

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Fritts S10701

f24NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/10/09 rev'd 6/23/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Session 1834

On this 27th day of May 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Pleas & Order Sessions now sitting for Hawkins County, Tennessee, John Fritts a resident of Lee County Virginia aged 72 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. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, & served as herein stated.

The this Applicant states that he was born in Shenandoah County in the State of Virginia in the year 1762 according to the count he has kept, that he does not know the month nor the day, having no record of his age & if there ever was one he does not know what became of it. That from Shenandoah County his Father moved when this Applicant was very small into Rowan County North Carolina where he was living when he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in a company of Rangers under Captain John Lopp about the first of February in the year 1781. That the company rendezvoused at the County town & from thence ranged through Rowan County in quest of Tories & spying after the movements of the British, who were at that time passing through Rowan County they passed through Salisbury & crossed at the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River] & thence on to Guilford Court House where a battle was fought [March 15, 1781]. This applicant further states that the Company to which he belonged also ranged through other Counties that during this Term of service they were enable [enabled] to take many Tories as prisoners some of whom they hung & others they [indecipherable word] for some time & then turned them loose & that he received no written discharge from this term of service, but was dismissed.

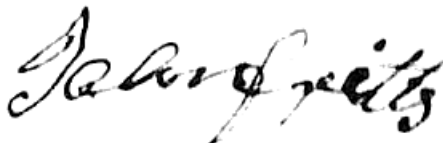
This Applicant further states that he again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Peter Fort [Peter Ford] for the purpose of guarding some British & Tory prisoners which had been taken in South Carolina & brought to Salisbury for safe keeping. That after guarding the British & Tories for some time at Salisbury, the British prisoners were taken towards Guilford, but this Applicant remained as a guard over the Tories & after they were relieved from this duty the Company to which this Applicant belonged ranged Rowan & the adjoining Counties to keep in all the Tories, who were continually annoying the Whigs. That this Tour of service was in the summer of 1782 as well as he now remembers & lasted to the best of his recollection at least three months, that is he was six weeks or two months guarding the prisoners & the residue of the three months ranging the adjoining Counties. This Applicant further states that he received a written discharge from this Term of service, signed by his Captain & returned home,

that he took no care of his discharge & lost it he does not know how, that he never received a Commission. This applicant further states that there were no Regular or Continental troops in the service with him, therefore he knew none of their Officers. He further states that having no documentary evidence by which he can ascertain the precise periods of his service, he cannot swear positively to the length of time he did serve; but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods above stated making in all 6 months & for such service he claims a pension. This Applicant further states that he knows of no one now living by whom he can prove his services, but that he is well known in his present neighborhood to Obadiah Ferguson & Samuel Marion who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief as to his services during the Revolutionary War. This Applicant further states that the reason he applied in Hawkins County instead of Lee County where he lives, is that he lives near the line & that it was more convenient for him than to apply in his own County & one of his neighbors William Stapleton¹ had applied & obtained his pension in Hawkins & advised him so to do. He further states that there is no Clergyman in his neighborhood. This Applicant further states that he has lived in North Carolina, Tennessee & Virginia since the Revolutionary war, & that he now lives in Lee County Virginia as he has heretofore stated.

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, or (if any) only on that of the Agency of the State of Virginia.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year aforesaid.

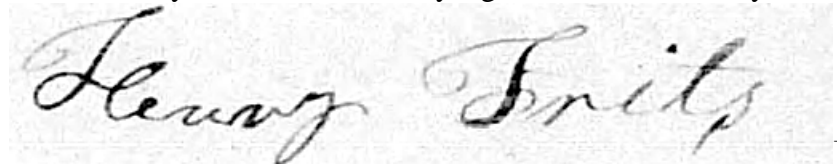
S/ John Fritts



S/ W. B. Mitchell, D. Clk.

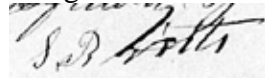
[Samuel Marion & Obadiah Ferguson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9: On November 6, 1837, applicant applied for a transfer of his pension benefits to Monroe County, Indiana, to which he had moved to at the request of his son, Henry Fritts who testified as to the identity of his father. Henry signed his name "Henry Fritts."



[p 22: In 1843, Fritts moved back to Lee County, Va., and applied to have his pension payments transferred to that State.]

[p 16: Letter sent from West Liberty and dated January 26, 1859 addressed to the War Department and signed by S. R. Fritts makes reference to the correspondence grandmother still being alive and invalid and claiming pension money on her behalf. Her name is not stated.



. The file contains no other documentation referring either to the

¹ [William Stapleton R10064](#)

correspondent or the widow of the veteran.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the Virginia [sic North Carolina] militia.