

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Richard Curtis R2606

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
New Hanover County } September Term 1836

On this the 15th day of September A.D. 1836 before Edward B. Dudley, Nicholas N. Nixon and John A. Lillington Esquires Justices of the Peace now holding the Court aforesaid personally appeared Richard Curtis a resident of New Hanover county in the State of North Carolina aged eighty one years the 1st day of March last who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

1st In a company of Beaufort militia in the spring of the year 1778 under Captain Henry Banner, Sargeant Charles Bynum in a regiment commanded by Col. John Tilman and served three months as a private and was drafted; the company collected at North Washington in said County of Beaufort, marched thence to Kingston [sic: Kinston] on Neuse River and remained there the term out and discharged in the month of July, joined two companies of militia one from Jones County and the other from Carteret, was in no battle this term - has no documentary evidence for this service and knows of no person now living by whom he can prove it.

2^{ndly} In the Fall of 1779 He entered service in in a company of Craven militia, under Captain John Coleman, Nathan Brown he thinks was Lieutenant, George Rankin adjutant being drafted or what was then called ballotted in for nine months, marched from Newbern [sic: New Bern] to Cross Creek now Fayetteville, arrived there a short time before Christmas, thence to Lumberton on Drowning Creek in Robeson County, thence to Briar Creek in S.C. thence to Camden, and was there at [Gen. Horatio] Gates's defeat [16 Aug 1780], where the army dispersed and this declarant together with a body of troops met at Charlotte N.C. remained there a short time and was discharged, (his term of service being completed) in August 1780, and a part of the troops that collected at Charlotte marched thence to Salisbury, but this declarant returned home. Two companies marched from Newbern to Cross Creek, (the other company from Jones County) and were under the command of Col John Tilman, - at Cross Creek or Fayetteville were put under the command of Col [William] Polk; in S.C. Col Polk was taken sick and were then put under Col [Robert] Irwin - who left us at Briar Creek, his Col at Camden he forgets, but thinks he was under Gen. [Isaac] Gregory who was wounded — he was a private and served nine months in this tour, a part of this term he served under Captain Callender, his first Captain (Coleman) being sick, was in the battle near Camden After the battle Col. [Richard] Caswell marched the body of troops that collected as aforesaid to Charlotte. Saw Gen. Marion after the battle at Charlotte [sic: see note below]. He was discharged by Gen [Reading] Blount - or rather by his order and his discharge was signed by Dr. Pasteur Surgeon for the Craven Militia, which has since been destroyed by fire, his house having been burnt and all his papers destroyed, and thinks he can prove this service by Aaron Todd and Joshua Brevington.

3rdly. On the 12th September 1780 he enlisted for twelve months with William Bush a recruiting Officer and served six months as a private under Captain Joseph Rhodes enlisted in Duplin County N.C. and rendezvoused at Duplin Old CourtHouse. William Bush adjutant. Andrew Cox he thinks was Lieutenant, — Campbell Major, in a regiment commanded (he thinks) by Col. Hill, marched to Cross Creek or Fayetteville where he joined two companies of regulars one from Johnston County N.C. and the other he thinks from Lenoir then Dobbs, thence to the Brown Marsh in Bladen County and had a skirmish there with the Tories and British commanded by Captain Mansin [possibly Manson] in which they gained the advantage - thence to high hills of Santee [in SC], thence to the Brushy Mountains and joined Gen. Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army, thence to the Shallow ford on Yadkin River [in NC], thence down the River to Jones ferry thence across and up to the shallow ford again, thence to Salem or Moravian Town thence to Guilford C. H. (being pursued by Cornwallis and his army), where Gen. Green determined to run

no longer and prepared for battle. In this engagement [15 Mar 1781] he was under the command of Col. Stephens or Gen. Stephens [sic: Gen. Edward Stevens] who was wounded and was from Virginia. The North Carolina militia gave way without firing. The American army retreated after considerable fighting. Not long after the battle Cornwallis and his army commenced a march for Wilmington and was followed by the American army to Deep River, this applicant with them, thence up across Eno River above Hillsborough and encamped at the Hawfields, at which place he thinks Gen. Green left and marched for the South; from the Haw fields he marched to Halifax N.C. and was there discharged he thinks in May not long after Cornwallis and his army had passed on to Virginia (not being well able to continue his march, having been wounded in the leg in the battle at Guilford C. H., four pieces of bone was taken out of his leg by Doc. Pasteur) by Col. Caswell he believes that is discharged by him — has no documentary evidence and knows of no person alive by whom he can prove this service

4thly After the last mentioned this applicant went to his Uncle's at Blanton's ferry on the Roanoke and staid there till his leg got well which was about a month, and then started to see his relation in Virginia, but at Windsor [Winton?] on Chowan River he enlisted with Daniel Harger in 1781 he thinks in July or August for and during the War and served in a company commanded by Capt John Coleman, adjutant William Fields, Lieutenant Oliver Prince in a regiment commanded by Col. Reddin Blount, marched from Windsor to Potomac River where he joined Gen. Washington's army thence to Williamsburg, thence to York Town and besieged it [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and remained there till Cornwallis surrendered, thence in a detachment to Petersburg and discharged by Gen Washington's aid de camp whose name he forgets at the end of the war he thinks in the first of the year 1783 perhaps in February or March, he forgets who signed his discharge at Petersburg, having been in service his tour eighteen months and perhaps more, he thinks he can prove this service by Aaron Todd though his memory is bad
Answers to questions propounded to said applicant by the Court.

1 I was born in the State of Virginia at a place called Snow Hill about 14 miles from Richmond (he believes) the 1st of March 1755.

2nd I have no record of my age, but according to my father's account of my age which I have tried to keep since I believe myself to be of the age above stated.

3rd In my first tour or when I entered it I was living in Beaufort Cty N.C. my 2nd in Craven. My 3rd in Duplin and in my 4th as stated in my declaration - Since the Revolutionary War I have lived in Orange County N.C. in Guilford Cty., in Sampson Cty N.C. in New Hanover Cty and I now live in New Hanover.

4th I refer to my declaration.

5th [Regular officers who were with the troops where he served] Gen. Washington, Gen. Green, Gen Stevens, Gen. Gregory, Gen Gates - Baron De Kalb, Col Tilman - Col Hill, Col Polk, Col Irwin Col Blount, Gen LaFayette, Admiral De Grass [Compte de Grasse] Captain Joseph Rhodes & many others, I recollect several regiments of Continentals & militia. I refer to my declaration.

6th I rec'd discharges as stated in my declaration and were all burnt as therein set forth -

7th [Neighbors who could testify to his veracity and the belief of his services] Gen M. W. Campbell, Benj. Farrow, Benj. & Richard Beasley, John Newton, Thomas Craige, Owen Holmes Esquire, Anthony A. Wanet - Thomas Capps, William Harris, Doc Harris and many others I could name - also Gen Alex Mackae, Henry Martindale & John A. Lillington and John Halett

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Richard hisXmark Curtis

NOTE: Gen. Francis Marion and his partisan corps remained active in South Carolina after the Battle of Camden; it is doubtful that Marion went to Charlotte NC.