

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Cann R1660

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky Hart County Sct.

Be it known that before me David Garvin a Justice of the Peace in and for the county and Commonwealth aforesaid, personally appeared William Cann, a resident citizen of said County on the 27th day of June 1837 who after being first duly sworn made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832: to wit: That he was blind and so old and infirm as to be unable to go to court in s'd. County without bodily pain and great inconvenience. That he was eighty years old on the 19th of March last, and that he entered the service of the United States as a soldier of the Revolution under the following officers and served as herein stated.

He entered the service in Amherst County State of Virginia in the latter part of the month of August or the first part of the month of September in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six [sic: 1778] in an expedition against the Indians. He entered this service as a soldier and not upon any civil contract; but after entering the service he was put to driving and taking charge of the pack horses which belonged to [Gen. Lachlan] McIntosh's army which horses were the property of the United States and carried provisions; that he with others was under the command of a man of the name of Lewis who was called Captain Lewis but as he supposes was more properly pack horse master, as the men under his command were engaged in driving the pack horses for s'd. army. He states that the army passed through the Counties of Augusta and Rockingham after it took up its line of marching and went on toward the Ohio river, which they reached about thirty miles below Pittsburgh where they remained some days after they crossed the river at fort McIntosh, which was then being built [begun Sep 1778 at present Beaver PA]. That after they left this fort they proceeded into the [now] state of Ohio until they crossed the Tuscaraways [sic: Tuscarawas River], just above the mouth, which empties into the Muskingum. Here he states they built a stockade or fort which was called fort Hambleton [sic: Fort Laurens near present Bolivar OH, begun 10 Nov 1778]. He states that there were about two thousand men commanded by McIntosh on this campaign. He remembers that Col [John] Gibson, on this tour, commanded the 13th Virginia Redgement, and Col Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead] commanded the 8th Pennsylvania Redgiment which were continental or regular redgiments. That there was a considerable force of the malitia in addition to these redgiments.

He recollects that Col Brady had the command of the pack horse men. He says each of these men had the care of five horses. That there were no general engagements during this service. He remembers that Col Bowyer, Col Stinson & Col Crawford commanded some of the malitia redgiments. At Fort Hambleton before mentioned he thinks there was a treaty made with the Indians. From fort Hambleton they were marched back by fort McIntosh and on through the Monongahaly [sic: Monongahela River] country to old red Stone fort [Redstone fort, now Brownsville PA] where he with many others were discharged by Col Brady in the month of February next after he entered the service [Feb 1779]. He states he was not drafted in this service but enlisted as a continental soldier [see endnote] under Captain Shepherd. That he has long since lost his discharge from this service and that he served five months. He states that he received as a bounty for this service Fifty Dollars in Continental money.

He states that in the month of March 1777 [sic: 1779], which was shortly after he had returned to Amherst, he was ordered out to guard prisoners [captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 but not brought to Virginia until Jan 1779] at the Albemarle barracks; that he was under Captain Higginbottom [sic: Higginbotham] while performing this service and was engaged in it one month. He does not recollect whether there were any field officers commanding at this place. At the expiration of his service here he was discharged & sent home by his Captain.

He next entered the service in Montgomery County Virginia in the month of April 1780. He states that he enlisted in this service in a company commanded by Captain Jesse Evans at the time he enlisted but which was before they left Montgomery Court house commanded by Captain Isaac Taylor. From Montgomery Court house he states they were marched to Chissels lead mines in Montgomery County [sic: lead mines at Fort Chiswell, now in Wythe County] where they remained during the summer. He states that his company belonged to Col Clarke's regiment who was afterwards called Genl Gorge Rogers Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark]. In the fall of 1780 he states they left the mines, where they left Captain Taylor and Major Thomas Quirk, and proceeded through the wilderness to Kentucky under the command of a sergeant major of the name of Michael Miles. He states that after they reached the falls of the Ohio in Kentucky [at present Louisville] they, that is the company to which he belonged, were put under the command of a Captain [Edward] Worthington, and after remaining there a month or so, during which he states he and some others went down the Ohio and up Salt river after a load of salt with which they returned to the falls. That they then left the falls under the command of Captain Worthington & Lieutenant Colbert and proceeded down the Ohio river to the mouth of Mayfield's creek six miles below the mouth of the Ohio and some short distance above the Iron Banks. He states there was a fort between Mayfield's creek and the river which he thinks was called Clarke fort [probably Fort Jefferson]; that it was in the month of February 1781 when they reached this fort. He states that while they were stationed at this fort he recollects to have made three or four trips up to Illinois Town with others for provisions. He states that before they left this fort the year for which he had enlisted was out and he applied to Col [John] Montgomery for his discharge but was prevailed on to stay until the army returned to the falls of the Ohio. He states one of these parties that he went with up to Illinois Town was commanded by Lieutenant Colbert and another by major John Williams & that their object in their trips was to get provisions. He states that after they evacuated the fort at the mouth of Mayfield's creek ten or eleven of his company under the conduct of Major Williams came back to Illinois town & staid there during the summer and that the rest of the troops went up the Ohio to the falls. He states that when they left Illinois town they proceeded across by land under Major Williams until they reached Opost, now Vincennes, where they were put under the command of Captain John Bailey with whom they went down the wabash until they came to the mouth of it & then up to the falls of the Ohio. He states that in the month of November in the fall of 1781 as well as he can recollect they returned to the falls of the Ohio where he was discharged. He states he was in this service at least eighteen months but that he has also long since lost his discharge from this service. He states that when they returned to the falls of the Ohio he saw his old Captain Taylor. His messmates whose names he now remembers while he was in this service were Richard Robertson, John Grimes [possibly pension application W931], Richard Richards, Page Portwood [S1867], Dennis Cochran, Robert Davis [S2500], George Nichold, Charles Burks Edward Parker [S31292] and Robert Whitehead [possibly W25999]. Whether any of these are now living he can not tell; some of them he has been informed are dead.

He states that he was not in any general engagement during this campaign of eighteen months; that he was only in a skirmish or two with the Indians, He claims a pension for his services as he has detailed them; after the lapse of many years, according to the best of his now imperfect recollection. He states this is the third declaration he has made for the purpose of procuring a pension but that he does not know what has become of them – in one or perhaps both of them he stated he expected to be able to prove his service or a part of it by a man of the name of Anthony Phelps [W10886] of Hardin County Kentucky who once told him that he had seen him in the service but he understands that he refuses to make affidavit to it. He states he does not recollect to have seen s'd. Phelps during the time he was in the service. He knows of no person by whom he can make positive proof of his service. States he was born in the County of Cecil in the State of Maryland; that he has no record of his age; that he entered the service first in Amherst County Virginia & afterwards in Montgomery County in the same state as he has already stated. He states that he has lived in the Counties of Linclon [sic: Lincoln], Barren Hardin & Warren and

Hart all in the State of Kentucky, since the expiration of his service. That he now lives in Hart County. He states that he volunteered when he came into the service at the lead mines as before stated. He states his discharge given him at the falls of the Ohio was given him by Captain Taylor whom he met there as before stated.

He states that he is known in his present neighbourhood by John Dicken who is a revolutionary pensioner [application W1836] as he is informed. He also knows Thos. Cogdill [Thomas Cogdal] and James McCabbins who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

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

He further states that he is acquainted with Joshua Crump [S30352] of Hart County who is as he is informed a revolutionary pensioner and with Peter Rowlet and John Books of s'd. County who can also testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

William hisXmark Cann

NOTE:

Enlistments into Continental service were always for longer than five months. Cann's first tour was more likely in the militia.

On 10 June 1854 John Cann assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits due for the service of his father, William Cann.