary evidence of his service, and knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service except John Chambers whose statement accompanies this declaration.

He refers to John Dalton a clergyman Colonel James Standefer, ¹ a member of Congress from Tennessee, Alexander Lamb Esquire a justice of the peace of Bledsoe County and animal I am Esquire late Sheriff of the said County, as persons who can testify as to his veracity as to their belief of 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, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid S/ Scott Terry, Clerk S/ John Rains [John Dalton, a clergyman, James Standifer & Alexander Lamb gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Personally appeared in open court on this 13th day of November 1832, before the justices of the court of pleas and quarter sessions aforesaid John Chambers aged about 68 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration. That he is acquainted with John Raines the foregoing applicant for a pension, that he knew him in Randolph County in the State of North Carolina when the said applicant was a boy and from that time until sometime during the revolutionary war, when he the said Raines was drafted as a private in the militia of North Carolina under Colonel Luttrell -- after he was discharged and returned home to his father's, he was taken a prisoner by the Tories & carried towards Wilmington when he made his escape and returned home. After which he was appointed a Captain of Rangers by Colonel Collier. This declarant from length of time, cannot now recollect the years the said Range was in service, neither does he know from personal observation that he did serve, but the foregoing statement is founded entirely from common report to his knowledge at the time, he living a few miles from the said Rains.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Scott Terry, Clerk S/ John Chambers

[fn p. 13: on June 3, 1839 in Bledsoe County Tennessee, Letishia Rains, aged about 70 years, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Rains; that she married him March 8, 1787; that her husband died January 28, 1835 in Bledsoe County Tennessee; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 17: Samuel S Rains testified in Bledsoe County Tennessee that he is the son of John Rains and his wife Letishia Rains; that his parents were married in March 1787 according to a family record in the handwriting of his father; that the family record appears in a testament which remained in his father's possession until his death and then has been in the affiant's possession; that such record shows that John Rains married Lety Rains in march 1787 and that Lety is the

http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=S000789

-

¹ Sic, STANDIFER, James Israel, a Representative from Tennessee; born in Virginia, probably in 1782; attended the common schools and was graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; elected as a Jackson Republican to the Eighteenth Congress (March 4, 1823-March 3, 1825); elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-first through Twenty-third Congresses, reelected as an Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-fourth Congress, and elected as a Whig to the Twenty-fifth Congress and served from March 4, 1829, until his death near Kingston, Tenn., August 20, 1837, while on his way to Washington, D.C.; interment in the Baptist Cemetery, Kingston, Tenn.

name which his father called his wife. The family record referred to is presumably the portion of a Bible appearing on p. 7 of the Footnote.com digital images of this file, but the entries on that image are illegible except for the name "John Rains" and the word "mared 1787"]