

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Copland (Copeland) S30966

fn19SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/21/06 rev'd 6/3/11 & 11/17/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Logan County

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of Logan aforesaid now sitting John Copeland a resident of said County of Logan in the State of Kentucky aged Seventy four years last May, 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<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

This deponent saith he was born in Ireland in the month of May in the year 1760. He has now no Written record of his age, but he derives the information of the time of his birth from his father's family record. At the age of fourteen years he emigrated with his father to North America & settled in York County in the then Colony of South Carolina. This declarant saith that at the age of Sixteen years he turned out as a volunteer in the Service of the United States, in the War of the revolution, against the British and Indians who were at that time causing an offensive operation against the South. He further saith that the company in which he volunteered was raised in Said County of York in South Carolina & was composed in part of drafts & volunteers. The officers who commanded said Company were Robert McAfee Captain and John Jenkins Lieutenant form York County. We were ordered to rendezvous at Prince's Fort on the Enoree [River] where we joined the command of General Williams or Williamson [Andrew Williamson], he cannot now recollect which. Col. Thomas Neal [Thomas Neel] from said York County accompanied us and was commandant of the regiment to which he belonged. From Prince's Fort after a few days the Army under the Command of Said Genl. Williams or Williamson marched to what were called the Middle Settlements of the Cherokee Nation of Indians, who had abandoned their Settlement, we pursued them to what was called the Valley town which they had also abandoned. We destroyed their houses and corn & still pursued them to the distant mountains, where we came up with them. Genl. Wade Hampton who was then Captain was sent by the Genl. to reconnoiter, who returned with information after having first received the fire of the Indians who had in large numbers possessed themselves of an advantageous position in the Mountains. A battle ensued in which the Indians were routed; a number were killed on both sides, among the killed on the part of the whites was a Captain Ross from the said County of York, a valuable officer, who mistook the Savage who killed him with a stroke of his gun for a Catawba Indian, a party of whom went out with the whites on this Campaign. He notwithstanding killed the Indian after having received from him a mortal wound. After this battle we were marched back to the Settlements and discharged at the House of the Genl. who commanded us, but did not receive a written

discharge. The Company was raised for a three months tour, but we were in the Service on said Campaign a few days over the time for which he engaged—say three months & a few days—the number not now recollected. It would not be in the power [of] this declarant at this remote period to State from his memory the date of the year in which he served this tour of duty, but one circumstance enables him to arrive at the date. He was just about sixteen years old when he turned out as before stated & being born in the year 1760, makes the date 1776. Not many months after being discharged as aforesaid the Said Tribe of Indians again committed depredations on the Okono [sic, Oconee] River on the frontiers of Georgia & South Carolina. He was drafted in said County of York for another tour of duty of three months & the officers who commanded the first Company to which he belonged were again placed in command of said Company, but Col. Bratton [William Bratton] from York was the Commandant of the Regiment on this tour instead of Col. Neal who commanded on the former. We rendezvoused at the residence of the said Genl. Williamson or Williams in Spartanburg County or District which adjoined York or is separated from it by Broad River. The army marched hence to the frontier of Georgia. On the Okono River where the Indians done much mischief they had however divided out into small parties before we reached the neighborhood. We consequently never encountered them in a general engagement. We were stationed for about two months at a fort about twenty miles from the Okono called McFadden's [fort]. From this fort a detachment of about 300 men was sent to the border of North Carolina, Rutherford County your declarant was of the number, Col. Bratton was commandant of said detachment, not long after our return to the main Army at the said Mr. McFadden's Fort the time of our enlistment having expired we were discharged, but no written discharge was granted us. We were enlisted for a three months tour of duty in this case also.

This declarant further saith that the year following his discharge from said tour of duty & thinks in the early part of it he was again called into the Service of the United States, at this time he thinks the British had possession of Charlestown. He volunteered for a three months tour in said County of York in a Company of Militia commanded by Capt. Jenkins a brother to his lieutenant in the other two campaigns, and one Rigdon was Lieutenant in said Company. We rendezvoused at the Court House of the County adjoining York on the other side of Broad River below. One Col. Hill was commandant of the regiment to which he was attached. Col. Hill was also from York—from Hence we marched & joined Genl. Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] on the Congaree River, the British & Tories not very far from this were stationed at a place called Friday's Fort. After joining Genl. Sumter, we marched directly to said Fort & besieged it. We erected a breast Work or fortification under a cannonade from the fort & placed their field pieces upon it. After several days' cannonade from both sides, without much effect, Genl. Sumter ordered a detachment of his army to decoy the British & Tories from the fort in which they succeeded., after receiving the fire of the enemy they retreated to a Woods in which the Genl. and the remainder of the Army were in waiting to receive them, the enemy was driven back to the Fort with considerable loss and the day following the Fort Surrendered to Genl. Sumter. The prisoners were sent to Camden to be exchanged. A part of the army accompanied the prisoners as aforesaid to Camden, the regiment to which this declarant belonged was Ordered to Orangeburg & there remained until the term of his service expired. From hence the detachment returned to the Congaree [River] & there received their discharge. This declarant here received a written discharge for a tour of duty for three months from Genl. Lacy [sic, Lacey], but it lost or misplaced so that he cannot now avail himself of it.

Not very long after his return home to said York County he was again drafted into the service of the United States in a Company of militia, a part only of the said Company was raised in York County & said Lieutenant Rigdon had the command until we rendezvoused in the adjoining County where the Company was filled & we were then placed under the command of Capt. Loving, Genl. Lacy [Edward Lacey] here had the Command of the whole. From hence Genl. Lacey's command was ordered by Genl. Sumter up the Country to watch the motions of Genl. Furguson [sic, Patrick Ferguson] who was at the head of a large body of Tories & British in Rutherford County in North Carolina. We joined the forces under Col. Shelby, Campbell &c. Ferguson had about this time taken his stand upon the memorable King's Mountain. About the third day after we joined Shelby we attacked the British on [the] mountain & beat them as is known to all who know any thing about the events of the Revolution. Genl. Lacey's command suffered severely in the battle & your declarant did his part upon the Occasion as far as he was able. He was of the detachment who remained to build Barracks to shelter the poor creatures who were Wounded of whom there were not a few. He accompanied the detachment who conducted the prisoners to Guilford in North Carolina. He thinks one Col. Dixon had the command [of] the American forces at Guilford at the time the prisoners were delivered there. From there we returned to Gilbert [Town] in Rutherford County North Carolina, his term of enlistment having expired before he reached there. Here he again received a written discharge from Genl. Lacey for another three months tour of duty after a most eventful Campaign, which is also lost.

In three months after his return home to the best of his recollection he again entered into the service of the United States as a Substitute for One Robert Green in a company of Militia drafted in said County of York; said Captain Loving had the command of the said Company. We were marched to Orangeburg and stationed there to guard certain prisoners confined there. Among them was one Col. More [sic, John Moore],<sup>1</sup> a Tory who had commanded the Tory troops at Ramsour's Mills. He was one of a detachment who guarded said Moore & others to the place of trial execution about thirty miles off. Genl. Sumter presided at this trial & said Moore was condemned & executed at a Cross roads not far from the place of his trial. One James Fosedain [?] was condemned at the same time and was under the gallows but received a pardon just at the moment when he expected to be turned off. He was stationed at said Orangeburg during the [?] of the time of his Service except when he was out in the neighborhood on Scouting parties. He served this campaign as a Lieutenant & was elected to that office after substituting for said Green. He was Lieutenant of the guard as before stated which conducted said Moore & others to the place of their trial & execution. After having served out his term of Service, he was again discharged by a written discharge from one Col. Branham [Thomas Brandon] who had the command at Orangeburg. The whole term of his service amounting to one year and three months.

---

<sup>1</sup> Lieut. Col. John Moore, from Lincoln County, Royal North Carolina Regiment. Moore was a lieutenant colonel in the Royal North Carolina Regiment, and was second in charge of the loyalists at Kettle Creek in February 1779. Not long after he took command, Cornwallis sent Moore out from Charlestown to help organize the loyalists in his home area of Tryon (also Lincoln) County in southwestern North Carolina. Unfortunately, he either misunderstood or disobeyed his orders and called out his men prematurely. As a result, he was completely defeated at Ramsour's Mill in June 1780, and the loyalist cause in that region, as a result, utterly vanquished. Moore managed to escape to Camden with about 30 men. Although court-martialed, he was acquitted, probably so as not to offend or frighten other potential loyalist leaders in North Carolina. Afterward he is said to have been with Francis Waters' Tories at Hammond's Store in Dec. 1780. In an article for the "Political Magazine," (of London, April 1783), a N.C. Loyalist reported that Wade Hampton made him prisoner near the Wateree, and had him hanged. William Thomas Sherman. *Calendar and Record of the Revolutionary War in the South: 1780-1781*, (n. p., Seventh Edition, 2010), <http://www.angelfire.com/d20/htfh> (viewed 6/3/2011) 74.

He knows of no living witness by whom he can prove any part of his said Service.  
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 whatever.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Copland

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Copland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Copland".

[Daniel Clayton, a clergyman, and William Tremble gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 15 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]