

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ransom Day R2790

Catharine B. Day

f24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/2/14

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Claiborne County

On this 12th day of March 1844 personally appeared before George H. Cheek, an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for the County aforesaid, Ransom Day, a resident of the State and County aforesaid, aged Eighty four 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 was first draughted [sic, drafted] a private for three months to guard the prisoners that were taken at the surrender of Genl Burgoyne [Battle of Bemis Heights or Saratoga, October 7, 1777] and was marched from Goochland County, Virginia where he then resided to the Barrack in Albemarle County, Va. Shortly after he served this tour he removed from Goochland to Halifax County, Virginia where he was again drafted a private for Eighteen months. It was in the month of August 1780. They immediately marched us to Hillsborough, N.C. My captain's name was Joshua Powell. But when we joined the troops at Hillsborough my Captain had returned home and I was attached to Captain Thomas Boyer's Company, the major of our Regiment was named Murphy and Col. Bluford [perhaps this is a reference to Abraham Buford, but the context is ambivalent] had the command of the whole troop at that time. We marched from Hillsborough to Salisbury where we encamped for some time and Genl Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] took the command. From there we marched in Virginia to Halifax County and all this time Lord Cornwallis was pursuing of us with a considerable British Army. When we had reached Halifax, Va. Cornwallis turned back towards North Carolina again and Genl Greene being reinforced then pursued Cornwallis into N.C. again and to a place called Guildford [sic, Guilford] Court House [March 15, 1781] where they had a considerable engagement. It lasted about three or four hours and begun in the morning. The British kept the field and we retreated about three miles and encamped for the night. This was on the 15th day of March 1781. Cornwallis then retreated and for want of provisions the Americans had to desist from pursuing him.

We then marched into South Carolina and besieged a place called Ninety Six [Siege of Ninety Six, May 22-June 19, 1781]. We were there for four or five weeks when Greene raised the siege and went off. While there the Lieutenant of our Company was wounded, his name was Seldon, he was wounded in an attempt to remove some bags of sand the enemy

had placed on the Breast works to prevent our artillery from injuring the works. This occurred sometime in the summer of 1781 but I cannot tell in what month.

Sometime after we left Ninety Six Captain Smith of Maryland line got leave to raise a Volunteer Company to go down the country a place to take a fort of British and Tories I volunteered to go with him with about 150 more men we went and took the fort and called it fort Thompson and after we had taken the place an Explosion of some gunpowder took place, which burned me and two other men almost to death we were unable to travail [sic, travel] and lay there along [sic, a long] time and when Captain Smith with his Company went to return to the main army he left us there with a well man to wait on us with orders that if ever we got well enough, for us to return home as our term of service would be out, which we did I was in service this time a few days over 18 months.

He hereby relinquishes every claim except the present whatever to a pension and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any State. That he has no documentary evidence whereby he can prove his service and knows of no person who can. He further states that some years since he employed one James B. Robinson to get his pension for him and said Robinson said it was not necessary to tell about his getting powder burned and some other months or transactions, and that Robinson left the country shortly after he had sent his papers on the second time and that he is unable to attend to business. That likely his old age and consequent loss of memory has made him commit errors in this declaration but if so they are unintentionally made.

Sworn and subscribed this twelfth day of March 1844 before me

S/ Geo. H. Cheek
Justice of the Peace

S/ Ransom Day, X his mark

Interrogatories propounded by the Justice:

Q. Where and in what year were you born?

A. I was born in Louisa County State of Va. on the 15th day of January 1760

Q. Have you any record of your age, if so where is it?

A. I left it in Virginia at my father's and it got destroyed.

Q. Where were you living when called into service?

Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and
Where do you now live?

A. I lived in Goochland first, then in Halifax Va. Since the War I have lived in Claiborne County, Tn. for 38 years.

Q. How was you called into Service?

A. I draughted first tour for 3 months, second tour for eighteen months.

[Q.] State the name of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where your served and the General circumstances of your service.

[The next page of this application is missing from the Fold3.com digital images but is included in the HeritageQuest version.]

A. Colonel Morgan of the Rifle Corps, Major Anderson of the Maryland line who was killed at Guilford and Captain Wallis [Wallace?] who was also killed.

Q. Did you ever receive a discharge, if so what became of it and by whom was it given?

A. I never received any written discharge but a Verbal one from Captain Smith after I got Burned.

Q. State the names of persons in your present neighborhood who can testify to your veracity.

A. Hu Graham, Col. Wm. Houston, Berry Sewell, W. Huff[illegible], Col. Gray Garrett, Hugh Jones, George Shutz, Thos. Hurst, Reuben Rose, Wm. Hurst, Wm. Dunsmore.

[John Bartlett and Samuel McBee, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit. McBee signs his name and indicates that he is a Baptist minister.]

[David Huddleston gave another supporting affidavit but never states that he was in service with the applicant. Likewise, Chapman Poindexter¹ gives a supporting affidavit but never says he, Poindexter, actually served with the applicant.]

[There is correspondence in the file indicating that applicant's widow, Catharine B. Day, filed a separate application for a widow's pension but there is no copy of the application in this file.]

1 [Chapman Poindexter W26327](#)