

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

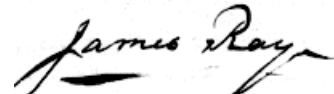
Pension application of James Ray S31314
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn51VA
10/2/11

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

State of Kentucky Mercer County viz.: This day General James Ray a resident of County came into open court and made oath to the following statement

For the purpose of obtaining a pension under the late act of Congress providing for the revolutionary officers and soldiers approved the 7th day of June 1832. I am now in the 72nd year of my age and was in the country now called Kentucky in the year 1775 and was one among the first adventurers in the Western country and in the month of March 1777 I was appointed an Indian spy by General George Rodgers Clarke [George Rogers Clark] and served in that capacity and was engaged in active service performing tours of expresses¹ [?] for more than two years during which time I was engaged in many skirmishes with the enemy and often in pursuit when [? indecipherable word, possibly "instigated"²] to attack the Frontiers by the British. I further state that in the year 1780 in September 1780 I was a Lieutenant in Captain Gatliff's [Charles Gatliff's] company as a guard and Indian spy on the frontiers and performed a three months tour of militia service of the State of Virginia and was stationed at Bryant's Station [Bryan Station], and during part of the time I performed the duty of a Captain as Captain Gatliff returned home during this time we found our own Provision, and again in the year 1782 I performed another Tour of duty of three months as a Captain under Colonel Ben Logan [Benjamin Logan] on General G. R. Clarke's expedition against the northern Indians on the Miami [River] in the Virginia militia. I also performed a three month tour of duty as a spy with Colonel John Bowman commanding the Virginia State line troops in the Western country and marched against the northern Indians at old Chilicothe. In all of which expeditions and services as an Indian spy I perform the duty of a soldier and officer faithfully and continued to hold my commission as Captain for more than two years having been a Lieutenant for one-year besides my services as Indian spy previous to that time as I have stated. My commission and appointments as well as my discharges I believe I have long since mislaid or they are worn out by keeping them among my papers. I further state that I am not now & never have been a pensioner of this State and I further release all claim to any other pension. Witness my hand this 7th of July 1832



¹ *expresses*

² *instigated*

[fn p. 9]

This day I John Gritton Senior³ made oath in open court that I am well acquainted with General James Gray and have known him since I came to the country in the year 1780 in April and I know that he was engaged as a spy and was in active service as such and as an officer & in 1782 he was my Captain with General Clarke against the Indian towns on the Miami and I know that he acted as a faithful officer to the close of the war and peace was made in 1783, but which did not give peace to the Western Country, and said Ray was engaged in nearly every campaign until the peace with the Indians after General Wayne's Battle in the year 1794. I further state that General James Ray is a Respectable Citizen and a man of [written over and illegible but I believe it reads "credibility in"] whom I have implicit confidence and from everything I heard after I came to Kentucky I have no doubt that his statement as to his services as a spy in 1777 and including the year 1779 are true as I have heard him speak of his services as well as those who were with him at the time soon after I came to the country. Witness my hand this 7th day of July [illegible year]

S/ John Gritton, X his mark

This day Thomas Moore Senior⁴ came into open court & made oath that he is well acquainted with General James Ray and my first acquaintance commenced in the year 1780, he was then and active spy and in 1782 he was a Captain own General G. R. Clarke's expedition against the Indians and continued as such to the close of the war, I further state that I have heard read the statements of Mr. John Gritton and I can confirm the same as far as he has spoken in relation to General Ray's services as it was a matter of General notoriety when I first came to the country that he was one of the most active spies and officers in the service of the Virginia militia, witness my hand this 7th of July 1832.



[fn p. 10]

This day James Hutton Senior⁵ now in the 72nd year of his age states that he was an Ensign with General James Ray when he was a Captain in the Virginia militia in his services as stated by John Gritton, and I came to Kentucky in March 1780 and I was then informed that he had been an Indian spy for several years before and he was always among the first man called for as a spy or officer when any danger [one or more indecipherable words,⁶ could be "then attended"] and from my knowledge of the said Ray which was from March 1780 to this day I have no doubt of his services as stated by him previous to my coming to the country as the statement I then heard is the same that the said Ray has now stated. Witness my hand this 12th day of July 1832

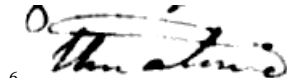
S/ James Hutton



³ FPA S13203 [Pennsylvania]

⁴ FPA W564

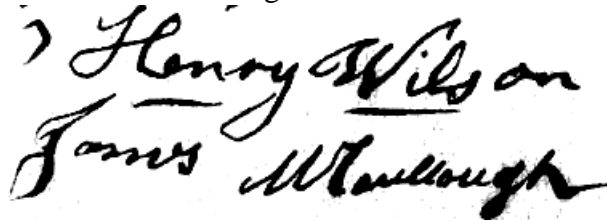
⁵ FPA S31147



⁶

[fn p. 13]

Mercer County viz.: On this 17th day of August 1832 personally appeared Henry Wilson⁷ and James McCulloch⁸ of Montgomery County, before me a Justice of the peace and one of the Judges of the Mercer County court and being first sworn according to law doth on their oaths declare that we are both well acquainted with General James Ray, the said McCulloch since the spring of the year 1778 and the said Wilson in the year 1779 which years we respectively came to Kentucky – and the said Ray was an active Indian spy engaged in constant service at Harrodsburg and its vicinity and had been employed in that capacity for several years before as we were then informed. The said McCulloch was with said Ray in a tour of duty with Colonel Bowman on his campaign in 1779 and the said Wilson saw him a few days after his return, we also know that said Ray was a Lieutenant in command at Bryant's Station in the year 1780 as we were both there on a tour of duty as a guard and continued in that station until after the Battle of the Blue Licks in August 1782 and in Clarke's campaign in the fall after (say September & October). The said Ray was a Captain and commanded a company on said expedition against the Indian towns on the big Miami. We also know that said Ray was not only an active Indian spy but a faithful officer after his appointment in which he was always for most and ready to pursued the enemy or meet him in the various conflicts we were engaged. We further know that said Ray is a respectable Citizen. Witness our hands this 17th of August 1832

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'Henry Wilson' and the bottom signature is 'James McCulloch'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

[fn p 33]

State of Kentucky Mercer County viz.: On this 24th day of November 1832 General James Ray personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath to the following additional declaration for the purpose of obtaining a reconsideration of his claim for a pension under the act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832 viz. I James Ray a resident citizen of said County believing that the extent of my services during the revolutionary war had been misapprehended, I most respectfully request the honorable Secretary of War to reconsider my claim upon the following statement of facts which he believes to have been proven by the evidence of James McCulloch & Henry Wilson, whose affidavits have heretofore been enclosed to the War Department. In the latter part of August or first of September 1780 I was appointed and commissioned a Lieutenant in Captain Gatliff's company and marched to Bryant's Station in a tour of three months as a guard at that point where I perform the duty of a Captain as Captain Gatliff returned home and as soon as my tour expired I was stationed at McGary's [McAfee's?] Station (now in Mercer County) where I was on constant duty in commanding scouting parties and keeping garrison until September 1782 when I was commissioned a Captain and marched upon Colonel or General Clarke's campaign against the Indians at Piqua on the Big Miami where I performed three months service as Captain, I do further solemnly declare that the situation of our forts and stations were subject to continual annoyance That almost every week or two we had to pursue parties of Indians who were killing the Inhabitants or stealing their horses. The

⁷ FPA S30795 [transcribed and posted in this database 10/2/11]

⁸ Sic, [James McCoullough \(McCollock\) S30570](#)

Inhabitants in Kentucky were in stations and forts until after Clarke's Campaign in the fall 1782 and as a Lieutenant I was on constant duty at McGary's [McAfee's?] station in [two indecipherable words⁹] during the whole time from the fall 1780 until I was commissioned Captain after the Battle of the Blue Licks from which time I was on constant duty until the close of the revolutionary war in 1783. That the inhabitants of Kentucky did not leave their forts until after the close of the war. That the expeditions and campaigns I stated in my former declaration were only such as were ordered out by the state, but the duty of keeping garrison and commanding scouting parties he did not set forth, but now declares were such that he was upon constant duty as an officer and he solemnly declares that he was ever ready and always marched upon every alarm or call for men which were so numerous that it was impossible I can specify every scout I was ordered out, but I solemnly aver that I was on constant duty from the time I was commissioned until the war ended either in garrison or in following the Indians who had either attacked the station or carried off horses – and I was not employed or engaged in any other duty except to be always on the watch at the station where I was placed & during the period I have named nearly every adjacent Station was attacked by the Indians and horses were stolen so that my duty in one Fort was as constant and frequently as done [??], when marching beyond the borders of the State, under these considerations I most respectfully solicits a reconsideration of my case and refer to the evidence heretofore sent on. Witness my hand this 24th of November 1832
S/ James Ray

[Note: Facts in file: veteran died May 9, 1835 survived by the following children:
Catherine Keller of Mercer County, Kentucky in 1852
William Ray, referred to in 1852 as deceased
Jesse Ray, referred to in 1852 as deceased
Polly Duncan
John Ray
Jane Wilson, referred to in 1852 as deceased
Patsy Alfred or Alford
Jefferson Ray
Harvey Ray
Lucinda Frost, referred to in 1852 as deceased.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$340 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, full one-year & 9 months service as a Lieutenant and 3 months service as a Captain in the Virginia militia.]