

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Eli Coffey R2098

fn17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/24/10

[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. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee McMinn County: County Court Me Term 1839

On this 6th day of May 1839 personally appeared Eli Coffey a resident of McMinn County and State of Tennessee in Open Court, before the Worshipful County Court for the County of McMinn aforesaid, now sitting, the same being a Court of record, age seventy-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 June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated.

That he entered the service of the United States as a Substitute in the room and place of one Thomas Field, who was his uncle by marriage and who had a large family dependent upon his daily labor for subsistence. Said Field was drafted for three months some time, as declarant believes, in the latter part of the winter or the spring of the year 1780 in the State of North Carolina, Wilkes County, at which time declarant entered the service under Captain John Barton for but during the time was occasionally under the command of other Captains namely Captains Keyes, Moses Guess & John Beverly, who were all commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland at that time also a citizen of Wilkes County North Carolina.

Declarant was engaged as a scout after the Tories in the counties of Wilkes and Burke.

During the term of his service he was sometimes permitted to visit his Father. Sometimes was [indecipherable word], from the enemy in detached parties, to be upon active duty when required and when danger threatened from the collection of the enemy.

In this manner he served out his term of three months and was regularly discharged.

He again entered the Service of the United States as a horseman he thinks in the fall of the year 1781. He was a Substitute for his Brother Ambrose Coffey who was drafted to go against the Cherokees, and who was near sighted. He entered the service as above in Wilkes County in the State of North Carolina under Captain John Beverly & Lieutenant Isbell of Wilkes. Colonel Miller of Rutherford, Colonel Joseph McDowell & General Charles McDowell of Burke, they rendezvoused at Pleasant Garden, Burke County North Carolina crossed the Mountain at the head of Swannanoa, marched from Swannanoa and crossed French Broad River, the Big and Little Pigeon rivers, and Tuckaseegee at an Indian town called Tuckaseegee, took the town, crossed the Tennessee River and headwaters of the Hurassee [sic ?], passed through

various parts of the Cherokee Nation, and took and burnt down other Indian towns to wit, the Overhill Towns, the Valley towns and the Shoemake Towns and then returned home and was regularly discharged at the expiration of the three months the term for which he had entered. These services were all rendered before he was eighteen years old and at a time when he was not subject to Military duty and his discharges were obtained by his Father and he does not know what has become of them.

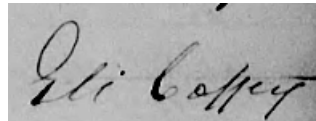
He was born in Albemarle County Virginia on the first day of March 1764. From Virginia he accompanied his Father to Wilkes County North Carolina, where he resided when the above mentioned services were performed. He went to Kentucky in the year 1784 and returned to Wilkes the succeeding year, whence he removed to Wayne County Kentucky and thence to McMinn County, Tennessee, where he now resides. He states that he has a record of his age at his house. He was not acquainted with any of the regular officers of the Revolutionary war, never having served with any, but was acquainted with all those heretofore named by him as his officers.

He states that he is acquainted with Robert Frazier, Henry Bradford and Nely Chrisman in his present neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the revolution.

He further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no person by whom he can prove the same except Mastin Durham a citizen of Wayne County Kentucky whose statement is here with submitted.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eli Coffey". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Robert Frazier, a clergyman, and Neley Chrisman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Wayne County, Kentucky February 4th 1839

This day Mastin Durham,¹ a citizen of Wayne County aforesaid, aged 83 or 84 years appeared before me, Joshua Oatts, a Justice of the Peace for the said County & made oath, that he was well acquainted with Eli Coffey, in the Revolutionary War To wit, in Wilkes County North Carolina, but now a citizen of McMinn County Tennessee. And that sometime in the year 1780 or in 81, he the said Coffey entered into the service of the United States, But he this deponent has no recollection or does not recall whether he the said Coffey was a volunteer Substitute. But believes the said Coffey with him to Captain John Keyeses, the place of rendezvous, he this deponent further knows the said Coffey marched with him in the service of the Revolutionary War & is very positive that the said Coffey was in the service & thinks the age of the said Coffey was at the commencement of his services 17 or 18 years, And he the said deponent further states that he believes the said Coffey sometime in the year of 1781 or 82 entered into the Indian War on a campaign under General Charles McDowell & has no recollection how long the said Coffey was in the service of the United Colonies & he this deponent believes he said Coffey performed the said Tours of duty from information at the time, living in the same part of the Country with the neighbors & friends of said Coffey. Sworn to this

¹ [Mastin Durham S1197](#)

date above before me.

S/ Jos. Oatts, JP