

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Robert Ashley: R282

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina}
Henderson County} S.S.

On this 1st day of October one thousand eight hundred and forty five personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions (now sitting in Hendersonville) Robert Ashley a Resident of Henderson County State of North Carolina aged Ninety (90) 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 July 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered the in Landcaster District [sic: Lancaster County formed from Camden District in 1785] South Carolina in the month of February in the year Seventeen hundred and Seventy Nine (1779) as a Substitute for Jordan Ashley his Father, his said Father having been drafted for a Tour of Three Months and having taken sick in about two weeks after he entered the Service and sent home, the said Robert Ashley the affiant went to Orangeburg where the army was Stationed & joined it in his Fathers Stead under one Capt Wm Nettles Commanded by Gen'l [Thomas] Sumter & Col. John Stewart the Ridgment was called 5th Ridgment he there remained guarding some Tories until the end of the said tour of three months, he then Enlisted for and during the war under the same Capt Nettles & Col Stewart but was joined to Gen'l. Beufords Ridgment he thinks called the 4th Ridgment and was marched to the high hills of Santee, & there Remained until in October or November of that year, they were then marched to Charleston South Carolina to prevent the Brittish from landing there, and there Remained until the Surrender of Charleston in May 1780. he was then marched back to Landcaster and the Brittish there overtook them they had a Battle at what was called Beaufords Battleground & this Declarant was there taken Prisoner by the Brittish and remained about three weeks when he was Parolled, & went home and the next morning after Returning home he went and joined Gen'l Sumters army again under one Capt Jacob Gray & Col. John Martial they was immediately marched to where the Brittish was incamped near the hanging Rock & there had a Battle, Gen'l Sumter soon after having taken sick Gen'l Green took the Command & was marched to Camden & there had a Battle he was then marched to Rugeleys Mills and was then joined to Gen'l Gates army & was marched from there to gum Swamp two miles from said mills & there had a Battle with the Brittish in which fight this Declarant Received a wound by a ball through the Left arm, & Gen'l. Gates having Deserted his army Gen'l. Sumter again took the Command he was then marched to near Salisbury North Carolina then back again to Camden South Carolina & there Remained until the Surrender of Cornwallis at Little York in October 1781.

He hereby relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state.

[signed] Robert Ashley

Question 1st Where & in what year was you born

Answer I was born in Landcaster Dist So. Carolina in the year 1755.

Ques. 2nd Have you any Record of your age if so where is it.

Ans'r I have a Record of my age now in my Possession

Quest 3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now Live.

Ans. I was living in Landcaster Dist. South Carolina when I entered the Service, I Lived there about Twenty years after the Close of the war, I then moved to Buncombe County No. Carolina Since which Henderson County was broken off of Buncombe where I now Live.

Quest 4th How were you called into service. were you drafted did you Volunteer or was you a Substitute & if a Substitute for whom.

Ans. I entered the Service as a Substitute for my Father Jordan Ashley & served about three months I then Enlisted for and during the war.

Quest. 5th Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service, & if so by whom was it given & what has become of it;

Ans I received a discharge from Genl Sumter at the Close of the War but many years ago I got my house burnt with all its contents together with my discharge. I was acquainted with Gen'ls DeCalb [sic: DeKalb] Davidson & Col Harnrite besides those mentioned in my Declaration, There is Living in my neighbourhood Abraham Glayner George Glayner Joshua Bryant, & John Galaway besides many others who can testafy as to my Character for Veracity, and there belief of my services in the War of the Revolution
[signed] Robert Ashley

NOTE: Ashley's declaration is confused. The following is a chronology of the events mentioned:

1780

11 Feb British invasion force lands south of Charleston SC
29 Mar British cross Ashley River, begin Siege of Charleston
12 May Charleston SC surrendered
14 May Col. Abraham Buford's 3rd Virginia Detachment arrives Santee River SC, learns of Charleston's surrender, retreats
29 May Buford's 350 Virginians and 180 SC militiamen defeated at Waxhaws SC
15 June Thomas Sumter ends retirement, is elected General by Brigade of Partisans
6 Aug Battle of Hanging Rock SC
15 Aug Southern army under Gen. Horatio Gates arrives at Rugeley's Mill SC
16 Aug Battle of Camden SC: Gates defeated; Gen. De Kalb mortally wounded
18 Aug Sumter, still healthy and in field, at Skirmish at Fishing Creek
20 Nov Sumter wounded at Blackstock's Plantation SC, but retains command of partisans
2 Dec Gen. Nathanael Greene takes command of southern army from Gates

1781

10 May Sumter at Orangeburg SC
10 July Sumter near Orangeburg SC