

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Mastin Durham S1197

fn38NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/16/10

[Punctuation added] [Difficult handwriting to decipher—  
transcription errors likely -- “?” indicates guesses]

[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 Wayne

On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August A.D.1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Court of the County aforesaid now sitting Mastin Durham a resident citizen of the United States in the County of Wayne & State of Kentucky aged Seventy seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following amended 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 & served as herein stated. He was born in the County of Hanover Virginia in the year 1755. In the year 1779 he removed to the County of Wilkes in the year State of North Carolina & was in the same year enrolled in the Company of North Carolina Militia in said Wilkes County commanded by Captain John Keys & when the Company was classed off he thinks he fell in the 4th Division & in the latter part of the Summer of the same year there was a call made for one man out of each class or division of the Company to volunteer or Draft into the Continental service for Twelve months. The class to which this Declarant belonged held a certain John Higgins to go & served the tour & they gave him One hundred and thirty Dollars. This declarant's part of which he paid in a [illegible words, could be “horse beast”, meaning, if correct, that this applicant provided Higgins with a horse]. In the Fall of the same year, he removed to what was called the Coffey Settlement in the said County of Wilkes on the head of the Adkin [sic, Yadkin] River & was soon enrolled in the Company of militia commanded by Captain John Benton [? could be Barton][Moss interprets this name as “Burton”] and in the month of June or about the first of July in the year 1780 he was drafted into the service of the United States in the militia of North Carolina in the Fort Company commanded by Captain John Benton, Elijah J. Isaacks being Colonel & marched down to Frohawk's [sic, Frohock's] mill and there joined the Main Army under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. He then marched with the Army to the mouth of Rocky River at one Colston's [?] where they joined the Army under General Gates [Horatio Gates]. There then came an express for thirty men to be sent back to surprise the Tories in Wilkes and Burke Counties North Carolina & he with 25 or 30 others were sent back under Lieutenant Archer Allan. He then joined the horse Company under Captain Moses Guest, Thomas Ferguson Lieutenant & Benjamin Guest Ensign. He went with said horse

Company from place to place wherever & whenever called upon. The number of routes against the Tories he cannot now distinctly recollect. He marched from the head of the Yadkin down to the Shallow Ford once to Moravian Town twice to Hamilton's [? Hamblin's] Old Store, once to Long Thumbed Williams' under Colonel Benjamin Hearndon, once to Major Lewis' on the Yadkin once to Roan [?] River, once to Major Givins' down the Yadkin, once to Thomas Baines'[?], several times to Morgan Town [sic, Morganton] in the County of Burke, to Cryder's [also spelled Crider's] Fort to Machew Shump's [?], & the rich lands on the head of the Yadkin & to many other places about & through the Counties of Wilkes and Burke & sometime in the month of September 1780 Col. Benjamin Cleveland of the Militia of North Carolina gathered his forces together at Cryder's Fort & there this Deponent joined him & marched for King's Mountain he thinks they joined Col. William Campbell's Regiment at a place called Cowpens. He then marched with the Army through a part of South Carolina down to the South of Green River & there he lost his horse & was turned into the Footmen under the command of Colonel Richard Allan & marched with them until they came to a place called Colston's old field & they there met the horsemen with prisoners. He joined his old company again and marched up the Country to Colonel Walker's in Rutherford County where the officers held a Court martial. They then marched about 3 miles to a Widow Biggerstaff's where they hanged nine of the Leaders of the Tories. They then started with the rest of them to Moravian Town. He then marched about from one place to another until after February 1781 & then started for Guilford. After the battle at that place he returned home. By reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he is unable to state precisely the length of his whole service but according to the best of his recollection it was about 18 months. He obtained no written discharges & has no evidence by which he can prove his service except the testimony of Reuben Coffey<sup>1</sup> & Levi Coffey<sup>2</sup> by whom he believes he can prove that he was engaged in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War. He resided in North Carolina until after the War & has been living in Wayne County Kentucky ever since the year 1811 – he has an old Bible in which is written the time of his birth. He is known to the following persons who reside in his neighborhood & who will testify as to his character for veracity, viz.: Abel Shrewsberry, Rodger Oatts [?][several other illegible names].

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Mastin Durham

[Francis P. Kline, minister, and Rodes Garth testify to declarant's veracity &c.]

State of Kentucky who Wayne County

On this 24th day of November 1834 personally appeared in open court before the court of Wayne County now sitting Mastin Durham a resident of said County of Wayne and State aforesaid aged 79 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

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<sup>1</sup> [Reuben Coffey S46916](#)

<sup>2</sup> This may be a mistaken reference to Eli Coffey FPA R2098 who claimed service in Wilkes County, NC under some of the same officers named by this claimant.

following named officers and served as herein stated. He states that he was drafted into the service of the United States in the year 1780 and served three months in Captain John Burton's company the Regiment was commanded by Elisha Isaacs during which three months he was constantly employed in active service against the Tories. He further states that immediately after the expiration of the said three months service he volunteered into the service as a private in Captain Moses Guess's company of mounted men for six months and was kept in constant & active service during the whole six months at the end of said six months he states that he again volunteered into the service for three months longer and continued in the service till the end of the war during which service he was marched to join General Gates but did not reach him till he was defeated. We then marched against the Tories and were continually kept marching and counter marching protecting the Whigs from the depredations which the Tories & British were constantly making upon them all along the frontier settlements. He further states that when he made out his former declaration old age and the length of time that had elapsed since the revolutionary war made him cautious in his statements as to the length of time he had been in service and only made application for six months service since then he has conversed with old Mr. Rueben Coffee who served with him in the war of the revolution and who is now drawing a pension for 12 months service in said war and whose deposition or affidavit is hereunto annexed proving the length of the service of this applicant in which he hopes will be considered satisfactory to the department that his claim to an additional allowance is just -- he receives now but for six months service when he is justly entitled to pay for 12 months he wishes therefore that this may be made a part of his former declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed. S/ Mastin Durham  
[Able Shrewsberry and Francis P. Stone gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The Deposition of Ruban Coffey taken at the house of said Coffee in Wayne County Kentucky on the 28th day of October 1834 agreeable to the request of said Masten Durham the Deponent being of Lawful age and first duly sworn Deposeth and saith as follows to wit I was well acquainted with Mastin Durham in time of the old revolution war and to the best of my recollection he served as a private 12 months or more in the Company of Captain John Barton and Captain Moses Gess Captains we were together and several Campaigns against the enemy and further this Deponent saith not subscribed Reuben Coffey. That the foregoing Deposition of Ruban Coffey was this day taken subscribed and sworn to by the said Ruban Coffey before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for Wayne County at the time and place above mentioned in the caption given under my hand this 28th day of October 1834

S/ Jos. Oatts, JP

State of Kentucky Wayne County Court December 24th 1838

Mastin Durham's application for additional compensation, upon an amended Declaration as follows, The said Mastin Durham appeared in open court now sitting who is a resident of said County of Wayne and State aforesaid aged or born in my 84th year who being first duly sworn, according to law doth on his oath make the following additional Declaration in order to increase his compensation under 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 states that he was drafted in the service of the United States in the year 1780 in Wilkes County North Carolina and served three months in Captain John Barton's company, the Regiment commanded by Elisha Isaacs, during which service he was constantly employed in active Service against the Tories. He further states that immediately after the Expiration of the said three months service, the Tories and British mustered so strong & were robbing and killing all over that part of the Country. That he again volunteered in the service of the United States as a mounted man and a private in Captain Moses Guesses company of mounted men for another tour of three months we first rendezvoused at Criders old Fort in Burke County and marched under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and marched towards King's Mountain following the trail of the British and Tories and after the Battle of King's Mountain & Ferguson and the Tories were defeated, we marched back with the prisoners to old Colonel Walker's, thence we marched to the widow Bickerstaff's, where we held a court-martial, & I think thirty-nine of the Tories were condemned to be hung -- but only nine of them were hung at that time. About this time I won't volunteering for said tour of three months was out and the British & Tories pressing so hard in every quarter, we were again applied to and requested to volunteer another tour of three months, without returning home, and all or nearly all the same company volunteered again under Captain Moses Guess with myself for another tour of three months.

We then marched with and under our officers to the Moravian towns with all the prisoners, where we met with another body of troops, who took them and as I understood marched off towards the Barracks in Virginia. But we were ordered back towards Hamlin's old store and marched there, thence to Major Lewis, thence to Major Guinn's, thence into Richland's & many other places through Burke, Wilkes & Ashe counties pursuing the Tories & retaking the horses, Negroes and property that they robbed from the Whigs. In about this time the country being all in arms, robbing and killing. Our tour was again out, of said three months. And we were again appealed to as patriots and friends to our country not to desert our post, at this trying period. And I again volunteered for another tour of three months under the said Captain Moses Guest as a private with the greater part of my company. In about which time Colonel or General Wallace [sic, Cornwallis] passing with his Army, we pursued him to the Battle of Guilford. And after, I my Captain & Company was ordered speedily back to suppress the Tories who were gathering in force in the Counties of Wilkes & Burke and old Quaker Creek & the Catawba [River], here we were pursuing the Tories till our time or tour of said three months was again out in the Tories being pretty much alarmed retired. We returned home in or about the surrender of Yorktown, very weak and exhausted men all verbally discharged by our Captain and officers & we were glad of it. But had no written discharges as I know of. In my Declaration first made out by object principally was to state how long I was in service not so much as to give the tours, in particular I then stated. I was out 12 months or more but agreeably to my best recollection this statement I have endeavored to make more intelligible & correct to suit the several tours. I am old, feeble and very disabled.

qI am now a pensioner for six months for which I am thankful, But sincerely think I'll to receive additional pension of six months more, or in all 12 months which I respectfully

claim of the War department -- of the United States, This my additional statement to  
obtain it.  
qSworn to and subscribed.

S/ Mastin Durham