

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Philip Coke (Cake) S42651

NC PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following is undated. It is assumed to be the first application referred to below as having been made in October 1819.]

Philip Cake at the commencement of the Revolutionary war enlisted as an Artillery man at Philadelphia under Francis Proctor a brother to Gen'l. Proctor for the purpose of going to Charlestown S.C. for one year On his passage to Charlestown he with others was taken prisoner. A certain number were landed at Brunswick N.C. near fort Johnstone [Fort Johnston at present Southport], & he supposes they were exchanged, & travelled up to Wilmington. At Wilmington he enlisted as a Musketry man for three years in the North Carolina Line, the company commanded by Griffin McCrea [sic: Griffith John McRee, pension application W4731], no officer being at Wilmington who had any command over him nor did he know where they were. So soon as it was known that he had been enlisted as an Artillery man, he was transferred from the Musketry to a company of Artillery commanded by John Vance. Soon after Capt Vance's company was ordered to march to Kingston [sic: Kinston] N.C. This company was then attached to the tenth Regiment of the North Carolina line under Colonel [Abraham] Shepherd. Soon after this regiment was orderd to march to Head quarters at Valley Ford [sic: Valley Forge PA, winter 1777-1778]. On this march Capt. Vance was put under arrest, tried, & broken, & John Kingsbury the Capt. Lieut. under Capt. Vance took the command [16 Nov 1777]. Joined Head quarters, & from there to Monmouth & was in the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] at which battle Capt Kingsbury's company was commanded by Col. Du Plissy [sic: Chevalier de Maduit du Plessis]. After this battle Capt. Kingsbury's & Capt Clarks [Thomas Clark's] Companies were ordered to join the North Carolina troops at Paramus [NJ]. From thence were ordered to march to Charlestown South Carolina to reinforce Lincoln [Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, siege of Charleston, 29 Mar - 12 May 1780] where he with the other troops was taken prisoners on the sixth or seventh night after the capture he made his escape from the British & joined Gen'l Greene's army [see endnote] in the second Regiment commanded Col. Muffy [sic: Hardy Murfree] & was appointed sergeant in the company commanded by Capt. [Samuel] Jones. Some time after he was promoted as Sergeant Major. Sometime after, he had a furlough at Wilmington by Capt. Coleman [probably Benjamin Andrew Coleman] & Adj't Bush [probably William Bush] by order of Col. Muffy. Soon after he arrived home he was confined by sickness & unable to return to camp & this was near the close of the war. After the troops were discharged & Robert Rose come home a brigade major he discharged him, (Philip Cake.)

State of North Carolina, Secretary's Office 6th Octo'r 1819.

I William Hill Secretary of State in & for the State aforesaid do hereby Certify, that it appears from the Musterroll of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Philip Cake a Corp'l. in Capt. John Kingsburys Company of Artillery was mustered on the 17th April 1777 for the war. The Roll does not show when or why he left said Company, but he is again mustered for the war in Capt Jones Company of the 10th Reg't on the 1st of Feb'y. 1780 for the war, and charged with Desertion on the 1st of April 1782. Given under my hand the date above/ Wm. Hill

Phillip Cake of the State of Ohio Ss

On this sixteenth day of August 1825 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for County of Hamilton by the Laws of this State aged seventy years and a resident in the af'd. County of Hamilton 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 acts of Congress of the 18th of May 1818 and the first of May 1820 That he the said Phillip Coke enlisted for the Term of during the War on the time of enlistments during the War in the year not remembered in the State of Connecticut in the Company Commanded by

Captain John Kingsbury in the Regiment commanded Colonel Lamb in the line of the State of Connecticut [sic] on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps untill the war ended when he was discharged from the said Service in the said Company in the State of North Carolina That he was in the Battles of Monmouth & in Charles Town South Carolina where he was taken prissoner and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said Services except the affidavit of Oliver Kelly [pension application S41724]

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 in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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 that as to property he has none excepting his necessary wearing apparel his occupation is a Cooper unable to pursue it excepting a little at a time his family consists of a wife who is sickly and unable to earn her living he has no children living Phillip Cake

State of Ohio } Ss
City of Cincinnati }

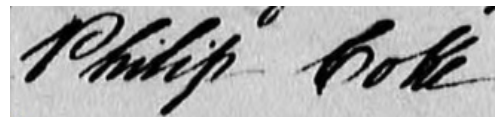
I Oliver Kelly of the City aforesaid a pensioned Soldier of the U States being before James Foster Esqr. a Justice of the peace do make oath and say that in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventy nine I knew Philip Cake at Peramus in N. Jersey in the divission of the United States Army commanded by Colonel Clark Said Coke was then a Soldier in the United States army in Capt Kingsburys Co as he thinks how long he served this Deponent knows not the said Coke is the same who no makes application to the war office for a pension

Sworn and subscribed this 16th day of August 1825 Oliver Kelly

State of Ohio } Ss

Hamilton County } On this twenty second day of December 1825 personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of Record (viz) the Court of Common pleas of the State of Ohio sitting within and for the County of Hamilton Philip Cake ([undeciphered word] called Philip Coke) resident in said County aged seventy two years 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 acts of Congress of the eighteenth of March 1818 and the first of May 1820, that he the said Philip Coke enlisted for the term of one year immediately after the commencement of the revolutionary war in the year 1776 (the particular date not recollected) in the City of Philadelphia State of Pennsylvania in the company commanded by Francis Proctor Capt of Artillery that in that Company and under that Command he deponent sailed from Philadelphia for Charlestown South Carolina for the purpose of taking possession of and defending the fort [Fort Sullivan, later named Fort Moultrie, on Sullivan's Island] and on his passage deponant with the vessels and persons on board was taken by a twenty four Gun frigate of the English named (as near as deponant can recollect the Scorpion) carried into Cape Fear and lay just below fort Johnson North Carolina Sometime afterwards deponant was exchanged and from thence he traveled to Wilmington North Carolina, the officers commanding having been exchanged earlier than deponant and not finding his officers deponant then enlisted for the term of three years in the Company commanded by Capt Griffin McRee in the North Carolina line of Continental Troops that he continued to serve in said Country until he was transferred to the Company of Artillery Commanded by Captain John Vance in the same line, after which and when at the said Wilmington he was ordered to march to head quarters accordingly he was marched from Wilmington to Kingston in the same State at which place he was attached to the tenth Regiment in the same line commanded by Colonel Shepherd in which Regiment he was marched from thence to Valley

Forge. Captain John Vance having been removed from the command of the Company on the march & Lieutenant John Kingsbury took the Command, from thence deponent was marched to Monmouth and was there in the Engagement between the Americans & English Armies in the Division commanded by Colonel Dupliez, after which Deponent was attached to the North Carolina Brigade Commanded by Colonel Clark having previously enlisted for during the war, after which he marched to Charleston South Carolina to reinforce General Lincoln – was there taken prisoner & the seventh day made his escape and joined the army of General Green under Capt Jones in his Company in which Company deponent was Sergeant and a short time thereafter was made a Sergeant Major in the same company and having marched to Wilmington North Carolina deponent obtained a furlough and went home when he was taken sick & prevented by sickness from joining the Army at the time & place appointed and after attempting to rejoin the army at head quarters was again by sickness compelled to return home where he was confined untill after the acknowledgement of our Independence, and the disbanding of the Continental Army [3 Nov 1783], soon afterwards deponent received in Elizabeth Township Bladen County North Carolina from Brigade Major Robert Rapher [possibly Robert Rayford] a discharge from the army in the usual form which discharge from accident has got lost or destroyed deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, and deponent further saith that his name is not on the roll of any state except the state of Ohio. Deponent further saith that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension (viz) about the [blank] day of October 1819 he made application which was forwarded to the pension office or other proper officer at Washington by his agent Samuel F. Hunt and as deponent is informed his application was rejected for want of a witness to prove the actual service of deponent [see endnote] and deponent residing in the State of Ohio did not know of a witness that survived by whom he could make the necessary proof and did not think it prudent to prefer the second application on the same testimony until the recent visit of Lafayette to Cincinnati [19-20 May 1825] when a meeting of the revolutionary officers and soldiers took place and deponent was recognized by Oliver Kelly who fought in the same regiment with him at the Battle of Monmouth whose deposition shewing that fact is now on file at Washington as deponent is informed, he having procured & forwarded the same with an application which was sent on during the present year. [Oath similar to that in the preceding declaration] ...nor have I any income excepting a few articles of clothing necessary for myself and wife. Deponent is a Cooper by trade and has no other dependance for a support than his labour, added to the age of deponent he is so infirm that he cannot take off his Coat without assistance having been also much injured by a field piece which run over his body during the Service. Deponent has no family residing with him except his wife Ann who is about sixty seven years of age and very infirm, deponent has not, since the eighteenth day of March 1818 owned any property real or personal other than the proceeds of his labour Since that period which has been hardly sufficient to supply him with the actual necessaries of life.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Coke". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

State of North Carolina Secretary's Office 17th Jan'y. 1826.

I William Hill Secretary of State in & for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Philip Cake a Corp'l. in Capt. John Kingsbury's Company of Artillery was mustered on the 17th April 1777, for the war. Nothing more being said of him on this roll, and Capt. Kingsbury having drawn a Warrant for his services during the war, it is presumable he the said Philip Cake served out the term for which he enlisted.

Given under my hand at Office the date above/ Wm. Hill

[A note in the file states that Philip Coke's application was suspended on 25 May 1826 but restored on 5 Dec 1826.]

Raleigh 29th May 1826.

Sir [James L. Edwards, Chief Clerk, Pension Office] Your letter of the 25th Instant was received this morning, the contents of which gave me much pain. Having uniformly endeavoured to do right, the idea of having led the Department to which you belong into an error was truly distressing. But on an examination of the Books in my Office, I felt some relief from a hope that I should be able fully to satisfy you that whatever may have been the result of my certificates nothing improper was intended, and that they both state facts which do exist. I find from the musterrolls on which those certificates were founded that there were two men of the same name in the Army of the revolution from this state, or that one person of the name of Philip Cake enlisted twice in said service. The first enlistment in the name of Philip Cake appears to have been a Corp'l. in Capt. John Kingsberry's company of Artillery on the 17th day of April 1777, for the war. Here he stands fairly and for which service Capt. Kingsberry obtained a Warrant on the 23rd April 1784, No 647, for the full quantity of land allowed by the State to War Soldiers. At the time this Warrant was issued the certificate of a Field Officer was all the evidence required by law to establish such claim, and as Philip Cake's warrant with the warrants of many others who served under Capt. Kingsberry, were delivered to him at the same time, I have no doubt of their having been issued on his certificates; and as Capt. Kingsberry's character stands fair, I had no right to think he had given certificates which were incorrect, and he must have certified that Philip Cake served the term for which he enlisted otherwise the warrant could not have been obtained for as much land as it calls for.

From the musterrolls and this view of the case my last certificate was made.

The second enlistment in the name of Philip Cake is a Serg't. in Capt. Jones's Company of the 10th Reg't. of Infantry, on the 1st Feb'y 1780 for the war. Here he is charged with having deserted on the 1st April 1782. From this part of the rolls my first certificate was made, and although this enlistment is of a later date than the other, it appears on the book before the other; the artillery company having been entered in the back or last part thereof, at which I suppose I did not look when I gave my first certificate, or I should have embraced both enlistments at the same time.

The certificates on which warrants were issued in 1783, 4 & 5 were never in my possession. I have been informed they were sent to Philadelphia many years ago to assist the agent from this state in settling the army accounts, and have not been returned. I hope from this statement of facts you will find you have not been led into error, or at least that it has been innocently done.

I am very respectfully/ Your Obt. Serv't/ Wm. Hill

Office of Secretary of State for No. Carolina/ 7th August 1826.

Sir [James L. Edwards] In your letter of the 2nd Instant you ask my opinion respecting the case of Philip Coke or Cake.

His name appears twice on the Rolls in this Office, in one place he stands fair, and in the other he is charged with desertion. If he claims for his services in Capt. Kingsberry's Company of Artillery, I think his claim good, but if for his services under Capt. Jones of the 10th Reg't. his claim cannot be just unless he should clearly prove the charge of desertion to be false

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Serv't/ Wm. Hill

NOTES:

Gen. Nathanael Greene did not take command of the Southern Department until 3 Dec 1780.

Cake was under the impression that his original application was rejected "for want of a witness," but the pension act of 1818 required testimony of a witness only if the applicant's name was not found on a roster. It is more likely that his claim was rejected because he was marked as having deserted. The Pension Office appears to have finally accepted his statement that he had been unable to rejoin his company because of illness.