

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Samuel Rayl S4034  
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn21NC  
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State of Tennessee, County of Jefferson

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 1834 personally appeared before me Tidence Lane day Justice of the Peace for Jefferson County and State of Tennessee, Samuel Rayl, a resident Citizen of Jefferson County and State aforesaid, aged eighty-one years and eleven months, 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 7, 1832.

At the Declarant Samuel Rayl was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1752 about midway between Lancaster and the City of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania of which he has a record in a book on religion. At nine years of age, he moved with his mother (his father dying when he was two years old) into Burmudeon,<sup>1</sup> the upper part of the state of Pennsylvania. At the age of fourteen, he was bound by his mother to David Potts, a wheelwright of Burmudeon County, until he was twenty years of age. Declarant served his time out and after he was twenty one in 1773, he moved by himself to the State of North Carolina, near Guilford Court House, about five or six miles from it. At his company muster ground, at the house of Charles Bruce in Guilford County, near Guilford Court house, the Declarant, together with many others, volunteered under Captain John Allums [? Allen?] in the month of July, day not recollected, in the year 1776, for the purpose of marching against the Cherokee Indians who had attacked the frontiers a short time before and had murdered some women and children and some men. Declarant had been elected Ensign in Captain Allums' Company of militiamen more than a year before, and still was the Ensign of the company. Declarant received his commission as Ensign from the hand of Colonel Alexander Martin, who commanded the regiment. Hezekiah Rhodes was the lieutenant, as Declarant believes, though he is not certain. James Delay was the orderly sergeant, as he believes, though he is not certain—the other sergeants and the corporals are not recollected. At the same place and time another company volunteered under Captain Leek, so pronounced. The place of rendezvous was Guilford Court House and on the 13th day of July 1776, this Declarant reported there and within sight of Guilford Courthouse, a large body of men, many companies, number not recollected, were collected. Colonel Alexander Martin commanded them. This Declarant was Ensign in Captain John Allum's company. Captain Forbus [sic, Forbis?] was one of the captains. Declarant does not now recollect any other captains' names. There were no regular officers or soldiers. Many of the men being unprepared with guns and provisions and clothing, had to return to their homes to make ready. They were ordered to make ready and return immediately. This Declarant returned home, prepared himself, and returned in three or four days to Guilford Courthouse. Thence we were marched under Colonel Alexander Martin towards the Cherokee towns. We marched a few miles only the first day, encamping the first night four or five miles from Guilford Court House. The third or second day,

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<sup>1</sup> Sic, there is no such county in Pennsylvania nor does it appear that there ever was such a county in that State, but there is a Bermudian area and perhaps it is the region to which this veteran is referring.

we reached Salisbury, within sight of it. Thence in four or five days, we marched to Cathey's Fort, crossing on our way the Catawba River at the Root Bridge Branch. Here we remained a day or two waiting for reinforcements, who were occasionally joining us. The Root Bridge Branch was about a mile from Cathey's Fort. At Cathey's Fort we remained for several days—about three or four—waiting for reinforcements. From Cathey's Fort, in a few days, five or six, we marched to Cowee Town, a Cherokee town on the Hiwassee River, crossing on our way, the mountains between North Carolina and what is now east Tennessee. We crossed the French Broad and Pigeon Rivers—Little and the Little Tennessee Rivers. When we reached Cowee Town, it was deserted by the Indians. We burned the town. Here we found corn, fresh meat, hogs and chicken, and sweet potatoes, and we remained here several days, number not recollected. A considerable body of men from Georgia joined us at Cowee Town. While we were at Cowee, the Over-Hill Cherokees, we were informed, were coming upon us—about 400 of our men were sent in two divisions and ordered to take different routes. This Declarant was not in either division, though desirous of going, he was prevented by his captain on account of his having an attack of inflammatory rheumatism, brought on by wading French Broad. One of the divisions that took the right hand met the Over-Hill Cherokees who were coming on, about two miles from Cowee. Our men engaged with and routed them, killing nine of the Indians with a loss on our part of two or three men. From Cowee Town, we marched to a town, the name of which is not recollected, not far from Cowee, which we also burned. We also burned several towns not far from Cowee that were attached to Cowee Town, the names of which, if they had any, not recollected. We returned to Cowee Town on Hiwassee River after having destroyed the towns and provisions of the Indians near the Cowee Town, and thence returned home the same route we had gone on. We started in July, day not recollected, and returned the latter part of October, day not recollected, making a service of three months and twelve days. This Declarant received no written discharge, and never applied afterwards for a written discharge, never thinking it would be of any service to him to get one. This Declarant received pay for three months and twelve days service in this way—There was a sale at Cowee Town of property taken in the Indian towns. Declarant purchased a horse and his account was an offset against his pay. In the month of March 1777, day not recollected, Declarant volunteered at his company muster grounds at Charles Bruce's house under his Captain John Allums—for the purpose of marching against the Tories on Cross Creek, who had been committing many outrages upon the Whig families in that and adjacent sections of country. Thomas McCrory was lieutenant in this tour, as Declarant believes, though he is not certain from the impaired state of his memory. Declarant was Ensign—sergeants or corporals not recollected. At Guilford Court House, we collected together and thence we were marched under Colonel Alexander Martin towards the Cross Creek Settlement about seventy miles from Guilford Court House. Captain Leek was one of the captains. There were several companies, number unknown to Declarant, as they joined us on our way from different sections. We marched in a southerly direction towards Cross Creek, waiting for reinforcements. We got into a settlement of Tories eight or ten miles before we reached Cross Creek. About ten or twelve miles from Guilford Court House, we crossed Deep River. We delayed for some time in going to Cross Creek. The Tories were collecting in a body under Conner Dowd. On our approach, they dispersed. All the Tories, that we could catch, were compelled to take the oath of allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to support and maintain the independence of the United States against George 3rd, or any other king or foreign power. After doing this and destroying the property of those Tories who had been committing outrages upon Whig families, and had been aiding and abetting the British power, we returned home. We took some Tories prisoners and had them tried at the Town House of the County, name of the town and county not recollected. These Tories were suffered to go unpunished after taking the oath as above, which they did. When we had finished the destruction of the property of such Tories as had been committing outrages, their trial and had compelled all that we could take to swear the oath of allegiance to the State, we returned to our respective homes, and this Declarant was discharged verbally by his Captain John Allums at Guilford Court House after a tour of three months—for which

time he received no pay whatever. He never applied for a written discharge, thinking that it would be of no service to him to do so. Declarant volunteered in this expedition in the month of March 1777 day not recollected and returned and was discharge in the month of June 1777, day not recollected.

In the month of March 1781, day not recollected, this Declarant was drafted at Guilford Court House by Captain Joseph Haskins [or Hoskins] for a tour of three months as a private soldier—he having resigned his commission as Ensign in Captain Allums' company in the intermediate time between his tour to Cross Creek and the tour that he was now drafted to perform. Being a wheelwright and blacksmith, this Declarant was detailed from Captain Haskins' company immediately after he was drafted, and was placed at Guilford Court House under Francis McNary, a Commissary who had charge of the wagons and provisions for the troops. We supplied the British prisoners who were at the Quaker Meeting House near Guilford and our own wounded men, that were at Guilford Court House. This Declarant was employed, when not with the wagons, in mending the wagons with both wood and iron and shoeing horses for the troops.

This Declarant was engaged in the service as a private soldier from March 1781 day not recollected, until late in May 1781, day not recollected. He was drafted and entered upon this tour early in March 1781, shortly before the Battle of Guilford, served out his term of three months as above stated, lacking twelve days, making two months and eighteen days. Declarant was discharged by commissary Francis McNary at this service, no longer requiring the assistance of Declarant and he accordingly received from the Commissary a verbal discharge.-- thinking it would be of no service to him – and he never received anything whatever for this tour – having immediately left that Section of Country for what is now East Tennessee and he never applied for his pay, knowing that he would be paid in the depreciated paper money, which would be of no Service to him. From Guilford Court House Declarant moved in 1781 immediately after his discharge by Commissary Francis McNary to Dan River in North Carolina where he remained four years – then moved to Lick Creek in Greene County, there he lived five years – then to what is now Grainger County, East Tennessee where he lived in different parts of said County forty three years and ten months – thence he was moved about four weeks ago by his son George Rayl by whom he is now supported and with whom he has lived for several years past, into Jefferson County, East Tennessee, where he now lives. This Declarant was engaged in the Service of the State of North Carolina as a Volunteer, being an Ensign, for six months and 12 days – in two tours – and afterwards was drafted and having resigned his Ensigncy, he served two months and 18 days as a private Soldier – making in all a service of nine months. In the month of February or the latter part of January – one year ago, this Declarant's examination was taken by a lawyer of Grainger County and his papers were sent on to the War Department – made up from a short and imperfect examination of him at that time. His papers were returned on account of the want of precision and accuracy in the Statement of his Services and on account of his not showing what has become of his commission as Ensign, the same not being produced. The Declarant has since moved into Jefferson County. The Declarant's commission as Ensign was lost by him in this way – in the intermediate time between his Second tour and his last tour for which he was drafted, he loaned it to one William Hensley, who requested to borrow it – and W. Hensley living some distance from Declarant, Declarant neglected to obtain it again from him, when he removed from Guilford County in the year 1781, and thus it has been lost by him and he now knows not what has become of it. He knows of no living witness, by whom he can prove his official character as Ensign or by whom he can prove any of his Services. From the nature of this objection, as he was informed by his lawyer, who drew up his application in Grainger County, he had despaired of being able to obtain the benefit of the Act of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832, however, being informed by the Lawyer to whom he applied after removing into this County and who has drawn up this declaration – that the Department does not require in all cases the testimony of living witnesses in the cases of the militia under the Act of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832, the Declarant has determined to have his case again laid before the War Department, with such additional testimony as could be obtained, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. There were no

regular Soldiers or Officers that served with Declarant, the expeditions, in which he was engaged, being composed of militia entirely. The Declarant has no documentary evidence of his Services, nor does he know of any person living, by whom he could prove his services. 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.

S/ Saml Rayl

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 1834

S/ Tidener Lane, Justice of the Peace for Jefferson County

1<sup>st</sup>: When and in what year were you born?

Answer 1<sup>st</sup>: I was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1752 about midway between Lancaster and the City of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have a record of my age in a religious book belonging to me.

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

Answer: When called into service, I was living in Guilford County North Carolina near Guilford Court House. Since the Revolutionary War he lived a short time on Dan River, North Carolina, and in what is now Greene County, East Tennessee, he lived five years in Grainger County East Tennessee he lived 43 years and 10 months, and about four weeks in Jefferson County, East Tennessee, where he now lives.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: I was an Ensign and a volunteer in the first two tours – in the third and last tour, having resigned my ensigncy, I was drafted.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer : There were no regular Officers or Soldiers where I served. In the Cherokee Expedition under Col. Martin, there was a Colonel Paisley. Owing to the very impaired State of my memory, I have not been able to give as accurate a statement as I could wish, and I may have misstated some Officers of which I was not certain. In the month of July – on 13<sup>th</sup> – 1776, I volunteered and served as Ensign, being duly elected and commissioned, and Captain John Allum's company of militia from Guilford County, near Guilford Court House North Carolina, for three months and 12 days – in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians under Colonel Alexander Martin, I volunteered on 13<sup>th</sup> of July 1776 and marched three or four days thereafter, and returned late in October 1776. In the month of March 1777 day not recollected, I volunteered and served as Ensign in Captain John Allum's Company for three months in an expedition against the Tories in the Cross Creek Settlement – about 70 miles from Guilford Court House. From March 1777 to of June 1777 I served in this tour three months as and Ensign. In the month of March 1781 day not recollected I having resigned my commission as Ensign, I was drafted as a private soldier I Captain Joseph Haskins for a term of three months at Guilford Court House – I was detailed for service in the commissary Department on account of my being a wheelwright and blacksmith – and served in that department for two months and 18 days, being engaged in attending upon the wagons employed in hauling provisions and forage, and in mending wagons and shoeing horses for the troops and for the teams. I served in this tour from March 1781 the day not recollected until late in May 1781 day not recollected, being two months and 18 days.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it? Did you ever receive a commission and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer: I received no written discharges. I was verbally discharged – and never applied for a written discharge, not thinking that they would be of any service to me – my two first verbal discharges were

received from my Captain John Allums – my last verbal discharge was received from Commissary Francis McNary. I loaned my commission to one William Hensley and never received it from him. I do not recollect by whom it was signed.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I was moved to my present home by my son George, when he moved into Jefferson County East Tennessee about four weeks ago, and consequently I am not well acquainted in this neighborhood. But there are several of the most respectable Citizens in and near the neighborhood, who have been long acquainted with me; I live near the line between Jefferson and Hawkins counties, and I would refer (in addition to the testimony that was born in Grainger County to my character, as a man and a revolutionary officer and soldier my papers were first drawn of). I would refer to the Reverend Pleasant A. Witt of Jefferson County, Mr. Samuel Riggs of Hawkins County and Mr. Joseph Brittain of Jefferson County who can be examined touching my character as a man and their belief of my services as a Revolutionary Officer and Soldier. Samuel Riggs and Joseph Brittain of the references to have been acquainted with me for 40 years.

S/ Saml Rayl

Sworn to in Subscribed before me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 1834.

S/ Tidener Lane, Justice of the Peace  
for Jefferson County

[Pleasant A. Witt, a clergyman, Samuel Riggs and Joseph Brittain gave the standard supporting affidavit. Brittain gave an additional affidavit in which he says he has known the veteran for 40 years including when they both lived in Greene County Tennessee and that he has conversed often with the veteran regarding his services in the revolution and has no doubt that he served as he states.]