

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Lorance (Lowrance) S31217

f27NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Owen: Sct.

On this 3rd day of December personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of Owen County Court now sitting William Lorance a resident of the County of Owen and Commonwealth of Kentucky, age 69 years last August, 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 named officers and served as herein stated – that is to Say – he volunteered as a private Soldier in a Company commanded by Captain William Armstrong upon a six months Tour in the Spring he thinks May 1779 and accordingly entered the service as such. The name of his lieutenant was William Grimes. He states that he was a resident of Rowan County State of North Carolina at the time he entered the service – that his Company rendezvoused at Salisbury in the said County and was attached to a Regiment under the command of Col. Alexander Mayban [Alexander Mebane] – that said Regiment soon after his said Company joined it marched towards Deep River for the purpose of keeping down the Tories in that quarter who were making some efforts to embody themselves – that whilst in that section of the country they came upon a number of Tories who were collecting and embodying themselves under a man by the name of Fannon [sic, David Fanning] at a place called the haw fields on said River and after a skirmish with them they dispersed leaving their leader and several of their Companions dead¹ on the ground. After scouring the country for some time, upon Deep River & its waters, they marched to the Catawba River in the vicinity of the Shallow Ford at which place this declarant with his company and the principal portion of his said Regiment remained for some time and then went into Tory settlements on Cross Creek and continued shifting their quarters from one place to another for the purpose of protecting the Whigs and keeping the Tories in awe and subjection until the termination of his said Tour when he was verbally discharged by his officers and returned to his home in Rowan County having fully served out his said six months Tour.

He further states and declares that very soon after the termination of his said Tour he again became a volunteer Soldier in a company commanded by Captain William Armstrong, Lieutenant Abel Armstrong – Ensign Richard Grimes, and entered the service as a private accordingly he thinks in October 1779 – This company he states was called minute men and he volunteered for a 12 months service in it & did serve accordingly. That soon after it was raised it rendezvoused together with a full Regiment of militia at Salisbury in North Carolina. That Col. Matthew Locke [sic, Francis Locke?] took command of them – that from Salisbury said Regiment marched towards the River Catawba, that they reached said River some distance below

1 David Fanning was not killed or captured in this skirmish.

Beatys ferry and understanding that a body of Tories were collecting some distance above the point at which they struck the River a detachment consisting of three or four companies of which this declarant was one under the command of Colonel Campbell was dispatched against them and directed its marched up the River, and a few miles above Beatys ferry at a Mill called Ramsour's Mill came upon them and after a small skirmish [Battle of Ramseur's Mill, June 20, 1780]² in which William Armstrong this declarant's Captain was killed, the Tories were dispersed. He states that upon the death of Captain William Armstrong Abel Armstrong who had been the lieutenant of said Company took the command. He further states that he was with the said Company in active service during the winter and Spring 1779 & '80 in keeping down the Tories who abounded in that part of the North Carolina, and extending relief and protection to those who were well affected to the American Cause, that their service was in almost Constant requisition – that upon one occasion they went to the forks of the Yadkin [River] and dispersed a parcel of Tories who were collecting. He further declares that during the Summer of the year 1780 his Company usually acted separately from any other and was often called out for the purpose of keeping the Tories in subjection who were frequently committing outrages and depredations upon the Whigs; and that he was always with his said Company upon its excursions. He further states that his said Company in the latter part of the Summer or first of the fall was attached to a Regiment under the command of Colonel Caldwell and that he marched with it to the Yadkin and joined the Army under the Command of General Smallwood [William Smallwood]. That his said Company himself with it frequently composed a portion of detachments which were sent from the Army for the purpose of harassing the British and keeping down the Tories. General Gates [Horatio Gates] was the Commander in Chief of the American Army in that quarter of the country and this declarant understood that he was displaced that fall, and that General Greene [Nathanael Greene] took the Command. He states that he continued in the Army & served therein till the expiration of his said Term of service & was verbally discharged by his officers and returned home to Rowan County.

He further states that after his return home there was again a great call for men and he volunteered as a private Soldier in a company commanded by Abel Armstrong about the Christmas (1780) following his return from the service as above mentioned, upon a tour of six months & served therein accordingly. Richard Grimes was the Lieutenant and some time in January following (1781) as well as he now recollects, he joined General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] with his said Company, who was then stationed on the Pacolet River, and that his said Company was placed under the Command of Major McDowell [Joseph McDowell]. That soon after he joined the Army under General Morgan it crossed the Pacolet and marched towards Broad River and came to a halt at a place called the Cowpens, at which place the British under the command of Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] came up with the Army and made an attack and a battle was then fought [Battle of the Cowpens, January 17, 1781].³ This declarant was in the Battle under the command of Major McDowell. Captain Abel Armstrong was still the commander of the Company to which this declarant belonged. He states that he was in the front line in the beginning of the Action and upon the first fire it fell back upon the second line which this declarant thinks was commanded by Colonel Pickens [Andrew Pickens]. In this battle a number of prisoners were taken and this declarant with the militia and volunteers that remained in the Army were detached with the prisoners thence over Broad River and the Catawba into Virginia – General Morgan followed on and Cornwallis pursued to the Catawba. After the Army crossed the Catawba it encamped and rested for several days until General Greene came and took the Command in person. Soon after General Greene arrived Lord Cornwallis forced a passage

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

over the Catawba at Cowan's Ford as well as I remember which was defended by General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] & this declarant was one of the detachment under his command & a skirmish [Cowan's Ford, February one, 1781]⁴ took place in which General Davidson was killed and the detachment dispersed. This declarant and a portion of the Company to which he belonged including his Captain fell in with the Main body of the Army which took the route to Salisbury – thence to the Trading Ford of the Yadkin and Cornwallis kept in pursuit. After the Army crossed the Yadkin it marched to Guilford Courthouse where it was joined by General Huger [Isaac Huger] and his division. The whole Army then continued its retreat towards Virginia and was pursued by Cornwallis and was at last compelled to cross the River Dan which was effected at Boyd's & Irwin's ferries which were within 3 or 4 miles of each other and this declarant was one of the men who were detailed to bring down boats for the Army to cross over in. The Army remained in the borders of the State of Virginia only a short time till it received considerable reinforcements and then it was again crossed the River Dan and followed Cornwallis who was retiring through the country towards Hillsboro. The Tories about this time were very bad and this declarant & his Company were frequently detailed to harass them together with parties of the British. The Main body of the Army continued its march and crossed the Haw River near its source & stationed itself on Troublesome Creek – General Greene however kept the Army in almost constant motion not suffering it to encamp on the same ground two nights in succession. Whilst the Army was in this situation Cornwallis made an attack on a portion of it which was stationed on Reedy Fork under Colonel Campbell and Colonel Lee and the Americans were forced to retreat with the loss of some killed and General Green retired with the whole Army to the iron works – General Greene was almost daily receiving reinforcements and finally about the middle of March 1781 he marched the whole Army to Guilford Court house. On the day before the Battle of Guilford [battle fought on March 15, 1781], in the evening this declarant and the Company to which he belonged was detached with a parcel of the Baggage wagons belonging to the Army across a creek which lay about 2 miles off and they were directed after they crossed to take up the bridge and await further orders. This service they performed and the engagement resulting in the defeat of the American Army, they were directed to scatter the wagons in the Woods, take out the horses and join the Army, which they did do on the day after the battle at Reedy fork Creek and soon afterwards the Army retreated to the iron works on Troublesome Creek which place had been appointed for a rendezvous of the Army in case of defeat. Some days after the battle Lord Cornwallis commenced a retreat and General Greene with the Army engaged in the pursuit of him and finally at Ramsey's Mills on Deep River gave it up and came to a halt where it remained for several days. From this point this declarant was one of a party detached upon Cross Creek for the purpose of quieting the disturbances there and continued in that vicinity till near the expiration of his tour of service before which time they marched on the Catawba about 10 miles from the Island Ford and there had a little remcountre [? encounter?] with a party of Tories under command of Jack Brown. In this little scrape this declarant received a slight bayonet wound in his right knee. After the expiration of this Tour which was the last performed by this declarant he received a discharge from his officers which he has since lost and returned to his home in Rowan County.

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 in the Union, and that he has no documentary evidence of his services but that he can prove most of them by William Knight⁵ who served a part of the time with him and whose [page ends]

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

⁵ Probably [William Knight S31800](#)

S/ William Lorance

Captain Robert Tories were propounded by the Court to William Lorance the above named applicant.

1st When and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born on the 21st of August 1763 in the County of Rowan and State of North Carolina according to the best information which I have on the subject.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have a record of my age in an old Book which formerly belonged to my father and which I now have in my possession

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: I live with my father and the County of Rowan and State of North Carolina and continued to reside in said County for a number of years after the revolution and finally moved to Kentucky and to the County of Owen where I now reside.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer: I volunteered in each tour of service which I performed.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: At various times during my service I recollect to have seen General Gates, Smallwood, Huger, Greene & Morgan and Rutherford & Stephens & Davidson who was killed at Cowan's ferry, also Colonels Mayban, Caldwell, Craig, Pickens, Campbell, Lee, Washington, Williams and Howard. I first entered the service as a volunteer in the company of Captain William Armstrong, in the spring of the year 1779 upon a tour of six months – during this tour I was engaged in an encounter with the Tories on Deep River under a man by the name of Fanning at the haw fields. I continued in the service until the expiration of said Tour received a verbal discharge & returned home. I afterwards volunteered in a company commanded by the same man upon a 12 months tour – during this tour I was in another engagement with the Tories at Ramsour's Mills on the Catawba in which Captain Armstrong was killed and Abel Armstrong the lieutenant of the company took the command. I continued in the service & was frequently in detachments against the Tories during the said 12 months tour and at its termination was verbally discharged and returned home. Afterwards about Christmas 1780 or early in January 1781 I again volunteered upon a six months tour in Captain Abel Armstrong's company and joined General Morgan and was with him at the battle of the Cowpens in which action I was personally engaged. I was engaged soon afterwards in a skirmish with the British at Cowans Ford on the Catawba in which General Davidson was killed. I was also with the Army on the day before the battle of Guilford. Some time after the battle of Guilford I was in a party which had a skirmish with the Tories who were under the Command of one Jack Brown near the Island Ford on the Catawba. In this skirmish I received a slight wound in the right knee. I continued in the service during my tour & was discharged in writing by my officers but have since lost it.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: I never received but one discharge in writing and that for the last tour of six months which was signed by my officers and which I have since lost.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer: I am acquainted with Farmer Rus & Sherwood Maddox who are residents of my

neighborhood and to whom I am known.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

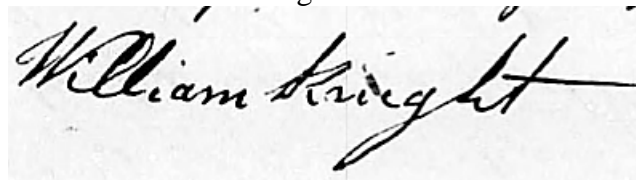
S/ William Lorange, X his mark

[Farmer Rus and Sherwood Maddox gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The Affidavit of William Knight taken on the 27th day of September 1832 to be laid before the Secretary of the War department of the United States of America to be used on a half of William Lorange an applicant to be placed on the pension Roll of the United States as a revolutionary soldier. This affiant being of lawful age and first duly cautioned, charged & sworn deposes and saith that he this affiant was a revolutionary soldier that he served as such nine months in the militia and then enlisted as a regular soldier during the War, that he served under William Jamison a Captain in the militia & in the regular service under Captain Litle [sic, Lytle] & Captain Washington – that he was at the Battle of Guilford and Cowpens and at the siege of York where Cornwallis surrendered, that he is not on any pension roll as such – that he knows William Lorange of Owen County who is about to make his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7th 1832 – That he was well acquainted with him before the revolutionary war and that he saw him in the service of the United States at a battle fought with the Tories on Deep River, the Tories were commanded by a man by name of Fannon [sic, David Fanning] as well as affiant recollects – And the American troops were commanded by Colonel Alexander Mayban. This affiant was present at the engagement and said Lorange as well as himself were engaged in the action. This affiant also further states that he saw the said Lorange at the Battle of the Cowpens in which Action the said Lorange and himself were both engaged. This affiant further states that at the Battle of Guilford the said Lorange was in the service though he does not think he was present and engaged in the Battle but he saw him on the day after said Battle with the Army – that he had thought that Lorange was engaged in the Battle but that when he first saw him after the Battle they conversed together & Lorange told him that he was not in the engagement but had been detailed to take care of the wagons. After the Battle of Guilford this affiant was marched on towards York and he thinks that Lorange amongst others was detached to Cross Creek and from what he afterwards learned went afterward on the borders of North & South Carolina and probably into South Carolina to assist in keeping down the Tories. This Affiant is certain that he himself knew of the said Lorange serving 18 months before the affiant marched to York, and that after this affiant marched to York he understood that Lorange still continued in the service how long he does not know. This affiant states that Lorange lived in Rowan County North Carolina when he entered the service. He further states that he has known the said Lorange ever since the revolutionary War. He further states that in the evening before the battle of Guilford William Lorange the same man above named in company with three other soldiers brought in five prisoners whom they had taken. The circumstance was a little remarkable is the reason this affiant supposes of his recollecting it so distinctly at so great a length of time.

S/ William Knight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Knight". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

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The Affidavit of William Lorange taken at the house of the subscribing Justice in Owen County Kentucky on the 31st day of May 1833. This affiant states that he is the identical William

Lorance who made his declaration before the Owen County Court on the 3rd day of December 1832. That said declaration was made by him in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress of 7th June 1832. He now states that his services during the revolutionary war are therein correctly set forth according to his best recollection except only the time of his active service as a minute man under Captain William Armstrong. And he now states by way of Amendment to his said declaration in that particular that in October 1779 he volunteered as a private soldier in the said Company of minute men under Captain Armstrong as in his said declaration is alleged – that the other company officers are correctly named therein and he forthwith entered the service accordingly and served during his said engagement has in his said declaration is set forth. He states that it is certain that a portion of the time of his said engagement for one year as a minute man was spent out of actual service but that portion was inconsiderable. He states that although it was called a company of minute men, it was with but little intermission in actual active service during the year – that he is confident and absolutely certain from his present best recollection that he was in actual active service with said company (within the period of his said engagement) not less than 10 months. He cannot state the particulars of his service during his said engagement with more certainty than he has already in his said declaration – that from the time of his entering thereupon in October 1779 up to June 1780 he does not recollect of his being out of actual active service more than about two weeks which interval or respite took place soon after the affair at Ramsour's Mill – that from June 1780 till he joined the Regiment of Colonel Caldwell under General Smallwood which was the latter part of August or first of September following the intermissions in his actual service were frequent but of short duration and from the time he joined General Smallwood his service was continued & uninterrupted until his term expired in October. He states that he served in the revolution six months under Captain W. Armstrong as a volunteer soldier upon a tour of that length – 6 months as a volunteer soldier under Captain Abel Armstrong – and not less according to his present best recollection than 10 months as a minute man under Captains William & Abel Armstrong as stated in his original and this is Amended declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Lorance, X his mark

S/ N. M. Bacon, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$73.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 22 months in the North Carolina militia.]