

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Courson W9805

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Alabama
Montgomery County

On this day, it being the 29th day of December AD 1832 personally appeared before Benajah S Bibb Judge of the County Court for said county in open court James Courson a resident of the county and state aforesaid aged about seventy years who being duly sworn according to law doth make on oath the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act passed June 7th 1832

I was born in Lancaster district South Carolina I have no record of my age but suppose it must be seventy years. I entered the army in my fourteenth year in a rifle company of which Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] was the Colonel, William Brown was Major in the regiment, William Henderson was Lieutenant Colonel George Wade was Captain. I remained in that company fifteen months. There was no engagement of any consequence during this time Our service was in the neighborhood of Charleston on the seacoast. When this term expired I enlisted as a continental soldier for three years. The company in which I served was commanded by William McClintock, William Brown was major and Lieutenant Col. [William] Henderson was Col. I was at the siege of Savannah [24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779] Our army was commanded by Genl [Benjamin] Lincoln I was likewise at the battle of Stono [Stono Ferry, 20 Jun 1779]. The americans were defeated at both places The Count Pulaski was killed at Savannah, & the French Genl The Count D'Esting [sic: D'Estaing] received a slight wound. My company was shortly afterward sent to Charleston. I was in an expedition to Florida and was under the command of an american General Howe [sic: see note below]. the expedition set out from Charleston & went to a place called fort Barrington on the Altamaha we were stationed there some time and from thence moved down to Reads[?] Bluff where we remained some time We afterwards went to St Marys to a place called fort Young from thence we went to Sunbury [GA] & thence back to Charleston We had no fight during this time & Howe was sent back to the north for his misconduct & I never heard of him since. I was at the siege of Charleston & was taken prisoner then [12 May 1780]. Most of my comrades were put on board prison ships but there were a great many of the prisoners inoculated on account of the small pox I having had the small pox in my childhood was removed for the purpose of nursing the sick from which place I escaped after about a month. I joined Sumpter the day after the battle of Rocky mount [SC, 30 Jul 1780] & the next Sunday after we fought the battle of the Hanging rock [SC, 6 Aug]. we whipped the British there but did not know it being oblige to retreat for want of ammuniton the British retreated likewise I was sent as an express to Genl [Horatio] Gates by Sumpter & returned back to Sumpter who ordered three hundred a little below Camden to attack any companies of British we saw. We were commanded by Col Frederick Kaibol[?] Thomas Gleason[?] was my captain. While there we heard that Gates had experienced a total defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] and we at once retreated to join Sumpter A few days after the battle of Camden Sumpter was surprised while encamped on the Catawba river by Col Tarleton & wholly defeated [Skirmish at Fishing Creek, 18 Aug] This occasioned a complete dispersion of these troops. I then joined Major [William Richardson] Davie in North Carolina & marched over into South Carolina & did nothing of consequence we afterwards returned to North Carolina. I was not at the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] or the Cowpens [SC, 17 Jan 1781] but joined Genl Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] the day after & marched as far as Rugelys Mills [Rugeley's Mill 12 mi N of Camden] soon after I served some time with [Gen. Francis] Marion after this — I have never had a pension & hereby relinquish all claim to any except the present I was in the continental service three years the term for which I enlisted, & fifteen months the first tour I performed was in the continental service. [The following sentence written in the margin.] I received fourteen wounds in the service of the US. Benjamin Thompson & William Robinson [William Robertson] living in this county know of my services for a portion of the time I was in service The widow Morber[?] living in this county can testify that I was always during the revolution known as a good liberty

man I never received a discharge. The year after the peace I moved into Georgia and lived for portions of the intervening time in Warren, Washington Hancock & Jones Counties successively from Jones County I moved to this state fifteen years ago — My name is not on the pension roll of any state & I release my right should
James hisXmark Courson

NOTES:

Some events are not in correct sequence. Gen. Robert Howe, said to have been in command on the Florida expedition after the Battle of Stono Ferry, had been replaced by Gen. Lincoln on the previous 3 Jan. Howe was tried but acquitted for the loss of Savannah on 29 Dec 1778.

In Macon County AL on 28 May in 1845 or later, Laveci Courson applied for a pension stating that she married James Courson in Washington County GA in Oct 1803, and he died in Macon County AL 13 Jun 1834. Her application for bounty land made on 1 Jun 1860 gives her age as 75.