

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Cook R2280

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } to wit:
Wythe County }

Before me, Randolph Fugate, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Wythe in the state of Virginia, personally appeared William Cook, a resident of the County of Wythe, aforesaid, known to me as a person of good repute and entitled to credit, who first being duly sworn, does on his oath say, that he enlisted into the service of the United States in the town of Annapolis in the State of Maryland in the month of July or August in the year 1779. He rather thinks it was in July, or if in August, very early in that month. He enlisted for the term of during the war from & after the time of his enlistment. He was recruited by a man by the name of Chambers, who was a silver smith by trade in Annapolis, and he received, as a bounty, the sum of two hundred dollars in Continental paper. He was sent from Annapolis to Baltimore, and was immediately marched, with other recruits, to Philadelphia. He does not recollect the name of the officer who accompanied them to Philadelphia. From Philadelphia they and some regular troops whom they found in that city were marched with about three hundred prisoners, partly by water and partly by land, to Elizabeth town in New Jersey, where the prisoners were left, and, this declarant thinks, there exchanged or permitted to return on board of a British vessel. From Elizabeth town this declarant was marched to a place on the Hudson River, about two miles below West Point, where a large number of the American forces were stationed. He arrived on the Hudson river, he thinks, in the latter part of August or the first of September of the same year (1779). This declarant was here attached to Captain John Lynch's Company in the regiment commanded by Colonel John A. Howard [sic: John Eager Howard] in the Maryland state line on the Continental establishment. He thinks the number of the regiment was the 5th - as well as he now recollects his lieutenants name was Philip Reed. his Ensign, William Ransom, or a name very similar - the orderly sergeant, Thomas Jones. The name of the Major of this regiment was Garner (or Gardner) - his christian name he does not recollect. This Major was taken prisoner by the British shortly afterward succeeded in command by Major Egleston. He recollect the following officers who belonged to other regiments, viz. Col'l. [John] Gunby, Colonel [Peter] Adams, Major [Archibald] Anderson, and Captain Horatio Claggett. This declarant, with the troops on the Hudson, as above named, were marched from that place late in October of that year (1779) he thinks, to a small town in New Jersey, called Morristown, where the troops were quartered through the following winter. Early in the Spring of 1780 they were marched from this town to Elk river in Maryland, where they took water and were carried into Petersburg in Virginia, under the command of General De Kalb. From Petersburg they were marched into South Carolina, having been met by General [Horatio] Gates on their march through North Carolina who took command of the forces. They arrived in South Carolina a short time before the first battle at Camden [skirmishing in predawn of 16 Aug], and were at that battle, which he thinks was fought about the middle [16th] of August of that year (1780), and in which the american troops were defeated by Cornwallis. This declarant was also at the battle of the Cowpens, where Tarleton's troops were defeated by the Americans, then commanded by General [Daniel] Morgan. This battle was in the January [17th] following (1781). This declarant was in several skirmishes, but in no other general battle. He heard of the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] immediately after it was fought, but was in South Carolina at the time it took place. He thinks this battle was fought early in the Spring after the battle of the Cowpens. The troops, with whom this declarant marched from the North into the South, were frequently separated and sent to different places in detachments, and they thus several times were under different officers. This declarant, while in the South, was under the following officers, whose named he now recollects, viz, Col'l. Williams, Col'l. Joseph Lewis, Captain Wooldridge, and Captain Gordan. There were others, he was under, whose names he cannot now recollect. This declarant was kept moving mostly while in the South, sometimes in South Carolina and sometimes in North Carolina. He continued in service, according to his term of enlistment, to the end of the war, and

was discharged late in the fall of 1781 near Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] in North Carolina, after the troops with whom he then was had heard of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. At the time of his discharge he was commanded by Captain Gordan in Col'l. Lewis regiment, but Col'l Lewis, he thinks, was not with the troops at the time they were disbanded. When they were disbanded this declarant received from Captain Gordan a writing, which said Gordan told him was a furlough without date, and said Gordan also told him that if he was needed he would be called into service again and if not needed that that furlough would answer for a discharge. He was never again called on. After his discharge he remained in North Carolina. He married in that state about two years after his discharge, and continued to live there till about the year 1794 or 5, when he removed into the County of Grayson in the state of Virginia, where he resided till about eighteen years ago, when he removed from Grayson into the County of Wythe and has resided in Wythe County ever since. This declarant received some pay for services about the time he was marched from the North to the South, as above stated, in Continental paper, but he does not recollect the name of the paymaster from whom he received that pay. He thinks he never received a cent of pay after that time. He has never received any bounty either from the United States or any state, except what he received, as above stated, from the United States at the time of his enlistment. He has long since lost his written furlough or discharge, above spoken of. He has never received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars. He has never received any bounty in land. He has lately been informed, however, that it appears in the War Department, that a warrant for one hundred acres of land issued in 1790 in his name. He declares he has no recollection of ever having received a warrant, nor of ever having authorised or requested any person to apply for or receive a warrant for bounty land for him. He says he has never been out of the state of North Carolina and Virginia since the Revolution, and, therefore, he could not have applied himself in person. He says he has twice before applied for a pension under the acts of Congress of 18th March 1818 & May the 1st 1820, but has never been allowed a pension. His first application was made in the Superior Court of Wythe County aforesaid, on the 13th day of May 1826 - his second application was made in the County Court of the same County on the 13th day of November 1832. He says he knows no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services.

And in testimony whereof he has hereunto annexed his signature.

Witness my hand this 27th day of August in the year 1834. [signed] William Cook

State of Virginia } SS
County of Washington }

On this 22^d day of July 1844, personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Washington County now setting William Cook, resident of said County of Washington & State of Virginia aged about eighty five or eighty six 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

That he entered in the regular army of the United States in June 1779 at Anapolis in the State of Maryland under Captain Lynch, that he marched in the course of a few weeks to join the army on the north River at West Point, where he was attached to the 5th Regiment under Col'n Howard On this station he remained until the troops went into winter quarters near Morristown The Brigade to which his regiment belonged was the 1st brigade (he thinks) commanded by General [William] Smallwood. The ensuing season the regiment to which he was attached marched to the South - they took water at the head of Elk [now Elkton] in Maryland, and landed at Petersburg Va. They marched on into North Carolina - and at Deep River de Kalb gave up the Command of the army to Genl Gates who overtook the army at that point. on the occasion there was great rejoicing in the army Then the army took up their line of march for So. Carolina, and near Camden the battle was fought which resulted in the defeat of the americans This declarant was in this engagement. after it was over the American troops were dispersed in every direction. This declarant after this battle wandered away into North Carolina, and on his return met with a force raising to make head against the Tories. To this expedition he attached himself as a

volunteer and served in it three mon[ths] under the command of Capt Wooldridge & Col'n Lewis — General Armstrong commanded the militia of Surry County. This expedition took place in Sept of 1780. shortly after the termination of this tour this declarant engaged as a volunteer under the same officers for twelve months to go in service against the Tories, and remained in that service until the news came of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] This declarant got a discharge from this service it was signed by Captain Gordon in October 1781 This declarant was in the battle of the shallow ford of the Yadkin when Coln Campbell commanded. [See note below.] he was also in another skermish at Richm[page torn] when Coln Williams held the command. This declarant has long since lost his discharge; and he has no record of his age this declarant has no documentary evidence of his service, nor does he now know of any living witness by whom he can prove his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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, & subscribed the day & year aforesaid [signed] William Cook

NOTE: There were skirmishes at the Shallow Ford of Yadkin River on 14 Oct 1780 and 6 Feb 1781, but no Col. Campbell is known to have been at either of them.