

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ralph Low (Lowe) R6487

fn22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/23/10

[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 errors to my attention.]

State of Alabama Perry County: County Court February Term 1835

On this sixth day of February A.D. 1835 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of the County & State aforesaid now sitting Ralph Lowe a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-five years, who being first duly sworn according to doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832 (viz.) That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated (viz.)

In the year seventeen hundred and eighty [paper torn, missing word MIGHT be "one" for "1781"] was living in Randolph County North Carolina. It was in that County and during that year and to the best of my recollection on the 12th day of March I entered the Service of the United States a volunteer. I positively state that before that I had repeatedly been on short excursions against the enemy in what was called scouting parties sometimes out a month at a time sometimes longer. I also state that previous to the time above stated I was twice drafted for the space of three months the first time & eighteen months the last time but as my Father was a poor man & I the oldest son & almost the only hand he had to labor for the support of his family we hired substitutes each time, I must say too that there was a great deal of laborious service performed on party excursions as above stated.

It was a company of light horse in the Militia in which I volunteered & entered at the time & place first above stated. The company was at that time commanded by Captain Thomas Duggen [sic, Thomas Dugan?]. The company belonged to a Regiment commanded by Colonel John Collier & the Regiment under the command of General Butler [John Butler]. The first movement the company in which I was -- was ordered to make was in opposition to the noted Tory Colonel Fanning [David Fanning¹] who at that time had a strong force of Tories under him and were then engaged burning the houses & devastating the country in every possible way -- & I may mention more particularly at this time the deaths of Ca[paper torn] Belford & Captain John

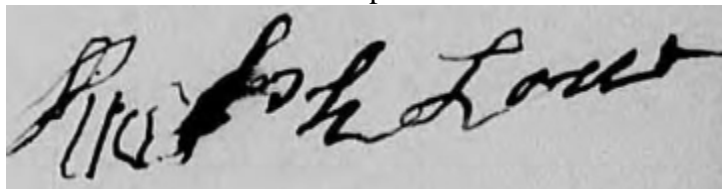
¹ **David Fanning** (1755-1825), from Randolph County, North Carolina, was a notorious Tory militia leader and renegade earning in North Carolina a reputation for brutality on a par with that of William ("Bloody Bill") Cunningham in South Carolina. Fanning wrote a fascinating account of his exploits. Lindley S. Butler, editor, *The Narrative of Col. David Fanning* (Briarpatch Press, Davidson, North Carolina, 1981). See, also, John Hairr, Colonel David Fanning: *The Adventures of a Carolina Loyalist* (Averasboro Press, Erwin, North Carolina, 2000).

Bryant who were killed by Fanning's forces -- From the station not far from my residence we proceeded in pursuit of the enemy to a place called Spink's Hill a distance of near thirty miles in the northern part of Randolph County at which place we overtook the Tories and were in a warm engagement with them for a short time -- a few of the enemy were killed by us at that place = I was also during the same year & in the same company in a Battle at Sercies Ford [sic, Searcey's Ford] on Deep River. The operations of the Regiment to which I belong was confined to a small space of the Country on account of the violence of the Tories & the difficulty of preventing them from getting entire control. During the first three months of my service I held the office of Sergeant in the horse company above stated. I was also during the same year & first of the next in the same company and entered as a volunteer he the Company was next commanded by Captain William Gray -- who had previously been Lieutenant and Captain Dugan was promoted to the office of Major -- under Captain Gray I held the office of cornett [sic, cornet]. We were marched as circumstances required through the Counties of Moore, Chatham, Randolph but when not out on duty were stationed on Deep River where the public stores were kept -- I was personally in active service in the horse service three months as Sergeant and three months as cornet of this much my recollection is distinct & I further know I was in actual service at the time Cornwallis was taken & the war was about being brought to a close -- we did not serve with the regulars & was not personally acquainted with the Regular officers. I can to be sure mentioned the names of several who served in our part of the Country. Just before I entered the service as I have stated I was a prisoner on parole having been taken by the Tories under one Anderson & during that time I was in hearing of the Battle at Guilford Court house² fought by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] who was a Regular. I remember also a Captain Mayben [probably a reference to Captain Robert Mebane] who had been in the regular service & afterwards served in our Regiment. Also General Morgan. Also Colonel Lee who command[ed] a horse company if I mistake not in the regular service.

I now have no recollection now what became of my discharges I think I had a discharge but they are long since lost if I had as I never expected they would be useful I have also lost the commission I had as Lieutenant or cornet = I have no documentary evidence of my service & I herewith enclose the only evidence of the only living witness who can testify as to my service so far as I know -- (viz.) that of Jos. Low of the State of Tennessee. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State whatever =

Sworn to & subscribed this day and year aforesaid

S/ Ralph Low

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Ralph Low". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

To the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department the applicant answers & says -- as follows (viz.)

Q 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. in the year 1759? [sic]

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer -- I have none it was in my Father's Bible which I have not seen for many years

² March 15, 1781

the last I knew of it was in Randolph County North Carolina

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer) I lived in Randolph County in North Carolina when I entered the service, since the Revolutionary war I continued to live in North Carolina I then moved into Hancock County & State of Georgia -- about 10 or 11 years since I moved from the State of Georgia into Perry County in this State & moved a short time from this County into Bibb County next North of the S. & then back to this County where I have been living ever since & now live --

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer as stated in my Declaration -- I was twice drafted & both times hired a substitute for my Father did = I frequent volunteered on short scouting parties & acted as a volunteer the whole six months of my service & more I believe --

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer} I can only mention it is in my declaration the names of General Greene -- General Morgan -- Colonel Lee & General Gates = I do not remember the numbers of the Regiments I recollect Colonel Martin's Regiment -- I do not know that I could hear make a more satisfactory statement of the general circumstances than I have already -- It was I think it was after the Battle of Camden I began my service & just after Guilford Court house Battle some year or more before the capture of Cornwallis & at a time when the Tories appeared most numerous & determined I began my service &c.

6th Did you ever receive a commission & while I acted as Sergeant I was a noncommissioned officer -- When cornet or Lieutenant I had a commission signed by whom I cannot now will not say positively it was given to me by Major Dugan or Colonel Collier as well as I remember -- but my discharge & commission have long since been lost --

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution. -- I am known to Jesse B. Nave Clerk of this Court to Richard B. Wathall the Senator from this County in the Legislature of our State I am known to Benjamin [the first part of the Sir name obliterated] mack a revolutionary soldier.

[James Veazey, Henry C. Lea and Jesse B. Nave gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Alabama Tallapoosa County: On this the first day of September 1845 personally appeared in open Court in the County Court of Tallapoosa County, said court being a Court of record, Ralph Low, resident of Tallapoosa County in the State of Alabama aged eighty-seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Corporal oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th A.D. 1832, That he served seven months in actual service in the Revolutionary war that the services for which he claims a Pension were rendered in the State of North Carolina, that he belonged to a company of what was then called County Rangers in Randolph County. That said company of County Rangers in Randolph County was a company of Cavalry. That he was Lieutenant in said company -- and that the company aforesaid was commanded by Thomas Duggin, Captain and that said company was commanded by Colonels James Duggin and John Colier [Collier] and that said company was under the command of General John Butler. That

Declarant was commissioned as Lieutenant by Colonel James Duggin the discharge is also lost, does not recollect the date of commission or discharge. That he served to the close of the war, was in 3 skirmishes or small fights against the Tories. That the principal business of the company to which he belonged was to guard the public stores at Bell's Mill, and Colonel John Collier's all in Randolph County North Carolina. The principal business of the company was against the Tories. That he made a Declaration about 10 years ago but does not know that it ever was sent to the Pension office. That he has never heard of it since. That he never has received a pension. That if his name is on the agency of any State or of the Pension Rolls of the United States he does not know it. That he knows of no one living by whom he can prove his services. That he has no documentary evidence of any kind to introduce and proof of this his Declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or any other annuity except the one now claim and applied for.

S/ Ralph Low, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court in the County Court of Tallapoosa County on the day and year above written.

S/ Ralph Low, X his mark

Leroy Grisham presiding Judge of the County Court administered the oath to said Declarant

S/ Leroy Graham

[James W. Carr, a clergyman, and Charles J. Shackelford, John S. Adcock, Anderson W. Adcock, Benjamin Lassiter gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 7: Elijah Parnall and his wife Elizabeth Parnell (formerly Elizabeth Low, daughter of Ralph Low) executed a power of attorney dated October 11, 1854 in Perry County Alabama in firing their attorney to pursue the claim of Ralph Low deceased.]