

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Yearly [Yearby] R11932

Transcribed by Will Graves

f11NC

rev'd 3/10/17 & 9/5/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

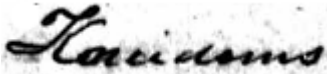
State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County} On this the 11th day of May 1833 personally appeared before me John M. Ingram one of the Justices of the Court of said County James Yearly a Resident of said County and State aged 77 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the 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 and served as herein stated, he volunteered under Captain Randol [John Randall a/k/a John Randle]¹ he thinks in October 1780 and served a tour of twelve months Colonel Harris' [sic, Major Thomas Harris of the Anson County Regiment] Regiment & Gen. Chiles [sic, Col. Thomas Childs'] Command and then [in] November he thinks of 1781 he Enlisted under Captain Ponds [sic, Samuel Pond] in Colonel Lofton's [William Lofton's Montgomery County Regiment] Regiment the number of the Regiment not Recollected Gen. Chiles Command and served a tour of Twelve months and was discharged in the winter 1782 and then in a short time he substituted for Edmond Randol [Edmond Randall?] Served a Tour of Ten months under Cpt. Peter Randol² in Last mentioned Regiment under the same Commanding officers and was discharged and in the first Tour under Captain Randol he was in the Battle at Kouidoms [?]³ and in the Second Tour under Captain Ponds he was in the Battle at Bettey Brig [sic, Beatti's Bridge?]⁴ in North Carolina and in this Tour of Twelve months he served in the Cavalry and was the most of his [time] in North Carolina and he now knows of no person living that [he] can prove his service By and has no Documentary Evidence of his Service and he hereby Relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John M. Ingram, JP

S/ James Yearly, X his mark

1 Edmund Taylor, a resident of Montgomery County, NC at the time he claimed service in the militia, states that he served under a "Captain John Randale." [Edmund Taylor S1259](#)

2 I could not identify this officer as no Captain by that Christian name is shown in the NC records. IF the veteran misspoke and intended to name Capt. John Randal/Randle again, that officer is known to have participated in the engagement at Little Raft Swamp on September 1, 1781.
https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_little_raft_swamp.html

3 

4 IF THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO REFER TO THE SKIRMISH AT BEATTI'S BRIDGE (which is an assumption on my part), that engagement occurred on August 4, 1781.
http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beattis_bridge.html

Interrogatories⁵

1st: Where and in what year were you Born?

I was Born June the 2nd day 1756 in Molbory [sic, Marlboro?] district in South Carolina

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

My Father put my age in a family Bible and the last account I had thereof a man by the name of McMillion carried it to the State of Alabama.

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

I lived in the County of Montgomery, North Carolina when called into service and I have lived in Montgomery and in Mecklenburg Counties ever since the revolutionary war and lived in Mecklenburg County North Carolina at this time.

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

I volunteered and enlisted and was a substitute for Benjamin Randol

[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.]

I was acquainted with General Thomas Chiles, Colonel Thos Harris, Col. Lofton, Major Randol, Gen. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and Gen. Davidson [William Lee Davidson] and I received one discharge from Captain Randol and one from Colonel Lofton and the last one carried some prisoners to Saulsbury [sic, Salisbury] North Carolina and was discharged by Captain Gilbert and have lost the[m] all not expecting I was to have any use for them and as it regards the General Circumstances of my Services my recollection fails me but have given as correct a statement as the great length of time would admit I recollect very well the length of time I served was Twenty Six months and Twelve months of that time was with troops of cavalry. Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John M. Ingram, JP

S/ James Yearly, X his mark

[Zachariah Starnes, a clergyman, and Alexander W. Richardson gave the standards supporting affidavit.]

[p 4: In certifying the declaration, Judge John M. Ingram of Mecklenburg County states the veteran's name as "James Yearby."]⁶

⁵ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

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.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

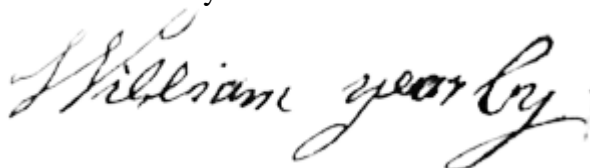
⁶ Thanks to Annie Hall for calling to my attention the spelling of the veteran's surname as "Yearby" and not "Yearly" as used by the War Department. Since the scribe who wrote out the veteran's initial application heard the surname as "Yearly" he used that surname in indicating that the veteran signed with his mark. The veteran's son, however, clearly signed his surname as "Yearby" as indicated in the transcription of his application. Ms. Hall points out that the surname eventually evolved into "Irby."

[p 9]

State of North Carolina
County of Union }

Be It Known, that on this 29th day of July A.D. 1853 before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared William Yearby a resident of Union County, and made oath in due form of law, that he is the Son of James Yearby who made application for a Pension, and he has been informed that said Pension ought to be allowed that he is directly interested as a claimant in said Pension, and makes this affidavit to be filed with such additional evidence or arguments, as my Agent may use in prosecuting said claim.

S/ William Yearby

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Yearby". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ William Yearby".

[p 10: Power of attorney dated July 29, 1853 given in Union County North Carolina by William Yearby to George C Ames whereby Yearby empowered his attorney to pursue the pension claim of the veteran..]

[p 11]

State of North Carolina
County of Union } SS

It is hereby certified that satisfactory evidence has been exhibited before me James M Stewart Clerk of the County Court for Union County N. C. by the affidavit of James P Belk that James Yearby was a Revolutionary Soldier of the United States he died on the 15 day of March 1842 leaving surviving him no widow - but the following children - Viz. - William Yearby, Sarah Roan & Patsy Ross and that William Yearby, Sarah Roan & Patsy Ross are the only surviving children of the aforesaid James Yearby deceased.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office, this 29th day of July 1853

S/ J. M. Stewart, CCU

[Note: the file contains no documents which indicate the basis on which this claim was rejected by the War Department, Commissioner of Pensions. I suspect, however, that the denial was based on the failure of the veteran to provide proof of his service in any form.]