

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Bivins R876

Transcribed by Fred Weyler

Supplemented by Will Graves in italics

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5/3/17

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State of Indiana

County of Montgomery} SS

On this 22nd day of September 1834, personally appeared in open court before the judges of Montgomery County now sitting, William Bivins, a resident of Ripley Township in the county of Montgomery, State of Indiana, aged eighty five years on the 14th of April next. Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of congress passed June 7, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States a private drafted in the militia in the State of Delaware in Sussex County in about the 4th or 5th year of the Revolutionary War, the precise year not now recollected under Captain Wingate, don't recollect the name of my colonel or adjutant but served out the term of three months for which I was drafted on or about the Delaware Bay and shore in scouting parties and guard parties. Was in no regular battle this term but was in several slight chases and skirmishes with the enemy. At the end of this term of three months I was regularly discharged by my captain think signed by my captain or colonel, don't recollect certain, which discharge was burned at the accidental burning of my house and effects about thirteen years ago in Lawrence County Ohio. Private 1st 3 mo service.

And said applicant further states that a short time, perhaps two months after expiration of said first term of his service he again entered the service of the United States, as Captain in

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a volunteer company of Militia in the State of Delaware Sussex County, (my lieutenant's name Conway) in Col. Mitchel's regiment in Delaware for the term of three months and continued in said service during the whole of said term mostly in and about the Delaware bay, was in some skirmishes with some plundering parties of the British but in no considerable battle during this term. Mostly engaged in guarding stores, scouting, and such like light service as was commonly put on the country *volunteer* militia to do. And at the end of this term applicant received a regular discharge as he had on entering this term received a commission but whose name was signed does not now remember but believes the name of his Col. (Mitchel) was to the discharge. That the commission and discharge were both burned at the burning of the house and effects afore stated. 2nd term, 3 mo. Service, Captain Militia

And the applicant further saith on oath that some short time after the expiration of said 2nd terms service had expired he thinks not to exceed eight months after but the particular number of the year not recollected with sufficient accuracy in my mind to swear to at this time, he, the applicant again entered the service of the United States in what was called the nine months regulars as an ensign in Captain Nathaniel Mitchel's company of regulars in Col. Mitchel's Regiment, Delaware Troops (this Col. Mitchel being the father of Captain Mitchel) That he enlisted in said service at the house of Col. Mitchel in Blackfords Town, Sussex County, Delaware State. I received a commission as such Ensign. That the principal part of his service in

this tour were rendered in Virginia, *was in a battle near a place called the Cowpens¹ in Virginia*, and was wounded in the early part of the engagement by a ball in right hip which then
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and ever since has injured applicant, two pieces of bone having been extracted from the wound and leaves his right by the shortest. That this applicant continued in the hospital near the Cowpens under the care of the surgeon by reason of said wound till his term of service expired. He received a discharge from this his last tour, but does not recollect by whom signed, the same being put away with his other papers & preserved as he believes till his house was burned as aforesaid. That applicant was at no time that he recollects of joined with the main army except at the Battle of the Cowpens & then being wounded early in the engagement & left afterwards in hospital, he cannot now give from actually ~~recollecion~~ the names of any regular offers (sic) with whom he served *unless* his own company and offers [*sic, officers*] above given were regulars. & of this he is not positive but this he knows they were called “nine months regulars.” & when he joined he considered himself as enlisting and receiving a commission of Ensign in the regular service, but whether this description of troops were returned as the regular Army proper he does not now know, but knows that he served as above stated. (3rd tour, 9 mo. Regular, ensign)
That this applicant being rendered unfit for service by his wounds received in service never again entered the service. That since his service he has lived in Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, & Indiana. That he is now 84 years old and will be 85 years old 14th April next. That he had a record of his age about thirteen years ago when the same was lost & destroyed by fire at the burning of his house as aforesd. That he was born on the 14th of April 1748 in Maryland Summerset according to said record of his age which he believes was correct. That he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. And this applicant to the court now here give he offers Michael *Combs* a clergyman of Union Township of my neighborhood, and Joshua Bruce and William Snook of the same county who can testify as the character of applicant & of their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He your applicant relinquishes any 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 or territory.
Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesd.

William Bivins, X his mark

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And the said court do hereby declare their opinion after their investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the court further certifies that it appears to them that Michael *Combs* who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman resident in Union Township in Montgomery County, Indiana. That William Snook & Joshua Bruce who has also signed the same are a resident in the same county and are credible persons and that their statement is entitled to credit.

James Stith
Absolom Ketcham

¹ Will Graves is unaware of any action in the State of Virginia that was referred to as the Battle of Cowpens or a battle at a cowpens. It is possible this veteran was making reference to the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina on January 17, 1781, but the only unit from Delaware thought to have been at that engagement was under the command of Captain Robert H. Kirkwood. See http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

I John Wilson Clerk of the Court of Montgomery County do certify that the foregoing contains the Original proceedings of said court in the matter of the application of William Bivins for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto

Set my hand and seal of office

This 22nd day of September A.D. 1834

John Wilson, Clerk

[p 4: Michael Combs, a clergyman, and Joshua Bruce and William Snook gave the standard supporting affidavit.]