

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Knight S31800

Transcribed by Will Graves

f37NC¹

3/31/08; rev'd 4/27/16

[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.]

[p 4]

State of Kentucky, Henry County: SS

On this 20th day of December 1833 personally appeared before me David Adams a Justice of the peace in and for Henry County and one of the Judges of the County Court for the aforesaid County of Henry William Knight aged 74 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the seventh of June 1832.

This declarant states that he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated under the following named officers – he states that he was living in Orange County State of North Carolina and some time in fall of the year about the first of September as well as he now remembers a draft was ordered in said County of Orange when one George Carrenton [sic? Carrington?] was drafted for a tour of three months he being unwilling to leave home proposed to this declarant to substitute in his place and serve out his time of draft accordingly for a certain consideration – he states that he entered himself a substitute for said Carrenton and was presented to Captain William Jammison [sic, William Jamieson] and was examined by him and received in the place of said George Carrenton. Captain Jamison's Company rendezvoused at Hillsborough in said County of Orange and was attached to Colonel Alexander Mabin's [sic, Alexander Mebane]² was marched to a place on Haw River called the high rock ford he states that when they were at high rock ford that the Tories under the command of one Fanning [David Fanning] had broke in upon the Whigs and were doing many outrageous acts near Hillsboro when Colonel Mebane ordered his men back to Hillsborough a distance of about 25 miles as well as he now remembers on reaching Hillsboro Fanning's party of Tories had taken Governor Burk [sic, Thomas Burke] [Battle of Hillsborough, September 12, 1781]³ and some of the Whigs and destroyed much of the property of the Whigs in that place. The Regiment was then ordered on a forced march after Fanning's party and overtook them at Deep River where a spirited engagement took place which resulted in the defeat of Fanning's party [veteran may be referring to the Battle of Lindley's Mill, September 13, 1781]⁴ – he states that he then marched back to Hillsborough with the balance of Colonel Mebane's Regiment where he remained until three

¹ For some reason, this file is not included in the Ancestry.com version of the pension files.

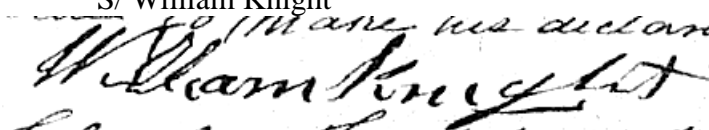
² possibly a mistake an attempt to identify Lt. Col. Robert Mebane. Gen. Alexander Mebane was serving as Commissary General of all the NC militia at the time veteran says he was in service while Lt. Col. Robert Mebane, formerly a Continental officer, was serving as Lt. Col. of the Orange County militia at the action at Lindley's Mill in September 1781 and commanded the Regiment that included the company under Captain William Jamieson.

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hillsborough.html

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

months for which he substituted expired when he was discharged by his said Captain Jamison about the first of December 1780⁵ – he further states that upon being discharged that there was a recruiting officer in Hillsborough by the name of Lytle -- he states that under Captain Lytle he enlisted for a tour of 18 months – after having enlisted he states that he was transferred from Captain Lytle to Captain Goodwin [Christopher Goodwin] and was attached to General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Regiment this Regiment was then ordered to unite with General Morgan's [Daniel Morgan's] Regiment which Junction was formed near the Cowpens. The Army then under the command of General Morgan was then marched and stationed at the Cowpens and early in the morning of the 17 of January 1781 – a severe engagement took place [Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781]⁶ -- the attack was brought on by an attack from Tarleton's [Banastre Tarleton's] Regiment which lasted he thinks about an hour during this hard fought battle he states that the loss of the enemy was considerable having about 300 killed and many were taken prisoners. After the battle he states that he was then marched under General Huger to Salisbury where the Army remained but a short time they were then marched near to Guilford Court house and after remaining there a few days the British Army under Cornwallis made an attack upon the American Army then under the command of General Greene and after a spirited resistance [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781]⁷ on the part of the American Army General Greene had to retreat with considerable loss of men he states that after the battle they retreated to Speedwell's Iron Works [also known as Troublesome Iron Works] a distance of about 12 miles here the Regiment was stationed for a short period after leaving this encampment they proceeded to Campain [sic, Camden] where a severe engagement⁸ took place and in this battle the American Army had to retreat he states that they then proceeded to the Eutaw Springs⁹ the Army under the command of General Greene was brought in battle array and after a severely fought battle the British Army was defeated; General Greene then ordered his Regiment to march to a town called Charlotte where he remained till his time of enlistment expired – when he was discharged in writing which discharge he states he has since lost: he states that he has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no living witness by whom he can prove 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. He states that by reason of bodily infirmity he is unable to appear in open Court to make his declaration.

S/ William Knight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Knight". Above the signature, there is a faint line of text that appears to be "I do make this declaration".

Sworn to and subscribed before me this date and year aforesaid.

S/ David Adams, JP for Henry County

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Interrogatories put by the Magistrate

5 Applicant is clearly mistaken as to the timing of this tour. The events he describes: i.e., the capture of Gov. Burke at Hillsborough by David Fanning occurred in September 1781, not 1780 as stated by applicant. The Battle of Lindley's Mill which applicant appears to also be referring occurred on September 13, 1781.

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

7 http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

8 Applicant appears to be referring to the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill or the Second Battle of Camden fought April 25, 1781. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hobkirks_hill.html

9 The Battle of Eutaw Springs was fought September 8, 1781. Since the Tory David Fanning took Hillsborough, NC and captured Governor Thomas Burke on September 12, 1781, it is impossible to reconcile applicant's claim to have been at both the Battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781 and at the Battle of Lindley's Mill on September 13, 1781. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

Ques: Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Orange County North Carolina 1759

Ques: Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have had, but since the death of wife the book which contained my age is misplaced.

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

Ans: I was living in Orange County North Carolina when I entered the service. I then moved into Wilkes County N. C. and in 1803 I moved to Henry County Kentucky where I now live.

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

Ans: When I first entered the Service, I substituted for George Carrenton, the second time I enlisted for a tour of 18 months.

Ques: 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.

Ans: In my first tour Col. Mebane, Captain McFarlin [sic, McFarland?], Captain Jamison and Major Tinnan [sic, Tinnen] in my second tour were Captain Goodwin, Col. Pickens, General Greene, General Morgan, Colonel William Washington and the general circumstances are mostly in the declaration in addition I can say I suffered exceedingly for provisions and clothing.

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

Ans: I did receive a discharge given by Captain Jamison for my substitute tour the second tour I was discharged by General Green in Charlotte City South Carolina [sic, North Carolina], this discharge I have lost many years since.

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.

Ans: I will name Mr. Stephen Shaw and Mr. William Branham.

[Stephen Shaw and William Branham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Kentucky, Henry County: Sct.

I William Lorance¹⁰ aged 71 years do hereby Certify that I was a soldier of the revolution and my services was principally performed in the South and while I was Stationed in Hillsboro in Orange County State of North Carolina that William Knight who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration did Enlist in December 1780 under one litle [sic, Lytle] who was a recruiting officer at that place for 18 months and was put into one Captain Goodwin's Company and although my Services was principally in the militia I was personally well acquainted with the said William Knight he belonged to a Regiment that was sometimes commanded by General Greene and sometimes by General Huger. I frequently saw the said William Knight. I was with him in some Battles at the Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse and others and I was in Charlotte in the month of June 1782 when he was legally discharged.

S/ Wm Lorance



¹⁰ sic, [William Lorance \(Lowrance\) S31217](#)

Subscribed and Sworn to this 3 May 1834 before me S/ Price Nuttall, JP

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State of Kentucky Henry County Sct.

I Thomas Smith¹¹ aged 72 years do hereby Certify that I was a Soldier of the revolution and my services was principally performed in the South and when I entered the service in Virginia and joined General Greene near the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin I there met with William Knight who has subscribed sworn to the foregoing declaration I had been personally well acquainted with him before and he belonged to Captain Goodwin's Company I was with him a while though not very long but continued with him until after the battle at Guilford and there the said knight did act the part of a brave soldier and I understood and I believe it was the general understanding that he was enlisted for Eighteen months and I saw him frequently afterwards and always understood he had served out his Eighteen months when I saw him in the Service it was in the spring of 1781. Given under my hand this 26th day of May 1834

S/ Thomas Smith, X his mark

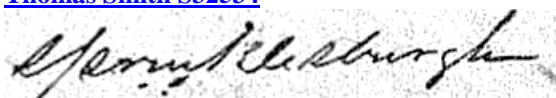
[p 18: On April 11, 1835, William Knight applied to have his pension payments transferred to Dearborn County, Indiana where he had recently moved because it was more convenient than living in Kentucky. In this applicant he says he was in Capt. Jamison's Company under Col. Arch Lytle.]

[p 20: On May 21, 1838 in Warrick County Indiana, the veteran applied once again to have his pension benefit transferred, this time to the Indiana agency. He gave his reason for moving that his wife had died whilst he lived in Kentucky and after her death he relied on his son James Knight who used to reside at Aurora Indiana but now in the neighborhood of Sprinklesburgh[?] ¹².]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the North Carolina Continental line.]

¹¹ [Thomas Smith S32534](#)

¹²

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sprinklesburgh", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.