

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Colby Rucker R9061

fn92NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/23/10

[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.]

State of Kentucky County of Rockcastle

On this 27th day of December 1852 personally appeared in open Court before me Judge of the County Court of Rockcastle and State aforesaid now sitting -- William Hayes -- administrator of the estate of Colby Rucker (deceased) aged 62 years -- a resident of the County and State aforesaid -- who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration on by half of the children and legal representatives of the said Colby Rucker (deceased) in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 or the provisions made by such acts of Congress as will govern the same case.

Declares upon his oath -- that the said Colby Rucker has often informed him, that he was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, -- and that he was informed entered said service about the year 1778 or 9 for the term of eighteen months -- with one Henry Pumphrey<sup>1</sup> who is now deceased -- was under a Colonel Blunt [sic, Blount?] -- which time he served out -- and was honorably discharged -- that the most of his service was done ranging up and down the Mississippi River and about Natchez = and started on rout -- after serving out the said term was himself discharged, started to North Carolina in company with said Pumphrey -- and was taken prisoner by a British officer -- with some other men and was all carried back to Savannah Georgia -- and kept in prison for 4 to 6 months possibly not quite so long -- when they all made their escape, and returned to North Carolina and both again entered the service again under a Colonel by the name of McDowell -- which lasted for three months -- which time they served out -- and served one other three months tour = both of said times was honorably discharged -- he does not remember the names of none of the other officers -- under whom he served. But most respectfully refers the department of the United States at Washington DC to the declaration made by the said Henry Pumphrey (Deceased) now on file -- made while he was a resident of the County of Rockcastle and State of Kentucky for a pension -- to ascertain the names of the different officers under whom the said Rucker served -- and length of service: as aforesaid -- and approve therein attached -- all of which application made by the said Pumphrey -- aforesaid between the years 1836 and 1820 [sic ?] -- is made a part of this petition to establish the service of said Rucker all of which is here with referred to and approve hereto annexed, -- that he knows of no living witness who served with said Rucker.

He further declares that said Colby Rucker deceased in the County of Grainger in the State of Tennessee on the 20th day of January 1852 leaving no widow who survived him, she

---

<sup>1</sup> [Henry Pumphrey W8535](#). Colby Rucker gave testimony in support of the pension application filed by Pumphrey.

having departed this life 8 years previous to his death -- And left the following children whose names are as follows viz. --

Elizabeth Coffee late Elizabeth Rucker age 67 years

Margaret Coffee late Margaret Rucker aged 65

William Rucker age 63 years

Sarah Hayes late Sarah Rucker age 61

Nancy Pain late Nancy Rucker aged 58 years --

Delphia Dolton late Delphia Rucker aged 56 years

John Rucker 54 years

Jane Hayes late Jane Rucker aged 51 years

being all and the only surviving children of the said Colby Rucker deceased at his death -- and that no family Record as to the age of said children is to be found -- he further declares the said Colby Rucker always protested against applying for a pension -- contended that liberty was all his fought for, and was full compensation for him, that after he was gone -- his children -- could apply if they thought proper -- for the pension and declares that no previous application was ever made for this pension and states that family Record is in existence giving the dates of the births of said Rucker children.

S/ William Hayes

[fn p. 64]

State of Kentucky County of Rockcastle

On this 28th day of April 1857 before me the presiding Judge of the County Court in and for the County and State aforesaid now in session -- personally appeared William Hays a resident of the County of Rockcastle in the State of Kentucky -- aged 65 years who being first sworn as the law directs, upon his oath doth make the following declaration as an amendment to his former declaration for a pension from Rockcastle County Kentucky -- as the Administrator of the estate of Colby Rucker deceased, for the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

That he is the administrator of the estate of Colby Rucker, deceased, the identical person who he has always been informed entered the service of the United States in the war of the revolution on or about the year 1778 or 1779 -- near Natchy [sic, Natchez] on the Mississippi River -- in company with one Henry Pumphrey under Captain Alston or Colonel Blunt for the time of 18 months -- the duty of the company was to range up and down the Mississippi River -- round and about the neighborhood of Natchez frequently had skirmishes with the British and Indians -- which time was served out -- when he left for North Carolina in company with one Henry Pumphrey & some others -- and while on their route were taken prisoner by a British officer and all their papers destroyed = and taken back to Savannah Georgia, and kept prisoners for some 4 or 6 months -- when they made their escape and went to North Carolina and entered the service again with said Henry Pumphrey -- under Colonel McDowell, Captain's name not recollected, \_\_\_ Howe, probably was the Lieutenant, this tour lasted 3 months, entered the service again for 3 months more under Captain Keys & Colonel Harrold for 3 months more, and served it out, in the North Carolina Militia, that since filing his last declaration, he has understood the said Colby Rucker served one tour of duty in the North Carolina Militia in company with one Eli Coffee<sup>2</sup> -- who made application for a pension from McMinn County in the State of Tennessee under act 7th of June 1832, that to sustain his claim to a pension he respectfully refers the

---

<sup>2</sup> Sic, Eli Coffey R2098

Honorable Commissioner of Pensions, to all his application for said Pension & all the papers therein file, and to the Application of the said Henry Pumphrey -- upon which his pension was granted. On the Kentucky agency -- under act 7th of June 1832 and all the papers therein file, together with the Application of the said Eli Coffee from the State of Tennessee -- all of which he makes a part of this petition, filed in the pension office at Washington City together with the Comptrollers Certificate North Carolina filed in the papers -- of £13-&c of the service of said Rucker -- together with the proof hereto annexed -- is respectfully submitted -- hereby appoint Alfred Smith of Mount Vernon Rockcastle County Kentucky my attorney to prosecute said claim and receive the certificate may be issued in said claim etc.

S/ William Hays

[fn p. 71 on December 28, 1852 in Grainger County Tennessee George Hayes, 85, testified to the services as outlined above as being what he learned from Colby Rucker; he heads that the said Colby Rucker married to Sarah Roberts in Wilkes County North Carolina and that they lived together as man and wife before the year 1794.]

[fn p. 83: on December 27, 1852 and Rockcastle Kentucky, Colbert Hayes, 41 gave testimony in support of the claim stating that when aged 13 he (the affiant) lived with Rucker for 2 years in the County of Grainger in Tennessee and thereafter within 1 mile of Rucker's residence up to the year 1838 when Rucker moved to Rockcastle County Kentucky; the affiant states that he "repeatedly heard the said Rucker rehearse over his difficulties and trials he underwent while he was a soldier in the war of the revolution = he stated that he resided with his father near Natchez on the Mississippi River on a Creek called the Byopuse or Dyopeure [?], that the said Rucker -- said he entered the service of the war of the Revolution while he there lived together with a man by the name of Henry Pumphrey who once drew a pension -- while he resided in Rockcastle County Kentucky -- and was under a man by the name of Blunt -- who was his Colonel -- and his company to which he was attached -- their business was to range up and down the Mississippi River about Natchez -- and at one time the British -- and Indians -- took the town -- and they left the town with the balance of the Rangers -- and went to a house of a widow Winifrey -- and shortly afterward they all went back -- and retook the Fort -- and said after serving out the term for which he entered the service was himself discharged -- and on account of his stepfather being so disagreeable to him Pumphrey and he started for North Carolina and two other men -- and when on their route -- was all taken prisoner by the British and all carried back to Savannah Georgia and there remained in prison for some months -- deponent does not remember how long he said -- he remained in prison -- but remembers well the said Rucker told him -- he and Pumphrey -- disguised themselves by putting on a nightgown resembling a woman's dress & petticoat when they made their escape = and went on to North Carolina -- Wilkes County, and found Colonel Cleveland selling some property taken from the Tories -- when said Humphrey & him again entered the service -- under the name of the Captain he does not now recollect for certain but thinks McDowell -- was the Colonel -- and a Captain Keys -- he wants served under - - as he stated -- deponent now believes -- and the name of other officers of his in North Carolina he does not now remember and was honorably discharged after serving out the 2 tours in North Carolina = deponent does not remember the length of services he stated he had served -- But remembers well he stated he is and said Humphrey both served together with the whole terms of service in the war of the Revolution...."]