

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Fields William

VA

S30416

f41VA

Transcription by FA Weyler

07Jul2013

Edited by Will Graves in italics

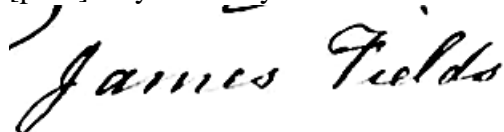
[p2] Kentucky certificate 32.939

William Fields Dec^d

Private under Captain Bailey of Virginia 2 yrs

Issued 12Nov1851 @ \$80/annum

[p3-4] Boyle County KY 02Jul1851 James Field, heirs deposition



[p6]

State of Kentucky

Mercer County

On this 22nd day of May 18334 personally before me Michael G Yonce, a justice of the peace and one of the judges of the Mercer County Court in the state of Kentucky, a resident of the s^d county of Mercer and state of Kentucky, aged eighty seven 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under the following named officers and served as herein stated. His services were principally under Col George Rogers Clark. He served tours under the following named captains to wit: Capt Linn [*perhaps William Lynn*], Capt Bailey [[John Baley \(Baily\) R19354](#)], Capt Kirkham [*probably Samuel Kirkham*], Capt Helms [*probably Leonard Helm*], Capt Humble [*perhaps Michael Humble*], and one tour under Col Logan [*Benjamin Logan*]. He states that it is impossible for him to state precisely the length of all all [sic] his tours. He was almost constantly in the service for five years under some one of the officers above named. He knows that he was in actual service upwards of three years. He marched under Col Clark and crossed the Ohio agst the Indians and burnt several of their towns. He has no recollection of being drafted but three times which tours he served at McMurtry's Station he knows that he was forted at Harrodsburg for nearly three years sometimes scouting. The balance he served as a volunteer. He further states that he was born in Ireland, came to America when small & sixty years ago came to this western country where he has resided ever since. He has no recollections of his discharges and has no documentary evidence of his service, but confirmed good proof that they were rendered. He 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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

William Fields x his mark

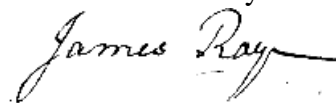
[p8] county certification by Michael G Yonce, judge

The deposition of General James Ray taken at his own house on the 12th day of June 1834 to be read before the Secretary of War in behalf of William Fields. This deponent being seventy three years of age and first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath state that he became acquainted with the s^d William Fields who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declarations, in the year 1775 and has been intimately acquainted with him since. They served together in two campaigns under Colonel George Rogers Clarke one in the year 1782, the date of the other not distinctly recollected. This deponent well knows that when the war first commenced in the year 1777 the said William Fields was one of the first to turn out and a better soldier was not to be found. They were forted up together at Harrods Town from 1777 to 1780 except when out to scout and some times engaged as spies. He recollects the officers named by Fields in his declaration and of his service under them. He knows that Fields was in actual and hard service for upwards of three years. He thinks Fields is about the age he presents himself to be.

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He farther states that from his knowledge of the services of the said William Fields, and services rendered too, in the most difficult times, he is as much entitled to a pension as any soldier of the Revolution. He farther states that Fields came to this country before the deponent and he distinctly recollects of being in the Fort at Harrodstown, now Harrodsburg when Clarke came and took command of them. He well recollects that guards were kept at McMurty's Station and that some times they were drafted. He has no doubt but Fields served some the three tours at McMurty's Station as he states in in his declarations. He states that said William Fields is a man of as much veracity as any other and farther sayeth not.

s/ James Ray¹



[certification by Isaac Pearson JPMC

Thomas Allison, clerk

M.G.Yonce JP

[p11] notation that William Fields died 05Mar1835.

[p20-22] a letter of appeal from George L Waugh (who was a major from Kentucky in the war of 1812) to the pension office on 22May1835. This and other notes (i.e. p16) suggest that an attorney Trabue of Louisville and/or the postal service were perhaps involved in the loss of \$320 awarded to William Fields but never delivered. The pension office file is absent the correspondence, notes, and documents to explain the loss. The heirs were paid two decades late with a note that three brothers were the only survivors though other evidence shows there were other heirs. Hopefully the family properly divided the proceeds.

[Note: From Will Graves: I thought Mr. Waugh's letter was worthy of transcription because it highlights a recurring issue revolving around Commissioner J. L. Edwards' determination that "Indian fighters" were not among those intended by Congress to be benefitted by the Pension Act

¹ [James Ray S31314](#)

of 1832. The language of the Act expressly entitled "Indian Spies" to its benefits. Edwards was splitting hairs.]

[p 20]

Harrodsburg Kentucky May 22, 1835

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 22nd of March last upon the subject of old William Fields claim for a pension has been received in which you state that a volunteer against the Indians on the Western Frontiers of Kentucky cannot be recognized as being of that character provided for by the Act of June the 7th 1832. – I must confess, that I cannot understand how it has so happened that Fields' claim should be rejected, when hundreds of other claims of a similar character have been allowed for like services. Fields was one of the first in this country to engage in the War previous to 1783 and continued through the whole of it, is true the greater portion of his services performed by him was in the character of a volunteer under Colonel George R Clark, Captain John Bailey & other Regular officers of Virginia. You will also find that he was drafted to serve 2 or 3 Tours of duty at McMurtry's Station, and that he was actually forted up in the station at this place for several months. If I am not mistaken General James Ray whose Deposition was taken in Fields' case, received a pension of upwards of \$300 – and admits the fact that no man performed more faithful service than William Fields. He Fields was one of the first to engage in the war and never gave it up until it ended. I can procure were no additional testimony in his case beyond what General Ray has stated in his Deposition there are several who will concur fully in the statements made by him as to Fields' services. Fields is wealthy and needs no pension, but that does not interfere with the Justness of his claim, he was with Clark in all his Campaigns against the Indians except the time when General Hambleton [Henry Hamilton] was taken at Vincennes. As to the right that those old man have to pensions who fought the Indians in this Country previous to '83, – I have nothing to say, but if old William Fields is not entitled there is not one of that class that now draw that is. – You will please again review his declaration in connection with the Deposition of General Ray who is now deceased, and make such allowance as the nature of the case requires. For General Ray's credibility I will refer you to the Honorable Amos Kendall and the late Post Master William T Barry. – I can offered no additional facts as to Field ' Services. I will state that in making out Fields' declaration I may have relied too much upon his notoriety as being one of the first to engage in war with the Indians in the first settlements here.

I am Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
S/ Geo. L. Waugh

Hon: J. L. Edwards
Commissioner of Pensions