

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Cotton S32187

fn19NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/9/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Indiana, Franklin County: SS

On this 27th day of November in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before me the undersigned the sole judge of the Franklin County probate Court in and for the said County of Franklin and State of Indiana William Cotton a resident of said County of Franklin aged eighty-four years the 28th [date written over and unclear ?] day of February next, who by reason of extreme bodily infirmity is unable to appear in open Court for the purpose of making this his application for a Pension, who having 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. He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated –

In the month of March 1780 he volunteered and served for six months under General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], Colonel Martin (Major forgotten) Captain John Leek the rest of the company officers he has forgotten he left the service in the month of September same year after serving faithfully for six months where he was discharged by Colonel Martin. He then afterwards in the month of November same year volunteered [one or more indecipherable words] under General Rutherford, Colonel Martin, Major Canada, Captain John Leek (Lieutenant forgotten) and Ensign Walker. He left the service this second tour in the month of May 1781 after first being duly discharged by Colonel Martin. This term added to his former made the term of one year. This second tour he was in the Battle of Guilford Court-house in North Carolina. He then in the month of June 1781 volunteered a third time, and went under General Sumter, Colonel Martin, Major Canada, Captain John Leek and Ensign Walker. He left the service the 1st of January 1782 after being first duly discharged by Colonel Martin. This tour added to his former tours makes the term of eighteen months for which he claims a pension. At the time he entered the service at all of these several times he resided in Guilford County North Carolina and continued to reside there until the War was over. During his first Tour he was in the Battle of Cross Creek in North Carolina the Americans defeated the British and in his second tour was in the battle of Guilford Court house North Carolina. During his first tour he marched from Dan River to Guilford Court house from thence to Sandy River, from thence to Cross Creek where the engagement took place, from thence he marched back to Guilford Courthouse where he remained stationed as a guard until he was discharged – in September 1780. During his

second tour he marched from Dan River to Guilford Court-house from thence to Blue Creek from thence to the waters of Pedee from thence (after remaining there for some time) he marched to the cross roads from thence to Guilford Courthouse where he was engaged in the Battle, from thence to the cross roads where he was discharged. During his third and last tour he marched against the Cherokee Indians and passed across the Mayho [sic,?] from thence to French Broad from thence to Nolichucky from thence to the Cherokee towns for many miles in the wilderness where he remained for about three months when he was marched home to Guilford County by the way of the waters of Pedee, from thence across the River Dan from thence he marched to Guilford Court-house where he was discharged. Applicant thinks it his duty to state to the Department that the marches may not be exactly correct but in consequence of his extreme bodily infirmity and consequent mental imbecility he cannot be more exact. During all of his tours there were many Regular soldiers with the troops where he served but he cannot remember the particular regiments or companies to which they belong there were also other militia regiments and companies then the one to which he belonged. He remembers General Greene, General Sumter, General Rutherford, Colonel Martin and some others. He has no written or documentary Evidence and he knows of no person living who can testify to his 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Cotton, X his mark

[Lewis Deweise, a clergyman, and Charles VanCamp gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Answers to the seven Questions prescribed by the War Department – Answer to 1st Question. I was born in Virginia on the waters of Smith River the 28th day of February 1750. Answer to 2nd question. I have a record of my age furnished me by my sister it is set down in my Bible. Answer to 3rd Question. When I was called into the service all of the three tours I resided in Guilford County North Carolina and continued to reside there until the war was over. I continued to reside in Guilford County for many years after the close of the war. I then removed to Greenville County South Carolina where I remained for many years also. I then removed to Franklin County Indiana where I now reside. Answer to 4th Question. All three of my tours I was a volunteer. Answer to 5th Question General Nathanael Greene, General Sumpter, General Rutherford, and Colonel Martin were with the troops where I served, and some others whose names I cannot recollect. There were Regular Troops and Militia Companies and regiments with the troops also, but I cannot state the names of their Regiments – the general circumstances of my service are stated within. Answer to 6th Question. I never received a written discharge. I was told that it was unnecessary. I was verbally discharged by my officers. Answer to 7th Question. Inquire of Charles Vancamp of Henry Eads of William Tyner of Henry Case and all who know me.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Cotton, X his mark

[The veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, full one-year and six months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]