

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Kenaz Ralls S18561

f32VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/4/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia, County of Fauquier, to wit:

On this 29th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Fauquier County now sitting Kenaz Ralls a resident of the said County aged sixty-nine years and more, 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 following Officers to serve as herein stated. About the first of March 1781 two companies of militia were called out from Prince William County under Captains Brent and Warren, he was hired by Benjamin Harrison of Prince William County to take place of his overseer Walter Stallard who belonged to Captain Warren's Company – that Mr. Harrison let him a horse and he overtook the Companies low Fredericksburg Captain Warren received him as a substitute for Stallard, and Stallard returned home with Mr. Harrison's horse, when he overtook the troops, there were 4 or 5 Companies of Militia, and Captain Coleman (longing as he believes to the Continental Army) with two pieces of brass cannon. In Warren's Company, Charles Ewell was Lieutenant and Charles Atwell Ensign. He does not remember any Officer higher than Captain. They marched through New Kent and King William to Williamsburg and quartered in the Governor's Palace. While in Williamsburg, he saw Colonel Churchill [Armistead Churchill] of Fauquier, who had command over Militia. After having been in Williamsburg about a week, intelligence arrived that the British were in James River, in the militia were marched to the halfway house between Hampton and Williamsburg, and remained a few days – thence they returned to Williamsburg, and quartered in the barracks at the lower end of the Town. They remained there a few days, until they were driven out by the British Army. The 1st night the militia retreated six miles, and the next day took up the line of march for Richmond. When they arrived at Richmond, they quartered at the rope walks, at the lower end of the Town. They remained there for about two weeks. The British appearing in the River the Baggage Wagons under charge of Sergeant White with a [paper damaged and word missing] of whom I was one retired to the high grounds above Richmond. From this position, this affiant saw the British march into Manchester and burn the warehouses [April 30, 1781]. A short time after this he returned home with Sergeant White & two others having been out more than three months. He does not remember to have received any discharge.

2nd Tour. In the latter part of July 1781, he marched from Falmouth in a company of militia from Stafford County, commanded by Captain William Harding, Joseph Combs Lieutenant (the Ensign forgotten) several other companies assembled at, and marched for the same place William Philips and James Gerrard were the Colonels, \_\_\_ Gregg was Major and William Ballard the

adjutant. The whole proceeded to the lower part of the State, and when the siege of York commence, the company of Captain Harding was marched and posted on a rising ground before the Town. Captain Harding returned home, and the company was commanded by William Ballard the adjutant. He worked in the entrenchments about two reliefs – were appointed serjeant, and with twenty men and a Lieutenant or Ensign was sent on a relief party. We marched to an Oak growth, and procured fascines [?] and Cassons [?] for the use of the besieging Army. He was taken sick in days before the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. Before he recovered the Army marched off. He was not mustered afterwards. His term of service expired before his recovery. He did not get a discharge, and does not believe that an officer was left to do that duty. He was absent from home in the second tour considerably more than three months. He remembers Major Southall of the regular Army and General Lincoln. After returning from York – town he thinks in the month of December 1781 – he met the third division of the British Prisoners near Falmouth in Stafford County, Virginia, on their way to Winchester Barracks. They numbered about one hundred guarded by a Lieutenant and about thirty men. He then took the place of Thomas Weston of the guard, and assisted in conducting those prisoners through Fauquier County to the barracks near Winchester, and was absent from home in that service from 18 to 19 days. He was born and raised in Stafford [County] – lived there when he first entered the Army as a substitute and when he was drafted under Captain Harding – that he now lives in the Fauquier County within 7 miles of where he was raised – that he has no documentary evidence of his service & that Henry McInteer & William Starke of Stafford County know of part of his service in the revolutionary Army. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

S/ Kenaz Ralls<sup>1</sup>

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
State of Virginia, Fauquier County to which:

Henry McInteer of lawful age made oath before me a Justice of the Peace, in and for the said County, that he is well acquainted with Kenaz Ralls of the County of Fauquier, who is about to apply to the War Department of the United States for a pension, that he has known the said Ralls upwards of fifty years, and believes him to be about seventy years of age, that the said Rawls went with him the said McInteer to the siege of York, during the Revolutionary War. We went from Stafford County under command of Captain William Harding, Regiment being under the command of Colonel William Phillips, when we arrived at York, we were ordered to stack our arms and sit down. In a little [paper damaged and one or more words obliterated] enemy commenced a fire of cannon at us, one ball struck a stack of arms to my right, and took off a man's thigh, stuck a bayonet through another about the groin, and a ramrod flew out and struck another across the forehead and wounded him. That it was understood and believed that the said Rawls had been in service before.

S/ Henry McInteer

Sworn to and subscribed the 16th day of February 1833 before me

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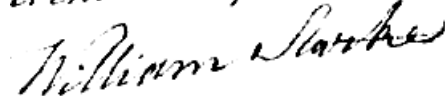
<sup>1</sup> The signature is in the handwriting of the scribe and does not appear to me to be the actual signature of the veteran. The file, however, contains several letters which appear to be in the handwriting of the veteran and which are signed by him

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenaz Ralls". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right. There are some faint, illegible marks below the main signature.

S/ Joseph Thompson, JP

The Affidavit of Captain William Starke<sup>2</sup> taken as aforesaid, who being first duly sworn, saith I am a resident of Stafford County, Virginia, in the 71st year of my age. I was a Soldier in the Revolutionary Army, and served a tour of duty at the siege of York, in company with Kenaz Ralls who is about applying for a pension, we both marched from Stafford County under him and of Captain William Harding and Lieutenant Joseph Combs (the other officers names not being recollected) those officers after getting to York, resigned their commissions, and there we were placed under command of Captain William Ballard, in Colonel Dark's Regiment, Major Welch and Major Southall commanding the two Battalions, the Brigade, I think was commanded by General Stephens [Edward Stevens]. I have heard the said Ralls speak of his having served a tour of duty previously at Williamsburg, and I have no reason to doubt it, as he understood discipline much better than I did. I suppose the said Ralls to be 69 years of age at least, as we were students at the same school, previous to the Revolutionary War and further this affiant sayeth not.

S/ William Starke

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Starke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ William Starke".

Sworn and subscribed before us this 15th of March 1833

S/ Wm Thompson,

S/ Jos. Thompson

S/ S. F. Chapman

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$22 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 18 days in the Virginia militia.]

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<sup>2</sup> [William Starke R10069](#)