

CAPTAIN EDWARD RIGGS and SONS REUBEN & SAMUEL

Captain Riggs was born February 7, 1820. He lived and married in New Jersey. By the time of the American Revolution he and his sons lived in North Carolina. Captain Riggs is documented in the 1784 Greene County, TN Court Minutes. His service in the War is documented in the Pension Applications by his sons Reuben and Samuel. Captain Edward Riggs died prior to the passage of the Pension Act. He received two land grants from North Carolina. One grant was for 1,000 acres on the South side of the Holston River on Dumpling Creek; the second grant was for 445 acres on the North side of the Holston River and the French Broad.

BIOGRAPHY [author(s) not known]

Capt. Edward Riggs

Born 7 Feb 1720 in Essex County, Province of East Jerseymap

ANCESTORS ancestors

Son of Samuel Riggs and Keziah (Baldwin) Riggs

Brother of Timothy Riggs, Reuben Riggs, Samuel Riggs and William Riggs [half]

Husband of Jane (Buckley) Riggs — married 7 Feb 1749 in Hanover, Morris Co, New Jerseymap

DESCENDANTS descendants

Father of Reuben Riggs, Samuel Riggs and Sarah (Riggs) Ellis

Died 17 Jan 1820 in Jefferson City, Jefferson, Tennessee, United Statesmap

Capt. Edward Riggs served North Carolina during the American Revolution

Biography

Capt. Edward Riggs

Capt. Edward Riggs, the eldest known child of Samuel Riggs and Kesiah Baldwin, was likely born in Essex Co, Province of East Jersey (NJ) on February 7, 1720.

Capt. Edward Riggs married Jane Buckley on Feb. 7, 1749 in the Hanover 1st Presbyterian Church in Hanover, Morris Co, NJ.

According to traditional and partial records of the Presbyterian Church, Capt. Edward together with three brothers Timothy, Reuben and Samuel II were given letters of removal (and presumably introduction) from the church in 1757 to remove to North Carolina. Whether all four brothers left together is unknown. Capt. Edward, in particular, may not have left until after 1760. An Edward Riggs and his children moved from Morris Co. NJ to Surrey Co. NC in 1765.

When he did leave, Capt. Edward likely traveled down the Great Philadelphia Wagon Trail through Lancaster, York and Harrisburg past Hagerstown, MD and then through Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. At that time, the sparsely settled western area of North Carolina consisted of two very large counties - "Old" Rowan on the north half and "Old" Tryon on the south.

In 1767 to 1769 he was reportedly living on the Yadkin River in NC.

In 1774 he was elected Captain of the Surry Co. militia.

In 1782 during the American Revolution, and apparently while living in "overhill" North Carolina, Capt. Edward was appointed Revolutionary Army Auditor for North Carolina's Sullivan and Washington Counties in the Morgan, subsequently the Washington Military District. In "Tennessee Soldiers in the Revolution", by Penelope Johnson Allen, pg. 28, in 1781-1783 three Riggs were residing in Sullivan and Washington Counties of NC (encompassing the NE corner of present TN): namely, Edward, Reuben and Samuel Riggs. By the time the U.S. authorized Rev. War pensions, Capt. Edward Riggs was deceased. However, in the 1830s as elderly men both Reuben and Samuel received Rev. War pensions in Tennessee.

TIMELINE OF PLACES AND EVENTS

Chronology of Edward RIGGS (1720--1820)

Originally compiled by Carolyn Reeves Ericson

[First two entries added by Bobby G. Carwile from his records]

1720 7 Feb - Edward RIGGS born to Samuel RIGGS, Sr. and Keziah BALDWIN in Newark, Essex Co, NJ

1749 7 Feb - married Jane BUCKLEY in Morristown, Morris Co, NJ

1762 Appointed overseer on road from Shallow Ford on Yadkin River to Elkin Ford

on the Yadkin River [Rowan Co, NC]

1765 Rowan County Tax List

1767-1770 On Yadkin River in North Carolina

1768 Rowan County NC Tax List

1769 Feb. Edward RIGGS, Esq. [Justice of Surry Co, NC]

1769 Acted as Bondsman in Rowan Co, NC for marriage of Reuben RIGGS and Mary Crawford

1770 Rowan Co, NC Jury List

1771 Surry Co, NC Tax List

1772 Surry Co, NC Tax List

1772 Surry Co, NC - September Court - claim against county for services

1774 Surry Co, NC Tax List - Edward and son Jesse

1774 Surry Co, NC Militia "Captain" [Colonial Soldiers of the South, pg. 833]

1775 Surry Co, NC - 10 May Lawsuit Edward RIGGS vs. William SHEPPARD

1782 NC Revolutionary War Army Accounts #230 - Auditors for Countys of Washington and Sullivan [Tennessee]

State of North Carolina @230--

The Auditors for the Counties of Washington & Sullivan [Tennessee] do

Certify that Edward RIGGS is allowed eight pounds, Sixteen Shillings Specie

as payment Voucher Given under our hands he 22nd of June 1882.

Anthony Bledsoe

NOTE: Specie Certificates were issued to persons having claims against

the state. Certificates were issued for both military service and

supplies furnished. The state redeemed these certificates by

several methods - one of which was the opening of western land

[now Tennessee]. An entry fee of ten pounds per 100 acres was

required and it was through this fee that the state redeemed the

certificates.

For Capt. Edward Riggs, the following records are relative to that portion of North Carolina that became the eastern division of the state of Tennessee.

1783 - on "Old" Greene Co, NC tax list (later Greene Co, TN) together with a Jennie Riggs (very likely Edward's daughter) and Reuben Riggs (oldest son). Greene was created in 1783 from "Old" Washington Co, NC, which had been split off from Sullivan County in 1777. In addition to the previous discussion, the Washington Military District was colonial North Carolina's attempt, in part, to appease colonists attempting to organize the "State of Franklin" out of the Watauga Settlement. The statehood effort failed in the U.S. Congress by one vote and the area encompassed therein was ceded in 1790 to the United States, becoming known as part of the United State's Southwest Territory south of the Ohio River. Tennessee itself gained statehood in 1796.[51][52]

1784 - Greene Co, NC, lawsuit of Edward Riggs vs. John Newman, Samuel Lyle & Shadrach Morris. Shadrack likely was the father of Gideon Morris, who would become Edward's adjoining neighbor and the father-in-law of Edward's son Samuel.[53]

1787 to 1788 - received three land grants from North Carolina for land in "Old" Greene Co. totaling 1,645 acres on the waters of the Holston River along (south of) Dumplin Creek south of Robertson's Creek (sic..properly Robinson's Creek). At the same time, son Jesse Riggs received a grant for 70 acres on the Holston River along Fall Creek.[54]

September 8, 1790 - sold 80 acres to James Ellis "on the waters of the Holston including the plantation said Ellis now lives" (Hawkins Co, TN Deed Book 1, Pages 59-60). Immediately above this entry is a deed from Jessee Riggs to Polly <sic> Shelton dated September 6, 1790 for 255 acres attested by Edward Riggs, Reubin Riggs and Samuel Riggs. Since Jesse (written as Jessee) apparently signed and sealed the deed and no other Jesse in this time frame having been identified except as the son of Edward, this Jesse did not die in the Revolutionary War as others have suggested (see 1834 Rev. War pension of Jesse Riggs of Giles Co, TN).[55]

Although the difference in county locations is confusing, study indicates Edward and his family essentially remained in the same general locale beginning as early as 1780. Various changes and divisions occurred for Greene Co. into Hawkins into Jefferson and finally into Hamblen counties. The 1,000 acre grant plus either the west abutting 200 or 445 acre tract is now located in the extreme southeast corner of Hamblen Co, TN. Because the county seat of Jefferson was closer than the county seat of Hawkins, and apparently portions of the actual grants may possibly have been in both counties, other than deed transfers the majority of associated family marriages are recorded in Jefferson Co, TN.

Capt. Edward was the bondsman for the marriage of his granddaughter Mahulda "Huldah" Ellis (dau. of James Ellis and Sarah Riggs) to John Neece on May 31, 1800 (recorded Jefferson Co, TN). At that time, John Neece was Huldah's next door neighbor.[56]

On pg. 124 of Vol. VII, No. 3 of "East Tennessee Roots" is the notation that according to the Records of Hamblen County - Tombstone Records, the latter by the Copying Historical Records Project #465-44-3-115 of July 1938:

"Riggs Graveyard: Located on the farm of Hardee Dougherty, half a mile north of Russellville on the Three Springs Road. It is supposed that Jesse Riggs is buried here by his wife. Sam Riggs, the father of Jesse, is buried in an unmarked grave on an adjacent farm. Before the Riggs owned the land, it was owned by Galbreath and Loy and <the> Eckels [sic] have owned it since the Riggs, but it has been in the Dougherty family for many years. Hardee Dougherty lives in the old Riggs home, which has been greatly improved. This information was given by Hardee Dougherty."[57]

Historical Markers in southern Hamblen County:

"Morris Cemetery - In Morristown, on South Cumberland Street. A few yards east is the family graveyard of the founders of Morristown. In 1787, Gideon, Daniel and Absalom Morris, formerly of the Watauga Settlement, received grants in this area, from which Gideon deeded the land on which the town was built."

"Sulphur Springs - Site of the land grant from North Carolina taken out by Edward and Jessie Riggs September 20, 1787, later the site of a tavern. In 1818, it was a religious campground established on 100 acres."

Capt. Edward is said to have died sometime between June 16, 1817 and January 17, 1820 in eastern TN, but we have been unable to determine exactly where or the actual date. The earlier date is when Capt. Edward sold son Clisbe an abutting portion of the original 1,000 acre 1787 grant that he had chosen as his known homestead. We assume that Capt. Edward died intestate and the later date may be when an administrator was appointed. We have not verified this as fact. When and where wife Jane Buckley died or whether Edward remarried is unknown.

PRIVATE REUBEN RIGGS

SERVICE		NUMBER
N.C.	Riggs, Reuben	S. 45,880
<p>Common N. J. CONTENTS</p>		

W. Tennessee
 Reuben Riggs
 of Giles Co. in the State of N. Carol.
 was a Private in the Company
 Captain James Lee of the Regt.
 by Col. Blount in the N. Carol.
 line for 8 months

Granted on the Roll of Tennessee
 at the rate of 20 Dollars 00 Cents per ann.
 to commence on the 15th day of March, 1834.

Certificate of Pension issued the 10 day of Decr.
 1837 and for the sum of \$66.66

Amount to the 15th of Nov. 32 \$53.32
 Terminal allowance ending Decr. 31 13.34
 Total \$66.66

Recorded by C. C. Smith Clerk
 Book 1 Vol. 9 Page 109

Revolutionary Claim,
 Act June 7, 1832.

Reuben appears on the 1783 Tax List of Greene County, TN.

A Memorial posted to Find-A-Grave gives:

Born: November 22, 1749 Morris County, New Jersey Died: June 6, 1837 Giles County, TN

[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, Giles County

On this 20th day of August 1832 Personally appeared in open Court, before the justice holding the Court of Pleas & Quarter Session for the County & State of service, at this August term of said Court Reuben Riggs of said County of Giles, resident therein aged eighty five years, who being first duly sworn according to law does on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. The said Reuben Riggs saith and declares that he first entered the service under one Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] in Surry County, North Carolina, one Saunders being his Captain, the day not recollected but most probably in the month of June in the second year after the declaration of Independence and during that year served a tour of three months and also served a similar tour under the same officers during the year following. These tours were against the Indians committing depredations about the head of the Yadkin River. The declarant then moved into Washington County in North Carolina but now in East Tennessee where in the month of December 1780 he volunteered under Col. Sevier [John Sevier] in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians. They mustered at Stockdon's Mill & proceeded on the expedition until Col. Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke?] & Col. Campbell [William or Arthur Campbell] of Virginia overtook & joined Sevier. He was in Captain Previt's [sic, William Pruett's ?] company until its close, the declarant was present at several skirmishes between the whites & Indians, on Boyd's Creek of French Broad river & at Echota & Hiwassee, Tellico & Chistua—what time that campaign closed he does not now remember, but supposes that some history or other record testimony in the public office of his County will show. He has no documentary evidence, having long since lost his discharge and that he knows of no person now alive who can testify to his services, the last man who could have done so to his knowledge, died during the last year, one Jesse Riggs of Lincoln County, Tennessee.

The said Reuben Riggs duly relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on any pension roll of any State or territory whatsoever. Sworn and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Reuben Riggs

S/ German Lester, Clerk

[Stephen Shelton, a clergyman, and Thomas Martin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1. Interrogatories propounded by said Court to the said Reuben Riggs.
2. Where & what year were you born?

Answer: In Morris County, New Jersey in 1747 [could be 1749—last digit is unclear]. I have the record of my birth in my Father's Bible—now at home--.

3. Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the revolution? Where do you now live?

Answer: In Surry County, North Carolina & Washington County as before stated when I entered the service & from Washington I moved to Grainger County in East Tennessee where I

lived until about 1808 when I moved to Giles County, Tennessee where I have resided ever since.

4. How were you called into service?

Answer: In all the above campaigns I volunteered.

5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers?

Answer: I have stated all of the general officers whose names are now recollected

6. He further states that he received discharges from his said Captain Saunders & Pruitt but has no recollection of what has become of them. S/ Reuben Riggs

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ German Lester, Clerk

[facts in file: veteran died 1837; the file contains no data regarding his family.]

November 14, 1939.

Penelope J. Allen
Historic Records Survey, WPA
4th Floor Davidson County Courthouse
Nashville, Tennessee.

Re-J/ILL
Reuben Riggs
S. 45880

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Reuben Riggs, a pensioner of Giles County, Tennessee, and William Shannon, a pensioner of Grainger County, Tennessee.

Because of the great demand for Revolutionary War data and the limited clerical force available for furnishing such information, it is impossible to comply in full with each request for Revolutionary War records. The record of Reuben Riggs follows, as found in the papers on file in pension claim, S. 45880, based upon his service in that war.

Reuben Riggs was born in the year 1747, in Morris County, New Jersey; the day of his birth and names of his parents were not given.

While a resident of Surry County, North Carolina, Reuben Riggs enlisted in June "in the second year after the Declaration of Independence", and served three months as private in Captain Saunders' company, Colonel Cleveland's North Carolina regiment; he reenlisted the year following and served another tour of three months under said officers. During said service, he was engaged against the Indians at the head of the Yadkin River. After this, he moved to Washington County, North Carolina, (later East Tennessee). He enlisted there in December 1780, served as private in Captain Prewitt's company under Colonel Sevier in the expedition against the Cherokee Indians, during which he was in several skirmishes, one on Boyd's Creek, also at Hiwassee, Tellico and other places, length of this service not given.

The soldier moved from Washington County, North Carolina, to Grainger County, Tennessee, where he resided until 1808, when he

moved to Giles County, in that same state.

Reuben Riggs was allowed pension on account of his service in the Revolutionary War on his application executed August 20, 1832, at which time he resided in Giles County, Tennessee.

In 1832, the soldier referred to Jesse Riggs of Lincoln County, Tennessee, who had died during the last year, ~~said Jesse Riggs~~ *and who* might have testified in behalf of the soldier as he had personal knowledge of ~~Reuben Riggs'~~ *his (Reuben's)* service in the Revolutionary War. No relationship between these two was stated.

There are no data regarding wife or children of this soldier.

In order to obtain the date of last payment of pension, name of person paid and, possibly, the date of death of this pensioner, you should address The Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, this city, and furnish the following data:

Reuben Riggs
 Certificate #6615
 Issued June 4, 1832
 Rate \$26.66 per annum
 Commenced March 4, 1831
 Act of June 7, 1832
 Tennessee Agency.

Very truly yours,

A. D. MILLER,
 Executive Assistant
 to the Administrator.

Reuben Riggs died June 6, 1837. He is believed to be buried in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Giles County, TN



LT. SAMUEL RIGGS

SERVICE	NUMBER
N. 6	Riggs, Samuel
	S. 4095
CONTENTS	Carded

26667

Wm. R. Riggs

Samuel Riggs

who was approved in the case of the command by Captain Shulley of the regt. commanded by Gen. Sherman in the War of 1861-1865 for 10 months.

Order to Pay 1000.00

to V. H. Hall Oct. 16. 65

to James April 7. 1846

Insured on the Roll of Louisiana at the rate of \$3 Dollars 33 Cents per annum, to commence on the 1st day of March, 1834.

Exposures of Pension from the 1st day of April 1834 and 1835 and 1836 and 1837

Amount to the 1st of March 100.00

Amount, balance ending Sept. 16. 67

\$100.00

{ Revolutionary Claim, }

{ As Jan. 7, 1832. }

Recorded by Gen. Wm. Clerk,

Book 16 Vol. 56 Page 132

On November 11, 1797 Samuel was commissioned a Justice of the Peace in Hawkins County by Governor John Sevier. He is shown in the 1835 Pension List of Hawkins County drawing 33.33 per annum, age 74. In the 1840 list, Samuel's age is given as 80 years. Descendant information says Samuel was born April 4, 1760 in Morris, New Jersey. His date of death is given as March 17, 1846.

Lt. Samuel Riggs is said to be buried in the Riggs Family Cemetery in Hawkins County.

[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, County of Hawkins: 1st Judicial District, April Term 1834

On this 4th day of April 1834, personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Circuit Court of Hawkins County now sitting, Samuel Riggs, a resident citizen in the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee, aged seventy four 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 the Declarant Samuel Riggs was born in Morris County, in the State of New Jersey, on the 4th day of April 1760. He has no record of his age himself; but here is a record of his age in the Bible left by his father at his death, now in the possession of his oldest sister, Elizabeth Riggs of Jefferson County, Tennessee. When the declarant was five years of age, his father moved to Surry County, North Carolina, on the Yadkin River. There he lived twelve years. In his seventeenth year Declarant moved with his father to Powell's Valley on Indian Creek, now Hawkins County, East Tennessee, where he lived nearly a year -- thence to the North Fork of Holson [sic, Holston River], where he remained until the spring of 1778. When he moved to the North Fork of Holston from Indian Creek; it was on account of an attack by the Indians upon that settlement, in which they had killed the next neighbor of Declarant's father, one William Parks. Shortly after his removing to the North Fork of Holston, Declarant volunteered under Captain Isaac Shelby in the summer of 1778, in the month of July, day not recollected, for the purpose of protecting the frontiers against the Indian incursions and of garrisoning a fort on Beaver Creek. There were about thirty men under Captain Isaac Shelby. Lieutenants and ensign not recollected. The company were for the greater part of the time engaged in keeping the Fort. This Fort was capable of containing five hundred people. Repeated attacks were made by the Indians upon the settlements, and the people compelled to take shelter in the Fort, until the company had driven off the Indians, and the people thus cultivated their land under the protection of Captain Shelby's company. Captain Shelby's company were constantly in service, in doing the duty of Sentries, or in scouting parties, and in all such service as was necessary for the protection of the families of that frontier settlement. While the Declarant was in service under Captain Shelby at this Fort, General Christy [sic, William Christian], in the fall of 1778 in October, day not recollected, came by the Fort with his troops on his expedition against the Cherokee Indians, and it being thought that the people would not need the protection of Captain Shelby's company during this invasion of the Cherokee Country, Captain Shelby went on with General Christian. The Declarant was anxious to go on this expedition but, his health being bad, he was not permitted to do so. The Declarant's father received a written discharge from Captain Isaac Shelby for the Declarant's service, setting forth that the Declarant had served a tour of three months under him garrisoning the Fort on Beaver Creek. Whether his Father ever received anything for Declarant's Services or not, Declarant does not know. Declarant did not receive anything, nor does he know what has become of the Discharge obtained by his father. In the month of December 1778, day not recollected, Declarant volunteered under Captain Isaac

Bletcher, Major Anthony Bletcher commandant. Lt. George Hart was the Lieutenant of the company -- other officers not recollected. Captain Bletcher's was one of the three companies raised for the purpose of garrisoning a large Fort on the North side of the Holston River, opposite to the Long Island. This Fort was on the remotest part of the frontiers. These three companies -- under Major Bletcher were constantly engaged on duty, in keeping the Fort or in Scouting parties protecting the settlers and ascertaining the approaches of the Indians. This garrison was regularly detailed for guard duty and for the duty of Scouts and was regularly paraded night and morning and were every Sabbath Day taught the manual exercise. In the month of April 1779, day not recollected, this Declarant was discharged after a service of four months by Captain Bletcher on the application of Declarant's father, who was then about to move back to North Carolina. Whether Declarant's father received anything for his services or not, Declarant does not know. Declarant himself received nothing. Declarant moved back to Surry County, North Carolina with his father and there remained until the fall of 1780 when he again moved with his father to Green County, North Carolina, now East Tennessee. Early in the month of December 1780, Declarant volunteered under Captain William Pruett, (John Howard [or Boward], Lieutenant, no Ensign) to go under Colonel John Sevier against the Cherokee Indians. We were mounted riflemen. Col. Sevier commanded the men from Washington and Greene Counties -- Major Tipton [Jonathan Tipton], Captain Hawkins and Captain Langdon Carter were officers under Col. Sevier. There were four companies under Col. Sevier, about 200 men. The company of Captain Pruett started after Col. Sevier had started. The first night we encamped on Lick Creek; the second night we overtook Col. Sevier on Long Creek in what is now Jefferson County; the third day we started two hours before day and crossed French Broad River at Buckingham's Island and encamped on the other side of the river. The fourth day we marched for Chota Town. We started early in the morning, and after marching two miles we came to where the Indians had encamped the night before on their way to attack the whites. The Indians had fallen back to waylay us. Our spies having gone on and met the advancing spies of the Indians, made us acquainted with their situation; they had fallen back about two hundred yards from where they had encamped. Col. Sevier was leading one division and Major Tipton the other. Suddenly a gun was fired about fifty yards off from the midst of a field of tall grass before us at Col. Sevier -- Major Jesse Walton, a volunteer being next to Col. Sevier, jumped from his horse and fired at the Indian, who had discharged his gun at Col. Sevier, and broke his the Indian's leg. The Indians immediately jumped up and fired -- our men jumped from their horses at the fire of the first gun (except Col. Sevier) and commenced firing -- and immediately drove the Indians, completely routing them. We killed sixteen of them. None of our men were killed; one of our men was slightly wounded in the hand and one of our horses was killed and one of our men was injured by being thrown from his horse. We pursued them to a cane break, in which they took refuge, and we were ordered to halt. We got a good many guns and knapsacks, which were thrown down by the Indians. The same day we returned to Buckingham's Island, and there remained encamped for eight days, waiting for reinforcements from Virginia. A considerable body of men, about 500 came on commanded by Colonel Archibald [sic, Arthur] Campbell. Other Virginia officers are not recollected. Col. Campbell took the command of the united forces, and the whole body, the day after the junction, marched towards the Indian Towns. After leaving Buckingham's Island, we crossed Little River and arrived the second night at the Indian Town on the Tennessee River. Here we found provisions, deer skins, horses, cattle and a Swivel [gun?]. After burning this town, we marched up the river, on to Chota several miles above the mouth of the Tellico River. We remained sometime in Chota -- finding here corn that had been concealed -- an Indian was killed at this town. After burning Chota we marched back down the Tennessee River to the mouth of Tellico River to Tellico Towns. Here we remained for some time, when the army divided. The larger part, of which Declarant was one, marched under Cols. Campbell and Sevier to the Hiwassee Old Town; the remainder being left at the Tellico Towns. We arrived at the Hiwassee Old Town the second day -- burnt it and immediately returned to Tellico, where we again remained for several days. At our entrance into Tellico Towns, Captain Ellit of Virginia was killed by

an Indian. There were some Indians getting corn in Tellico on our arrival. Captain Ellit was in front. One of his men wounded an Indian. The Indian having fallen Captain Ellit rode up to him, and as he approached, the Indian rose up and shot him dead through the head. Ellit fell so near the Indian, that the Indian got Ellit's gun and fired it at one of the men before he was killed, which was immediately done. We found several Negroes in the towns. After burning Tellico, we marched back together until we came to Long Creek, in what is now Jefferson County, when we separated, Col. Sevier returning with his men through Greene County, and Col. Campbell to Virginia through Hawkins County. The men who were engaged in this tour were informed that they would receive certificates for a three months tour at Jonesborough from a committee of the North Carolina Legislature, and those who applied did receive certificates for a three months tour -- though this Declarant never did, and never received any other than the verbal discharge of his Captain on his return into Greene County. The Declarant was engaged in this expedition from November 1780, day not recollected, until February 1781, day not recollected, a period of three months. After the year 1783 Declarant served three tours against the Cherokees under Col. Sevier -- his Captains were Wm. Lea, Stephen Copeland and Johnson, and one tour against the same Indians under Cols. Outlaw and Cocke, his Captain Wm. Lea. Declarant was detailed as a guard for the first settlement at Knoxville for two months -- He was detailed as a Lieutenant with six men to guard a frontier settlement on Flat Creek one of the branches of the Holston for two months. Declarant served two tours as a spy -- for all which services he has never received one cent. In the year 1780 Declarant moved to the head of Lick Creek in Greene County, North Carolina now East Tennessee, where he lived five years, when he removed to the waters of French Broad River in what is now Jefferson County, East Tennessee, where he lived two years, then to the waters of Holston River in Jefferson County where he lived three years, then to Fall Creek, waters of Holston, in Hawkins County, where he has lived for forty four years and where he now lives. Declarant makes no claim for the services which he performed after 1783. Tho' he has never received one cent for them, he served in the year 1778 three months under Captain Isaac Shelby in garrisoning Fort Shelby. -- In the year 1779 he served four months under Captain Bletcher -- in garrisoning the Long Island Fort. In the year 1780 he served a tour of three months in Captain William Pruett's company under Col. Sevier in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians. These he served in all during the revolution, ten months as a volunteer as above stated. In the year 1782 he served two tours as an Indian spy -- making five weeks service. Declarant has no documentary evidence in regard to his service having never gotten the discharges which his father received for his two first tours, Declarant being then under age. His Father lost them, where or when Declarant knows not. Declarant never got a discharge for his last tour, never applying for one. Declarant knows of no living witnesses, by whom he could prove his services. Declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ Samuel Riggs

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court this 4th day of April 1834,

S/ W. B. Mitchell, Clerk

Question 1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer 1st: I was born in Morris County, State of New Jersey, on the 4th day of April 1760.

Question 2nd: Have you any record of your age and if so, where is it?

Answer 2nd: There is a record of my age in the possession of my sister Elizabeth of Jefferson County, East Tennessee.

Question 3rd: Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer 3rd: When called into service, I was living in what is now Hawkins County, East Tennessee,

and Greene County, East Tennessee, then frontier settlements. Since the Revolutionary War I have lived in East Tennessee, where I now live in Hawkins County, Tennessee.

Question 4th: How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute; and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer 4th: I was a volunteer in every tour I served.

Question 5th: State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops, where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer 5th: There were no Continental Troops, when I served. I served as a volunteer under Captain Isaac Shelby, in garrisoning Fort Shelby on Beaver Creek, above the North Fork of Holston River, near the line between Virginia and East Tennessee, from July 1778 date not recollected until October 1778 day not recollected, a tour of three months. I served as a volunteer under Captain Bletcher, in garrisoning Long Island Fort on Holston River in what is now East Tennessee, from December 1778 day not recollected until April 1779 day not recollected, a tour of four months. I served as a volunteer under Captain William Pruitt in an expedition under Col. Sevier against the Cherokee Indians from November 1780 until February 1781 -- a tour of three months. I served five weeks in 1782 as and Indian Spy in two scouting parties. In all I served ten months as a Volunteer as above named and five weeks as an Indian Spy -- during the Revolutionary War.

Question 6th: Did you ever receive a Discharge from the Service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer 6th: My father received two of my discharges -- he lost them when or where I do not know. I never got one for my service under Col. Sevier -- never applying for one.

Question 7th: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution?

Answer 7th: I have lived where I now do for forty four years. I would refer to the Reverend Daniel Howry, and Major Thomas Hale, citizens of Hawkins County, and to Dr. Pleasant W. Lane, a citizen of Jefferson County, a neighbor of mine as I live near the line between the two counties, who can be examined as required by the War Department.

S/ Samuel Riggs

Sworn and subscribed in Open Court this 4th day of April 1834,

S/ W. B. Mitchell, Clerk

[Daniel Howry, a clergyman, Thomas Hale and Pleasant W. Lane gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Revolutionary War Pension Application of LT Samuel RIGGS (1845)

Transcribed by Bobby G. Carwile

Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed 07 June 1832

On this 6th day of August 1845 personally appeared before me John RIGGS, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid.

Samuel RIGGS of said County aged eighty five 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

[In 1845, Lt. Samuel Riggs was among the very few aged Soldiers of the Revolution to apply for an increase of pension, as authorized by Congress in 1845.]

**Transfer of land and personal property in Hawkins County
from Lt. Samuel Riggs to his son, Jesse, and Jesse in turn to his son, William Henderson Riggs
[This may be part of the settlement of the Estate of Lt. Samuel Riggs.]**

Jesse RIGGS To William Henderson RIGGS

Registered 17th March 1846

Hawkins County, Tennessee

Whereas my father Samuel Riggs now deceased in his lifetime by deed bearing date 19th day of August 1840 and by deed bearing date 8th day of March 1844 was jointly executed by said Samuel Riggs and his wife Mary Riggs which said deeds are on record in the Registers Office of Hawkins County Tennessee □ conveyed to William Henderson Riggs the grandson of said Samuel Riggs Subject to be held and disposed of by said William Henderson Riggs according to my appointment the following Several tracts of land. Towit one tract lying and being in the County of Hawkins and the County of Jefferson in Said State of Tennessee on the South Side of Holston River containing by estimation five hundred and seventy five acres more or less adjoining and bounded by the lands of the Heirs of George T. Gillaspie deceased, the land of William and Tolliver Robertson and the Cheeks X roads tract of land and the land of George Squibb and Others being the same tract of land upon which the said Samuel Riggs lived at the date of the deeds aforesaid, also one other tract of land lying in said County of Hawkins containing by estimation two hundred acres more or less known as the Enos place adjoining David Pollard and Others. □ also one other tract of land lying in Grainger County containing Sixty three acres more or less upon the top of Clinch mountain where the turnpike road crosses said mountain. Also one other tract of land lying in said County of Hawkins containing one hundred and fifty acres more or less known as the James Boatman place adjoining the lands of William Harris and Others, - Also one other tract of land including several Grants containing by estimation thirteen hundred acres more or less lying and being in Jefferson County adjoining the lands of John Morris, Henry Riggs and Others.

And whereas also the said Samuel Riggs and the said Mary Riggs his wife by the two deeds first aforesaid also conveyed to the said William Henderson Riggs subject to by held and disposed of by my appointment the following Slaves to wit; Elias, Jeremiah, Mathew, Willis, Rewben, Major, Clisbe, Tabitha, Coela Jane, Francis, George, Margaret, Susan, Mary, Preston, Fanny, and the two children of said Fanny, also all of the personal property acquired by said Samuel Riggs including house hold and kitchen furniture, stock, notes, bonds, accounts and personal property of every discription.

Now I, Jesse Riggs of the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee for and his consideration of the promises herein described as well as the love and affection I have for my son William Henderson Riggs I do hereby sell, give grant, transfer and convey to the said William Henderson Riggs all the right title interest claim and demand which I have or may have of in and to the several Slaves herein before married and mentioned in said conveyance from Samuel Riggs



**Said to be the Hawkins County home of Revolutionary War Soldier Samuel Riggs.
[Date of photograph and Photographer unknown.]**

The home has purportedly been restored and was occupied after this photograph was taken.