

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Goodnight S38743

f33NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/18/08 rev'd 9/9/15

[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.]

State of Tennessee, Giles County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions May term 1827

On the 26th day of May 1827 personally appeared in open Court being a court of record, for the County of Giles aforesaid, Henry Goodnight resident in said County, aged Sixty Eight years & now in his sixty-ninth year, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820, that he the said Henry Goodnight, enlisted for the term of two years in the year (the day of the month & year not recollected) in the State of North Carolina, in the Company commanded by Captain Martin Fifer [Martin Phifer] and that said Company marched from North Carolina to Baltimore in Maryland, and returned from Maryland to Georgia, but was not attached to any particular Regiment, that belonged to the line of the State of North Carolina, on the Continental Establishment: that he continued to serve in said Corps until the end of the aforesaid term for which, he had enlisted as aforesaid, when he was discharged from the said Service, in the State of North Carolina: that he was in no Considerable battle, but in several skirmishes with the Cherokee Indians and Tories, in the back parts of the State of Georgia, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said Service, Except the subjoined affidavit of Captain Wood & that he stands in need of his Country for Support. And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or other wise disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

S/ Henry Goodnight, X his mark

Sworn to & declared in open Court, the same being a Court of record the 26th day of May 1827

S/ German Lester, Clerk

Schedule of the property and Effects of the above named declarant

I Henry Goodnight the above named declarant and by profession a cultivator of the Soil, but owing to my advanced age, and being much afflicted in my hands, legs and feet with Rheumatic pains, and unable to support myself, by my own labor I have a Wife, living with me aged seventy-two years named Elizabeth, who is unable to contribute to my support, my wife and myself live with our son David aged twenty-four years, we having no house of our own. I own the following property, viz., four head of horned Cattle, viz., one cow & calf, one ox four years old, one Steer one year old worth in the whole

11 Head of hogs viz., one sow, nine pigs & a Barrow
3 Head of Sheep, viz., two old ones & a lamb

\$34

14

5

S/ Henry Goodnight, X his mark

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State of Tennessee, Giles County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions May term 1827

This day personally appeared in open Court, being a court of record Matthew Wood¹ of said County, who being first duly sworn, according to law, upon oath says, that during the Revolutionary War, he commanded a Company of Continental troops against the Enemy Great Britain and that he is now a pensioner on the Roll of the United States that he is well acquainted with the within named declarant Henry Goodnight of the County of Giles aforesaid; And knew him during the Revolutionary War: That he knows said Henry Goodnight served as a private Soldier, upon the Continental Establishment in the revolutionary War, against the Common Enemy, Great Britain, in the company of Cavalry Commanded by Captain Martin Fifer, in the line of North Carolina: This affiant knew said declarant in service, they both, having served in the same line & knew him to be the same: He does not recollect how long said declarant served as aforesaid, but feels very Confident, that it was at least two years.

S/ Matt. Wood²Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the 26th day of May 1827.

S/ German Lester, Clerk

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State of Tennessee, Giles County: Court of Pleas Quarter Sessions November Term 1827

On the 29th day of November 1827, Personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record, by the laws of the State, for the County of Giles and State aforesaid, Henry Goodnight, resident in said County, aged 69 years, since last August, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth make the following and further declaration, in addition to the one heretofore made on the 26th May 1827 and here annexed in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of 18th March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820: He the said Henry Good night, enlisted for the term of two years in the Summer or fall of the year 1776 in the State of North Carolina, in the Horse Company commanded by Captain Martin Fifer he was not attached to any Regiment or command that he knows of, save that of his Captain unless the orders were received from Colonel Washington [William Washington] and Lea [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee]: His Company marched from North Carolina to Baltimore in the State of Maryland, and was then ordered after the first winter to Georgia; his Company belonged to the line of the State of North Carolina, on the Continental Establishment: that he continued to serve in said Corps, until the full end of two years from his said Enlistment, when he was discharged from the Service in the State of North Carolina; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, except the present; that his name is not on the Roll of any State, except North Carolina; & that the following all the reasons for not making Earlier application for a pension that is, that he is an illiterate man and has never known until lately that provisions were made for the indigent soldiers of the revolution; that he has resided in the Backwoods for upwards of 30 years. And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or other wise disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any

¹ [Matthew Wood S39135](#)

² No the actual signature of the affiant but see below

income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

Schedule of the Estate and property of declarant

No land, as I have owned none for 18 or 20 years.

Three head of Horned Cattle, a Cow, a calf and two year old steer next spring, worth \$15.00

One Sow & Nine shoats worth 12.00

Two Beds & furniture worth 30.00

\$57.00

The above declarant states, that he is by profession a cultivator of the Soil, and that because of his advanced age and a long and Continued disease of Rheumatism in his hands, feet and legs, that he is unable to support himself by his own labor. He further says, that he has a Wife, living with him, between 72 & 73 years old named Elizabeth, who is unable, from her age to contribute to the support of the family, David, a son living with declarant between 24 & 25 years old. Declarant further states that since 18th March 1818, there have been no material alterations in his property. As he did not then own any other property than a part set forth, in the above Schedule, except some livestock, which he has consumed, in his family in the way of support, which said Stock, so consumed, cannot at this time be particularly described, he has made sale of none, and that since his declaration, heretofore made and here annexed the four year old steer and a barrow therein enumerated has died, and he has no property sold for him, by Execution or otherwise, since 18th March 1818.

S/ Henry Goodnight, X his mark

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State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that it appears from the Journal of the proceedings of the Provincial Congress of this State, which met in Halifax on the fourth day of April 1776, that Martin Pfifer was appointed Captain of the second Company of Light horse, ordered to be raised for the Continental service, and that it appears said appointment was made on the 16th day of April 1776.

Given under my hand this 30th day of March 1829.

S/ Wm Hill

Captain Martin Pfifer obtained a Warrant for twenty-five months service.

S/ Wm Hill, Secry.

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State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office 30th March 1829

Sir

I have carefully searched for, but find nothing of the name of Henry Goodnight, or Henry Good Knight, on the Warrant book or musterrolls of this office. There are no rolls of the Light horse companies raised by this State in the Revolutionary war, deposited in this Office.

Very respectfully your Obedient Servant

S/ Wm Hill

J. L. Edwards, Comm. of Pensions

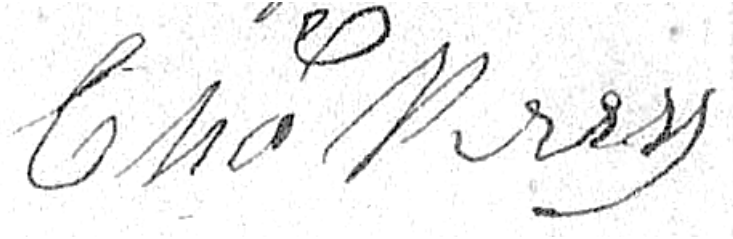
[p 30]

State of Tennessee, Giles County

This day Personally appeared before N. G. Nye An Acting Justice of the Peace for said County, Charles Reese, aged 73 years and made Oath that he has been well acquainted with Henry Goodnight for about sixty years that after they both became subject to do military duty mustered in the Same Company & that he knows that he is the Identical person who enlisted under Captain Phifer of Mecklenburg County and State of North Carolina in the revolutionary War, that said Goodnight was

Sometimes absent & said to be in the Service, and that he also knows when said Goodnight returned home.

S/ Charles Reese

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

Sworn to & subscribed before me this second day of December 1829

S/ N. G. Nye, JP

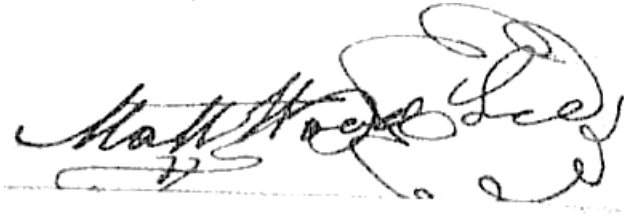
[p 22]

State of Tennessee Giles County: This day personally appeared before me Peter Swanson one of the acting Justices of said County Captain Matthew Wood and after being duly sworn saith on his oath that he was acquainted with Henry Goodnight a private in Captain Martin Fiffer's Company of Dragoons and that the said Henry Goodnight was in actual service about two years in said Fiffer's Company of the North Carolina Line in the war with Great Britain.

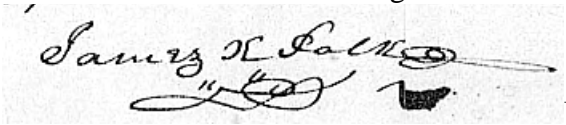
Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 28 June 1831

S/ Peter Swanson

S/ Matt. Wood, Seal

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

[p 27: Transmittal letter dated May 6, 1832 addressed to JL Edwards Esquire at the pension office of the War department from James K Polk, then a member of the House of Representatives representing the state of Tennessee and a registered member of the Jacksonian party.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James K. Polk". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing May 6, 1832, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina Continental line.]