

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathaniel Raney (Rainey) S11277

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/6/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia & County of Dinwiddie Sct.

On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Dinwiddie County now sitting Nathaniel Raney at present a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 68^{July 26, 1832} 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 sometime in the year 1780 under the command of Captain Frederick Dixon who commanded a company of militia called into the service of the United States who marched to Cabin Point and joined the Army commanded by Mulinghburg [Peter Muhlenberg] and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel __Gaskins [Thomas Gaskins], he served first a tour of about thirteen weeks, and continued to serve with short intervals until the surrender of Cornwallis in October 1781; that Captain Dixon having died, he was next commanded by Captain Thomas Newsom, afterwards by Captain John Powell, and lastly for two short tours under Captain John Massenburg, and while on one of the latter tours was in an action at & near the town of Petersburg [April 25, 1781]; he was frequently called out to perform military duty and was under the command of the last mentioned Captain until sometime in the month of November 1781 at which time the militia were generally discharged: That he was born in the County of Sussex Virginia, removed to the County of Brunswick Virginia where he resided for near thirty years, and has been a resident of the County of Dinwiddie aforesaid for the last ten or twelve years: That he never received any written discharge and has no documentary evidence of his services, but can prove by Thomas Wilkinson¹ (who part of the time was the messmate of the declarant and who served with him in the different tours for about nine months): He the said Nathaniel Raney 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 whatever:

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Nathaniel Rainey, X his mark

I Thomas Wilkinson a resident of Dinwiddie County do hereby certify that I have heard the above Declaration read & that all that portion of it which recites services as having been within my knowledge is perfectly true & I have no doubt that the whole were rendered as stated though I have no personal knowledge of them.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

¹ [Thomas Wilkinson \(Wilkerson\) S41347](#)

S/ Thos. Wilkinson



[Isham E. Hargrave, a clergyman, & William Gee gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Virginia, Dinwiddie County SS:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the peace for the said County, Nathaniel Raney, who being first duly sworn, deposeseth & saith in addition to his former Declaration, hereto appended, 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, in all, not less than eleven months, as a private, in the revolutionary war. From the defect of memory aforesaid he cannot designate more particularly that he has done the precise periods of the war in which his services were rendered – That he has no record of his age but from the earliest information believes what he has stated that he is 68 on 6 July last. That from the cause above mentioned he finds himself, now unable to state the name of any other regular officers or to describe any other Continental or militia regiments with whom he was in service – nor can he referred to any other persons in his present neighborhood to testify in his behalf, then those whose evidence has already been given by the Court.

Sworn to and subscribed this 29 day of May 1833.

S/ Nathaniel Raney, X his mark

State of Virginia in Dinwiddie County SS

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Nathaniel Rainey who being first duly sworn deposeseth & saith in addition to his former Declaration and amendment thereto, and in explanation of the general statements therein, that in the year 1780, he finds it impossible to recall to his memory the precise date, but from having been very cold at the time & early in the year, he thinks it was January, he was drafted as a militia man of Sussex County to go on a tour of duty under Captain Fred Dixon the Lieutenant was named Levi Rochelle – he cannot remember the name of the Ensign, & the reason he apprehends of his recollection of the Lieutenant is that during the tour Captain Dixon died, & the company was for some time commanded by the Lieutenant. The company first marched to Cabin Point in Surry County where he joined the troops & was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Gaskins – the entire body of troops there being under the command of General Muhlenberg. That he was kept in service on this tour a little more than thirteen weeks. He recollects that there was great complaint among the soldiers at their being kept in service longer than the ordinary tour, which was then three months, but it was said to be occasioned by their not being relieved by others in due time, & the enemy being during the time in James River, often shipping up and down. From Cabin Point during this tour the company was moved backwards & forwards, as occasion required, and was at Mackey's Mill; and Suffolk which were the principal places of rendezvous during that tour. That after he had been at home about 2 or 3 weeks from this tour Captain Thomas Neunun [?Newsum or Newman or Newson?] of the neighborhood raised a volunteer company principally of young man and this declarant volunteered with them & performed a tour of three months under him as a volunteer. They 1st went to Bab's old field not far from Sleepy Hole ferry on Nansemond River, and were during the

tour occasionally at Sleepy Hole, Suffolk, and noted Long bridge. [Paper torn, text missing] very well that he is Major was named Declom [paper torn, text missing, but probably a reference to Christian Charles de Klauman], little Frenchman, but he has no recollection of my Colonel being with them. Baron Steuben was now & then where they were and he supposed that the detachment was under his command. It was during this tour that there was a skirmish with the enemy at the Long bridge but his company did not participate in it. When it was believed the British were about to land there the Company was ordered there but did not arrive until after the engagement was over. At the end of three months he was discharged at Babs old field. He should have added that on the first tour he was discharged at Mackey's Mill. He does not recollect ever to have received any written discharge, own their, or other occasions when dismissed from the service. He has an indistinct recollection of having had a paper which he supposes was a discharge and giving him afterwards, at Sussex Court House, but if he is correct in this, it has been long since lost as he cannot now find any such paper as a discharge. That within a few days after his return home from this second discharge Captain [word written over and illegible] Powell's Company to which he regularly belonged having [indecipherable word] the time immediately preceding as a volunteer was by regular routine of draft called into service and he again went in that, as a private, as on all other occasions – the Lieutenant was James Gee – the Ensign was Ned Powell, a brother of the Captain – The company was again marched to Babs old field but remained there but a short time, & were moved to Smithfield – thence to [word written over and indecipherable] – thence to Portsmouth & again to Smithfield. The enemy during the time were up & down the River & in various waters & frequently committing depredations in the neighborhood of Norfolk, which occasioned the company to be called to Portsmouth – the Major this time was named Newell, the troops were commanded by Baron Steuben – he does not that & the Colonel of his Regiment – he served on this occasion three months and was discharged at Smithfield. In March 1781 he was drafted to a term of duty which he performed under Captain John Massenburg – the company rendezvoused at Surry old Court House, from thence they marched to Prince George Court House – and to Petersburg – & some time at Chesterfield Court House & the coal pits which one in the latter County which County he joins Petersburg. His Colonel on that occasion was named Meriwether & there was a Major forepart of the time to his Regiment named Duval who however was very [indecipherable word] & left the service soon after either dismissed or resigned he does not know which Baron Steuben was again in command. During this tour it was that Phillips [William Phillips] & Arnold [Benedict Arnold] came to Petersburg & the engagement occurred there in which this declarant was. His Captain Massenburg there had both of his thighs broken by a ball in the action. He served on this occasion also three months and was discharged at Ware bottom Church [Ware Bottom church], in Chesterfield County. That in the fall of 1781 he served his only remaining tour as a volunteer under Captain James Vaughan (not under Massenburg twice as was by mistake written in the [indecipherable word]) who raised a company in Sussex – That Thomas Wilkerson was his Lieutenant, & he thinks his Ensign (who came from Greensville) was named Sills. That on this occasion the Company marched direct to James town where they lay most of the time – & from thence to York where it took part in the siege. That Colonel Gaskins again commanded his Regiment & the same Major Declacum again held command in it. He recollects Generals Lafayette & Washington there most distinctly. He was present at the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], & afterwards was detailed to guard some of the prisoners to Fredericksburg under the immediate orders of Baron Steuben who went with the party to Fredericksburg where the militia were all discharged, those of the prisoners who did not take the

oath (as many did) and being there left under the exclusive care of the [paper torn and text missing]. He cannot recollect how long he served on [paper torn and text missing] – but recollects that his full three months tour was not entirely out, but he is confident that he was in service at least two months & a half. He states he was not engaged in any civil pursuit during these periods. He finds from a detail of each tour separately that in all he served fourteen months and three weeks. The Declarant deems it due to himself to explain that his former affidavit stating that he had, in all, served not less than eleven months was made under these circumstances – he was asked how long he had served in all & admonished by General Brodnax who prepared the affidavit for him, as he did this, to be sure to the within the time, & in a hasty general recollection – without waiting to count up the period of each tour, & and them together he said not less than eleven months knowing that to be within bounds, & wishing if he dared at all that it should be on the safe side. But in setting out each tour separately, as in this affidavit his memory has become refreshed & he affirms its truth before his great Creator.

Sworn to & subscribed the 25th day of November 1833.

S/ Nathaniel Raney, X his mark

Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the Virginia militia.]