

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Cox R2412  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Sarah (Sally) Cox f120VA  
11/22/07 rev'd 11/19/14

[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' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

State of Virginia, Grayson County

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Grayson now sitting James Cox a resident of Grayson County & State of Virginia aged 69 years & 7 months, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under Capt. John Cox at the age of 15 or 16 and assisted in building a fort on New River, near the mouth of Peach Bottom Creek, in the year 1778 and from that time until the year 1780 he acted as an Indian Spy for the said Capt. John Cox, and from his intimate knowledge of the Country, was upon every occasion sent as a pilot to conduct those who were unacquainted with the mountains, in safety to where the different parties had their encampments. The Tories about this time or about the time the British were invading North & South Carolina, became very troublesome in the Country where he was (having but very few neighbours who were not Tories) and those, with those of the adjoining State of North Carolina, would frequently assemble themselves & overrun the Country. The declarant's father, the aforesaid Capt. John Cox, Enoch Osborne & his family, Benjamin Phipps, Peter Hunt [could be Hart or Hout]<sup>1</sup>, & William Hardin were the only Whigs who would render any assistance when required. In this situation, surrounded by Tories, the declarant and a few others had to combat the whole neighbourhood, and when they found themselves too weak [9 lines of text are crossed out and thereby rendered illegible although the name of John Cox can be made out twice in the lined out portion of the text], declarant was sent as an express to Col. Benjamin Cleveland who was stationed on the Yadkin River near where the town of Wilksboro [Wilkesboro] has been since built, to inform him of the fact that the Tories were collecting in large bodies in the mountains shortly after his return from Col. Cleveland's camp he was taken prisoner by the Tories who intended to take & deliver him to the British, but in the meantime Col. Cleveland and Major Love had joined their forces and overtook the Tories at a place called the big glades [Big Glades, also known as the Battle of Round Meadow according to Lyman Draper occurred in July 1780], now in Grayson County Va [some say this engagement occurred in the adjoining County of Ashe in North Carolina]. The Tories when they discovered the Whigs determined to seek safety by flight and in their terror forgot the declarant who availed himself of the opportunity and immediately run with all speed to the Whigs and informed them of what the Tories had done, the Whigs then pursued them, wounded some and took others prisoners whip'd or flogged several severely, & hanged one man where the declarant now lives. After this the declarant's father Capt. John Cox being on an expedition against the Indians, the Tories under a Capt. Green made another ascension into the mountains and the declarant raised his father's Company and

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pursued the Tories under Green, & killed & made prisoners of Green & his entire Company. Green afterwards died of his wounds, and only one of the said Company survived; this was a brother of the said Green, who afterwards enlisted in the Regular army of the United States. Sometime after this affair, a certain Capt. Roberts, of the Tory party, came into the neighborhood with a Company of Six Hessians, and this declarant with Major Love pursued them into Carolina near the head of New River, determined to overtake them, but Capt. Baker of North Carolina had heard of them, got in before the declarant & his party, overtook, killed & wounded the whole party except Roberts [probably John Roberts], their Capt., who made his escape. This declarant does not now recollect the precise time he was engaged in the War of the revolution, but he is very certain that he served under his father Capt. John Cox, and Major William Love, as an Indian Spy, for the term of 2 years and that he was engaged under the same officers, against the Tories for 2 years more making in all 4 years service. This applicant was born in Fort Chisal [Fort Chiswell, at the Chiswell Lead Mines now is Wythe County, Virginia], in the County of Wythe then Botetourt & afterwards Montgomery County Feby 24<sup>th</sup> 1763. He has a record of his age in a large family bible which was given to the declarant by his father. He lived in Montgomery County Virginia when he entered the service, now Grayson County Virginia where he has lived ever since the War of the revolution, and where he now lives. He was a volunteer during the whole service. There was no regular officers in the neighborhood. He never had any discharge, indeed his only wish was to conquer & subdue the enemies of his Country. He is known to Benjamin Phipps<sup>2</sup> & Isaiah Austin<sup>3</sup> contemporary survivors and to John Jones & Charles Cole, who can certify to his character for veracity, and as to their belief of his services in the War 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. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Cox



We Benjamin Phipps residing in the County of Grayson and Charles Cole residing the same County, hereby Certify that we are well acquainted with James Cox, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 79 [sic] years & 7 months of age; that he is reputed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn, and subscribed, the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Benjamin Phipps, X his mark

S/ Charles Cole

[p 9]

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833, personally appeared in Open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Grayson County, now sitting, James Cox, an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, and, being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on his oath, make the following Amendment to his Original declaration made in this Court on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832, in Order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 as aforesaid. That he entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer in the year 1778 under the Command of Captain John Cox, who was ordered into Service by Colonel Walter Crockett of Montgomery County Virginia now Wythe County, and was in actual Service, against the Indians & Tories in the mountains of Virginia under the said Officers a tour of six months. In the year 1779 this declarant was again called

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<sup>2</sup> [Benjamin Phipps W5539](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Isaiah Austin S5259](#)

into Service as a volunteer under the same officers & was in actual Service a tour of six months, in pursuit of the Tories, in Virginia & North Carolina: and in the year following, 1780, he again went as a volunteer under the said Captain John Cox, who was then commanded by Major Love of Virginia & Colonel Cleveland of North Carolina and was in actual Service one month and 15 days, mostly all along the Virginia & North Carolina line. This applicant never had a discharge from the Service nor has he any documentary evidence of his Services. There being no clergyman residing in the neighborhood of this applicant, at the time of making his original declaration, and being advised that the officers of the War Department, probably would not require that the strict letter of the Law, in that particular, should be complied with, this declarant did not supply that; that would be ground of objection, and this is the reason why he did not obtain such affidavit. He now complies with the law in that particular.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Cox

[William Carrico, a clergyman, and Benjamin Phipps gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 84]

Virginia, Grayson County, to wit;

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Grayson, James Cox who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below, and in the following grade: For one year, one month and 15 days I served as a volunteer; and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ James Cox

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833 S/ Henry Wilson, JP

[p 32]

State of North Carolina, Ashe County: Court of pleas & quarter Sessions February Term 1835

Henry Hardin maketh oath that he knew James Cox of Grayson County Virginia who (as this affiant understands) has said in his declaration claiming a pension for services rendered the United States during the Revolutionary War – and that the said James Cox did serve under Colonel Cleveland & Captain Nall in several tours of service against the Indians and Tories – and that the said James Cox was taken prisoner by the Tories at one time-- this affiant has been acquainted with the said James Cox ever since, and knows well that he is the same and served as stated in his declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Ct. February 24, 1835.

Attest:

S/ Henry Hardin



S/ R. Murchison, D. C.

[pp 59-60]

Virginia Grayson County to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Burwell Spence<sup>4</sup> and made oath that he was at a Fort on New River at the mouth of Peach Bottom Creek as a

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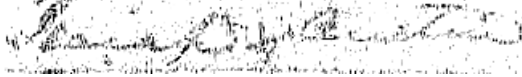
<sup>4</sup> [Burwell Spence W11528](#)

volunteer under Capt. John Cox & served in said Fort for some time in the spring till late in the next fall. That James Cox Senior who has applied for a pension served with him during the said period say something like six months. That during that time they did military duty together and did not attend to farming or any other peaceful occupation. This affiant does not recollect the year that this service was rendered but knows that it was after the commencement of the Revolutionary War and during its continuance –  
and further this affiant saith not

S/ Burwell Spence, X his mark

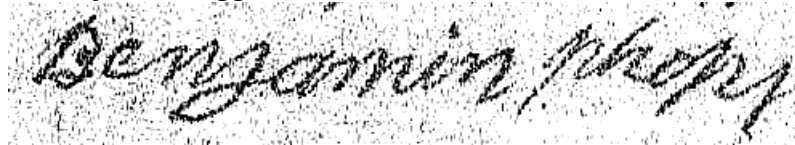
And also appeared before me a Justice aforesaid on the same day Isaiah Austin and made oath – That he turned out a volunteer under Capt. John Cox for 9 months. That James Cox Senior the son of said Capt. John Cox, who has applied for a pension, served with him. They were stationed at a Fort on New River at the mouth of Peach Bottom Creek from March until late in the fall ensuing. The above affiant Burwell Spence served at that same Fort during the same time. They rendered military service together during said time and did not attend to farming or any other peaceful occupation. This affiant does not recollect in what year the above service was rendered, but knows that it was after the commencement and during the continuance of the Revolutionary War, and that it was rendered against the Indians. This affiant was afterwards in service in company with said James Cox under his Father Capt. John Cox against the Tories frequently at different times during a year or two – and further this affiant saith not.

S/ Isaiah Austin



And also appeared before me a Justice as aforesaid on this same day Benjamin Phipps and made oath that he was in a battle in company with James Cox Senior against the Tories during the Revolutionary War – and further this affiant saith not.

S/ Benjamin Phipps



[all 3 of the above affidavits were attested on March 28, 1836]

[p 44]

[spelling heavily corrected in the following document]

Grayson County, Virginia

This Day came Jonathan Thomas<sup>5</sup> personally Before me William Young in our County aforesaid and after Being solemnly Sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God Deposeth and saith that he the said Jonathan Thomas was a Soldier under Captain John Chirk [?] in the revolution war in the Light horse Company of the military of the North Carolina troops commanded by Colonel Hugh Tinnen and Col. John talor [sic, John Taylor?] of Orange County North Carolina in an Expedition against the Tories and British and was sent into the State of Virginia and staid all night at Captain Cox and certain James Cox son of his took my place in the Light horse Company and served in my Room I cannot ascertain the Length of time, further this Deponent saith not. I do certify that the said above named Jonathan Thomas to be a man of truth and under a good character Given under my hand and seal this 12<sup>th</sup> day September 1836.

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<sup>5</sup> [Jonathan Thomas R10510](#)

S/ William Young {Seal}

[p 100]

State of North Carolina Ashe County

I Henry Hardin aged Seventy-one years maketh oath that I was acquainted with James Cox Senior of Grayson County Virginia – (who I understand has made application for a pension) during the Revolutionary War – That this affiant knows that the said James Cox served several months – the precise number not known to this affiant as a volunteer against the Indians and Tories that he also took the place of Jonathan Thomas and served in the Army of the Revolution in the place of said Jonathan Thomas – as a drafted militia man – That the officers under whom the said James Cox served were Col. Cleveland (as this affiant believes) and Capt. William Nall – That the said James Cox served altogether in the service of the United States – 2 years as this affiant verily believes. Sworn to and subscribed this October 6, A.D. 1836

S/ Henry Hardin

[Note: p 69: The following is a letter apparently in the handwriting of the veteran which may be of interest to members of his family both for its content and for the imaginative spelling of words used by the veteran. Close attention must be paid to decipher its contents. I think it is dated September 1, 1838.

Grayson County Virginia Dear friend I will inform you that I received  
your letter stating to me that you <sup>would</sup> try to get my change done at the  
Lawson I am vancly old & infirm & my memory is all most gone I  
cant remember hardly a thing but one thing I do know  
that I served in the military service a gainst the tories for  
more than 2 years I was in several Senineges where we cild & made  
several <sup>professions</sup> I was allways a volunteer Both a gainst the tories & indians  
I am willin to a bidder by this & witness I am in a vancly weak low state  
both in body & mind & if you can do something for me it will  
be much in to my advantage & none will be forgotten as long as I live  
I have one more good friend in the hows & that is George Williams } He offers  
if you think that it will make the change a very strong you may  
name it to him & he will go with you to J. L. Edwards he is w all a good  
with me I have allways recored for him I thought that as I served  
in both States that it would be better to have a member from both  
States I will leave this matter to you do for me as you think best  
to the Lewis Williams of North Car from James Cox Virginia  
September the first 1838

[p 81]

State of North Carolina Ashe County:

January the 15<sup>th</sup> Day 1838

Whereas this Day came Joshua Cox before us two of the acting Justices of the peace for said County and made oath in due form that James Cox the applicant was a volunteer in the Revolution War under Capt. John Cox and also under Capt. Nall and during his service he brought in one wounded prisoner and the said James Cox was taken a prisoner by the Tories and he made his escape from them and joined the Whigs again and continued with them until the end of the war this sworn to and subscribed to before us the day and date above written

S/ Joshua Cox

Attest

S/ William Johnson, JP

S/ Solomon Jones, JP

[p 81]

State of North Carolina Ashe County

Be it known that on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 1838 before us John D Watson and Peter Earnest two of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of Ashe aforesaid personally appeared Jessie Ray Senr. [?]<sup>6</sup> a citizen of said County aged seventy-seven years and made oath in due form of law that he is personally acquainted with James Cox Senior (who this affiant understands has applied or will apply for a pension) – the said James Cox Senior being a resident of Grayson County Virginia – that he knew the said James Cox during the Revolutionary War – that this affiant while himself serving in the Army of the United States saw the said James Cox in the service of the United States under Capt. John Cox and Major William Love and Col. Walter Crockett of the Virginia militia (as this affiant believes they were) – That he cannot state the length of time that the said James Cox served as a volunteer – but knows well that he did serve as such – and saw the said James Cox command – and heard him state at the time that he had been taken prisoner by the Tories and had escaped from them –

He further swears that it has been always currently reported and believed in the neighborhood in which said James Cox resides that he was a Revolutionary Soldier.

Sworn to and subscribed January 18<sup>th</sup> 1838 before us.

He further swears that day (the North Carolina Army) took a prisoner of the enemy and gave them up to the said Capt. Cox – who had him tried and home by the Virginia Army.

S/ Jes Ray S?



test

S/ J. D. Watson, JP

S/ Peter Earnest, JP

[p 11: Sarah Cox, 76, filed for a widow's pension on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1855 in Grayson Co., Va., stating, *inter alia*, they married on January 4, 1815 by Elisha Bidwell in Grayson Co., Va.; that her maiden name was Sarah Fielder; that James died on April 17, 1842. She recites in her application almost word for word the services of her husband as set forth in his original declaration. She signed her name with a mark.]



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[Jesse Ray S7345](#)

[p 17]

State of North Carolina, County of Ashe

On this \_\_ day of April 1859 personally appeared Joshua Cox aged ninety seven years a resident of the County at State aforesaid who being duly sworn; deposed and says that he is well acquainted with one James Cox, a private in Colonel John Cox's Company Commanded by Colonel Cleveland, in the revolutionary war, that he personally new [sic, knew] the said James Cox while in the service of said war frequent saw him while on duty and know him to have served at least two years in that Military Service. That the said James Cox was taken prisoner while in the service by the Tories and was rescued by a portion of the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Cleveland he also declares that he was in an engagement at a place known as McKinney's Rocks with a company of Tories, in which the Whigs were victorious in said engagement, there were several noted Tories killed and taken prisoner, to wit Captains McKinney, Craig, Goss, Green and various others whose names deponent does not now recollect, deponent further states that he is well acquainted with Sally Cox, widow of the said James Cox, this the said Sally Cox is still a widow and has so remained since the death of her husband James Cox, which death occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1841, in the County of Grayson & State of Virginia – that deponent states he resides within 17 miles of the Residence of the said James Cox, now his widow, and he resided within that distance ever since the close of the said revolutionary war, declarant further states he has no interest whatever in making this affidavit, and no interest or claim in the benefits to be derived therefrom.

S/ Joshua Cox, {Seal}



S/ S. B. Jones, JP

[p 19]

State of North Carolina, Allegheny County

Whereas this day personally appeared Joshua Cox Sr. aged Eighty Seven years old before Solomon B. Jones one of the Sitting Justices of the peace for the said County aforesaid and makes oath as a witness for Sally Cox Widow of James Cox deceased I do hereby certify upon oath that I have perfect knowledge that James Cox served as much as six months in a Military Capacity in the War of the Revolution and in all his service as much as two years – he served under Captain John Cox and also under Colonel Cleveland in North Carolina and Virginia and that he was in the battle at Machinnia Rocks [McKinney's Rocks?] where Machinnia was taken prisoner hung there was some were killed and wounded and the balance absconded and James Cox deceased was taken prisoners by the Tories then Colonel Cleveland with his Company followed after the Tories and rescued James Cox from them at the big glades and also that James Cox was in Company when they went to drive the Indians back at the Long Island of Holston [River] and that said James Cox died on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1841. Sworn and Subscribed to this 26<sup>th</sup> of April 1859.

S/ Joshua Cox

Test:

S/ S. B. Jones

[Letter in the file contains the statement that James Cox's first wife was Elizabeth Terrill]