

James Riggs appeared 04Aug1834 before a Fayette County AL judge at age 72 in order to start an application for a federal pension (FPA r8815) based on his service during the Revolutionary War. James described his military service:

I volunteered in Dec1779 in Orange County NC in Captain William Horton's company under Colonel Thomas and General Gates. We marched to Guilford Courthouse, then Salisbury, then Rugley's Mill where we met the British and lost our army. I was wounded. By Dec1780, I was recovered and joined Captain Meriwether's Company in Colonel William Washington's light horse. We marched to Pacolet, then back **to Cowpens**. In the battle on 17Jan1781, I got this **visible sword wound on the left side of my forehead**. After the battle, we marched around the south and back to Hillsborough. There we guarded prisoners to the end of the war.

Riggs' was denied a pension for lack of six months service despite his sworn description of over two years service and rehabilitation.

Riggs stated that he was born in 1762 in Orange County NC.

Descendent researchers state that his birth was in 1767 (which would make him only 12 years old in 1779) to William and Mary Margaret Riggs and that he married Polly Hannah in Orange County. They state death 24Jul1847 in Orange County NC.