

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Langley (Langly) f25SC
Transcribed and annotated by Max Miller

Hon. J.K. Polk (1)
War Department, Pension Office

Sir,

The evidence in support of your claim, under the act of June 7, 1832, has been examined and the papers are herewith returned. The following is a statement of your case in a tabular form. On comparing these papers with the following rules, and the subjoined notes, you will readily perceive that objections exist, which must be removed before a pension can be allowed. The notes and the regulations will shew what is necessary to be done. Those points to which your attention is more particularly directed you will find marked in the margin with a brace, (thus). You will, when you return your papers to this department send this printed letter with them; and you will, by complying with this request, greatly facilitate the investigation of your claim.

The applicant should prove his service by at least one living witness. See note j.

1779	3years 3 months	Private	Col Waters. Cap. Butler	Age 73 S.C.
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Proof: Traditionary

The applicant's statement of service for three years is returned for proof. General Green did not take command of the Southern Army til, Sept 1780 and did not go to S. Carolina till after the battle of Guilford which was in March 1781, The principal event mentioned in the declaration took place in the summer 1780 and Col Waters did not command a company and there were no engagements for more than one year. It is therefore highly probable that the applicant belonged to a volunteer co. of militia and from the events detailed could not have served more than six months at the longest for which the militia more in service under one engagement. April 28, 1834.

Direct to Hon J.K. Polk

James H. Thomas
Columbia Ten.

Declaration In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

On the 30th day of November 1833

State of Tennessee	Circuit Court
Maury County	October Term 1833

On the said 30th day of November , In the said year of our Lord 1833 in the said Circuit Court before the Honl Lundford M Bramlett Judge of said court presiding, personally appeared John Langly a resident of said Maury County in said state of Tennessee aged nearly seventy three years who being first duly according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the said act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated in the following interrogatories that answers thereto.

Qst. 1st. Where and in what year were you born.

Ansr. I was born on the 15th day of December 1760 in the State of Virginia on James River, the county I do not know as my father took me to S. Carolina when a sucking child.

Qst. 2nd. Have you any record of your age and if so, where is it?

Ansr. I had a memorandum, or rather I say what I was told was one in a Bible that belonged to my father, but my father died and my mother married again and after that event, I never heard of that Bible. So that now I have no record of my age. But I fully believe that I have by memory kept my age and that it is just what I have stated it to be- to wit 73 years the 15th day of next month.

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

Ansr. As I have stated my father (as I have been told by my mother) moved from Virginia when I was a sucking child to the State of South Carolina to the District called Ninety Six, upon Little River. I was raised there and until I enlisted. I lived there in said District of Ninety Six. After the expiration of my term of service in the Revolutionary War, I went to the State of North Carolina near Kingston [sic, Kinston] upon Neuse River, the county I believe was called Daubs [sic, Dobbs] and I think is now called Leonore [sic, Lenoir], not far above Newborn [sic, New Bern]. I lived in said county of Daubs about 15 years. I married there. I then moved to Iredell County in said State of North Carolina and lived there one year and then I went to Randolph County in said State of North Carolina and lived there three years. I then moved to South Carolina 22 miles west of Camden, the District I think was called Kershaw District. I lived in said District about six years (the days and years of these several moves I cannot recollect, being wholly unable to read and having no memorandums). At the expiration of said six years I moved to the state of Tennessee to Wilson County and if I am not mistaken it was twenty-eight years ago that I came to said Wilson County. I lived in said Wilson sixteen years and then moved to Hickman County in said state of Tennessee and arrived in said Hickman County on the 16th day of September 1821 and settled about four miles from the Maury County line-lived there until last month, October 1833. I then moved into Maury County in said Tennessee about six miles from my residence in Hickman County and now live in said Maury County about two miles from the Maury and Hickman line – making in all 53 years some time in next year since duly discharged.

Qst 4th How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a substitute, for whom?

Ans. I enlisted for three years or duration of the war.

Qst 5th 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.

Ans. I enlisted under one Col. Phil Waters (2) in said District of Ninety Six in Said South Carolina. I and some of the young men of my neighborhood, to wit Joshua Jacobs, Shadrick Jacobs, Thomas Turner, James Turner (that I recollect) as well as many others, hearing that Col. Waters was enlisting men for Genl Green (3) and hearing that we would git if we enlisted 640 acres of land west of the mountain and six dollars and two thirds per month and clothing and found us, went to said Waters in said District of Ninety Six and enlisted for three years or during the was as aforesaid.

Waters gave me Sixteen Dollars in silver as bounty money and that is all I have ever got for my services. So soon as I and my associates had enlisted, Waters having a "good smart" company of us marched us down to Granby, near Friday's Ferry on the Congaree River (I believe) – to Genr. Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Camp. I saw there at that time Genls Greene, Genl Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], Genl Marion [Francis Marion] – they were all together in a house (4). Waters sent out for his recruits to come in and as

they were sashaying in and out. I went in among the rest and I recollect that Green said that some of us were active youths and ought to belong to the Horse. I and the associates I have named were put under one Capt. Butler Yes, William Butler (5) was his name and Lieut _____Smith, Ensign I do not recollect, Orderly Sergeant William Cork – Col. Phil waters commanded the regiment – The majors I do not recollect, but we had a Sergeant Major named Murphy. I enlisted in June 1778 as I have above described – I think I staid at the Camp of Greens only three or four days when Col. Waters took a “good large Scout” of us, I among the rest and marched, some on horse and some on foot, upon the Saluda River to Millis’ Mills upon the hunt for Tories but found none. Staid in the neighborhood something like a week scouting about and return to Green’s Camp. Green’s whole army then marched down the River towards the high hill of Santee. Made some stops, how long I cannot recollect. During this stay scouting parties were continually hearing that the British commanded by Lord Bawden (sic Rawdon) and Col. Crooger (sic Cruger) (6) were at the Eutaw Springs (7). Gen’l Green marched us on to the Eutaw, the British were camped upon the hillside near the spring. I was placed on the right wing. The engagement commenced on the right and ascended in to the left of our line (I think). At the beginning of the fight we fired very briskly for several rounds. When our line was forced to retreat we retired some distance and formed and received orders. Green rode along and told us how and what to do. We then moved up to the attack again, we then fought for some time and at last came to a charge Bayonet before we broke the British line. I think Col. Washington was taken prisoner (8). We reset the ground. The British marched off to Ninety Six. During this entire I received two small wounds from a Bayonet in my right arm and one from a sword upon my head neither of which disabled me. Col. Crooger of the British went to Ninety Six and Lord Rawdon to Orangeburg. There were prisoners taking on both sides but the number I cannot tell. Green marched us to a place called Nelson’s fields. Stopped there some time and during that time hearing that Col Crooger had fortified Ninety Six or was there in a fort. Green then marching us up to attack Ninety Six. Finding the post too well fortified for us we laid siege and began intrenching and digging mines under the fort to blow it up and after some time when we thought that we could have the fort in a day or so, Lord Rawdon come up with (I understood) 5000 men to the relief of Ninety Six. When Rawdon came we had to retire. Green then marched us to the Saluda River 12 miles from the fort. Where we crossed the River and again went down on that side of the River towards the High Hills of Santee and stayed there a short time. When Green sent Col Phil Waters with about 250 men to a place about 5 miles below Millis Mills on Saluda River where the Tories some time before had burnt the house of Col P. Waters. We built a Blockhouse. After remaining at the Blockhouse Capt. Butler went out upon a scouting party with about 50 or so men as the British were then on their march from Ninety Six to Orangeburg, but our company were unfortunate. The British took about 30 of us prisoners myself among the rest. Butler escaped. The British took us to Orangeburg. They had a jail full of prisoners so that I and those taken with me were put in the stockade. We staid there some weeks. When the British marched with the prisoners towards Charlestown, they started late in the evening and we had not traveled far until night came on and with night came a storm with thunder lightening and rain, very heavy. In that country many of the roads were made by cutting a ditch on each side and toughing up the dirt in the middle. When it became very dark and the storm raging violently I told the prisoner with whom I was marching, William Watkins, that when I pulled his hand he must slide down into the ditch with me. I waited and marched on until there came a sharp flash of lightning and as soon as it came dark we slid off to the left into the ditch (the water was about half leg high in the ditch). The British never discovered us. We waited until the company went by. I and Watkins made the best way we could back to Water’s Blockhouse. We got back to the Blockhouse safe. We stayed there some time. The British had left that part of the country and left us only the Tories to take care of. And little parties were sent out frequently to keep them in check. The Col Waters with some of us was out along gathering provision and when we came back we understood that ____ Manning had been at the Blockhouse and told that two Tories had been trying to steal his young stallion the evening before the same we returned evening. Col Waters took about ten of us and went and watched at Manning house lot and sure enough two Tories came to steal the horse. The hailed them. They wheeled and started to run. We fired on them and killed one, Mathew Black the other Sam Grey escaped. In a few days my uncle came

down and told Col Waters that sixty two Tories had passed his house the night before. Waters immediately orders a pursuit. He took 20 men with him. We pursued but took only two of them whose houses were tired. We still went on [crossed out – and fell in with a detachment of our men from, I think, Saluda Town. After we fell in with this reinforcement we continued the pursuit more ardently when the Tories wheeled and attacked us and a sharp contest ensued and we killed and wounded something like thirty of the Tories] but after we had taken the two Tories spoken of we had a brush and during that we were ordered to kill the two Tories we had taken during this brush. The Tories were too hard for us and we had to retreat. We then casually met with a [reinforcement spoken of] detachment from I think Saluda Town. When we met these we turned upon the Tories and routed them and killed near thirty of them. The rest escaped. We then returned to the Blockhouse with five wounded. We remained at the Blockhouse but a short time. When we heard that Cornwallis had surrendered and that the war was about ended. Col Waters then discharged me and I went then to the State of North Carolina. I was discharged some think I think in 1781 – I think in October.

Qsn 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ansr. I got a discharge from Col. Waters, a written discharge but I lost it in N. Caroline. I have not seen it since about 3 months after I was discharged.

Qst 7 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 of your services as a soldier of the Revolutionary war.

Ansr. William Kirk and William Sharp (10), the former of whom is a clergyman have known me for 12 years in Hickman and Maury Counties and the Declarant on oath further answered, I served from June 1778 until October 1781 making three years and three months. To a day I cannot tell, but from old age and the consequent loss of memory I may not state the time exactly but I am sure it was not less than three years and three months, I will here state that I send a declaration from Hickman County. This declaration came back for some deficiencies and the man to whom the papers came has lost or mislaid them. I expect that as there was no clergyman's certificate to it and probably my name not found upon the roll, the lack of other certificates was the objections. I have therefore in this new application embodied as much proof as I could so that if it be true that my name is not to be found that the case may still be examined. I have no written testimony of my service and know of no one living by whom I can prove my service. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Role of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

George M. Martin, HR John {his mark} Langly

We, William Kirk, a clergyman residing in the county of Maury and State of Tennessee and William Sharp residing in (the same) hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Langly who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration; that we believe him to be about seventy three years of age that he is reputed a credible man and believed in the neighborhood where he now resides and has resided for the last 12 years to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed William Sharp
The day and year aforesaid William (his mark) Kirk

And the said court does hereby declare its opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary

soldier and served as he states. And the court further certifies that it appears to it that William Kirk who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman resident in Maury County Tennessee and that William Sharp who is also a resident in the county last aforesaid, is a orniable person and that their statement is entitled to credit.

Lansford M. Bramlitt, Judge

#26852

Tennessee

John Langly of Maury Co. in the State of Tennessee who was a private in the Company commanded by Captain Waters of the Regiment commanded by Col Butlar in South Carolina

Inscribed on the Roll of West Tennessee at the rate of \$40.00 and 0 Cents per annum to commence on the 4th day of March, 1834.

Certificate of Pension issued the 1st day of June, '34, Hon J.K. Polk, HR.

Arrers to the 4th of Mar '34 - \$120.00

Same-amt. Allowance ending Sept. 20.00

\$140.00

Revolutionary Claim

Act June 7, 1832

Recorded by I. T. Spragur Clerk

Book 6,2 Vol 7, Page 96

Pension Award

John Langley

Tennessee

For 1780 for 1 yr.

\$40

State of Tennessee
Maury County

Court of Pleas/Quarter Sessions
September Term, 1834

Be it known that at a court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions holden for the County aforementioned at the courthouse in the town of Columbia on the tenth day of September 1834 personally appeared in open court here Aisley Langley, William Kirk and William Sharp all of said county upon their several oaths have satisfactorily proved to the court here that the said Aisley Langley was the lawful wife of John Langly late of said county deceased and that he died on the thirty first day of July 1834 at which time he had been placed on the pension roll of the United States under the act of the 7th of June 1832 and that he was the identical John Langley named in an original pension certificate which came to the hands of the said Aisley Langley subsequent to the death of her said husband John Langly and which said certificate is here shown to the court and of which the following is a true copy to wit

War Department
Revolutionary Claim

I certify that in conformity with the laws of the United States of the 7th July, 1832 John Langly of the State of Tennessee is entitled to receive forty dollars per annum during his natural life beginning in March 1831 and [un-readable] and first of September and every year.

Given at the War Office of the United States this 17th day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty four.

United States
Seal

Louis Cass
Secretary of War

Examined and
Countersigned

___Edwards
Commissioner of Pensions

Payments to be made in Nashville, Tenn. by ___U.S. Br BYP agent for paying pensions in the Agency of Tenn.

Recorded in the Pension Office in Book E 2 Vol page 96 by John T. Springer, Clerk, and the said Aisley Langly further testified that her late husband was entitled to a pension at the rate of forty dollars per annum from this 4th day of March 1831 to the 31st day of July, 1834 being the day of his death on account of services rendered the United States during the revolutionary war that he resided in the said county of Maury for four years and that he resided in the county of Hickman for twelve years.

Ailsey (her mark) Langly
William (his mark) Kirk
William Sharp

Known to all men by their presents that I, Ailsey Langly of the County of Maury in the State of Tennessee, widow of the late John Langly of said county deceased do hereby constitute and appoint William Kirk my true and lawful attorney for me in my name to receive from the agent of the United State for paying pensions at Nashville in said State of Tennessee the pension due to my late husband the said John Langly from the 4th day of March 1831 to the 31st day of July 1834 being the day of his death. Witness my hand and seal this 10th day of September 1834.

Ailsey (her mark) Langly Seal

Which said power of attorney and duly acknowledged in open court that the said (unreadable) .

In testimony of all the foregoing I Thomas ___ Porter, clerk of said court have hereto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at office the 10th day of September 1834.

Thomas J Porter Clerk

No 263

Ailsey Langly Widow
John Langly deceased
Private

\$130.33

4 March 1891

27 July 1834 When he died

__June 1832

Dead

End Notes:

1. Hon. J.K. Polk The eleventh President of the United States James K. Polk was born in 1795 in North Carolina. In 1806 the Polk family moved to Tennessee setting near the Duck River in what is now Maury County. Polk left Tennessee to enroll in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After his graduation in 1818 he returned to Tennessee, was admitted to the bar, and established his practice of law in Columbia, Tennessee. Polk was helpful to the family of John Langley in getting his Revolutionary War Pension, so much so that John's grandson was named in his honor, James K. Polk Langley. (Wikipedia.org)
2. Philemon Waters was born 1 June 1732 in Prince William County, Virginia. He served with Col. George Washington in 1756 and participated in building Fort Necessity. After his service he moved to Charleston, South Carolina and in 1772 moved to the up country in the Ninety Six District. A descendent wrote, "It was here that he took part in the Revolutionary War. He was a red hot patriot – he formed his own company of troops, built his own block house...outfitted his troops with clothes, muskets, gun powder and all the other necessary things. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of South Carolina. (<http://members.tripod.com/jjeanday1/waters>). He was Captain of Light Dragoons under General Sumpter, 20 March, 1780 – 4 June 1781 and under General Pickens from 21 April 1782- 31 December 1782. (Moss, B.G. Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution).
3. General Nathanael Greene was born in 1742 in Rhode Island. He educated himself with a special study of mathematics, history of military tactics and law. In August 1774, Greene organized a local militia and in 1775 he helped raise a contingent of men to join the American forces around Boston. On August 9, 1776 he was promoted to be one of the four new major generals and was put in command of the Continental troops on Long Island. On October 14, 1780 he succeeded General Gates as Commander-in-Chief of the Southern army, and took command at Charlotte, N.C. After the battles of Cowpens and Guilford Court House he moved toward South Carolina to drive the British out of the inner country. Following the Siege of Ninety-Six and the Battle of Eutaw Springs, the British were driven back to Charleston. He never achieved a single tactical victory. His lack of success in winning a battle is best summed up in his own words, "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again." After the war Greene moved his family to his estate just north of Savannah, Georgia. Tragically, he died of a stroke at the age of forty-four, possibly caused by overexposure to the hot, southern sun. (wikipedia.org; members.aol.com/JonMaltbie/Biography)
4. Perhaps, the meeting of Generals Greene, Sumpter and Marion was described by Bass in his book about Marion. "To counter Rawdon, General Green ordered in all his detachments of Continentals. He also called for Sumpter and Marion to bring their brigades to the Congaree. All came in quickly. At Acrum's Plantation, for the first time during his campaigning in South Carolina, Green had Sumpter, Marion, Washington, and Lee under his immediate command." (Swamp Fox The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion, Robert D. Bass, 1959, Henry Holt and Company, page 205).
5. Captain William Butler. In the RWS application of Samuel Deen was a Revolutionary soldier and

served for a long period during the war of American Independence. He served for more than two years, under various officers, Capt. William Butler, Capt. Michael Watson, Capt. Joseph Towles, Col. Anderson General Andrew Pickens and others. He was engaged under the command of Capt. Butler in a conflict with the famous Tory leader William Cunningham in which conflict the sword and packet book of Cunningham fell into the hands of Capt. Butler. Samuel Deen often spoke of an expedition or campaign he made in Georgia during the war, and of various other skirmishes and hazardous adventures in which he bore a part. Langley would no doubt have been in these conflicts as attested in his own application. General Andrew Pickens wrote to Captain Butler on Augusta 21, 1782 a letter in which Pickens charged Butler with the task of establishing a troop of "twenty-five good men for your own...to serve for six months..." These men were to serve on horseback and patrol the area to stop the plundering that was taking place by the remaining Tories. (Pension application of Samuel Deen. southcarolinahistorical society.org/wire/RevWar/archives-online). After the war Butler was almost constantly engaged in public service. He was in Congress from 1801 to 1814, and commanded the South Carolina forces in Charleston as Major General during 1814 and 1815. He died in 1821. An interesting account of the adventures of his wife, Behethland Foote Butler can be found at AMERICANREVOLUTION.ORG

6. Battle of Eutaw Springs. By midsummer of 1781, the Patriots under General Green had virtual control of South Carolina. The retreating British forces began their march to Charleston from the upper regions of the state. In early September they camped near Eutaw Springs. The Patriots under Marion, Pickens, Lee, William Washington, and other leaders camped on the River Road seven miles from the springs. On September 8, 1781 a battle took place that left total casualties of over 1100. This was the last major battle in South Carolina.

7. General William Washington. On September 8, 1781, the Battle of Eutaw Springs took place. This was the last major battle in the lower South and the last battle for William Washington. Midway through the battle General Greene ordered William Washington to charge a portion of the British line situated in a thicket alongside Eutaw Creek. During the attack the thickets proved difficult and the British small arms fire proved deadly. During the last charge Washington's horse was shot out from under him, and while he was trapped underneath his horse a British soldier bayoneted him. Washington was taken prisoner by the British and remained a prisoner for the remainder of the American Revolution. (Wikipedia.org). John Langley was a witness to these events.

8. Siege of Ninety Six took place in June 1781. The hamlet named Ninety Six was a vital political and economic center in the South Carolina back country. 500 Tories led by Lt. Col. John Cruger manned it. Under his directions he reinforced the walls of the stockade and built a star fort, an earthen fort built in the classic design. General Green and his patriot army of more than 1000 regulars and militia arrived at Ninety Six on May 21, 1781 and laid siege. When green learned that a relief column of 2000 British troops was near, he resolved to storm the post before he was trapped. The attack began at noon, June 18. Fighting hand-to-hand, the loyalist drove the patriots off, with much blood shed on both sides. Greene slipped away on June 20, moved north up the Island Ford road and crossed the Saluda River before the loyalists could give chase. By July 1781 the loyalists had abandoned the post and moved toward Charleston.

9. William Sharp attested John Langley's pension application. John Langley's son Alfred was married to William Sharp's daughter. Further, William Sharp was married to Elender Mayfield, daughter of Elijah Mayfield, another Revolutionary War veteran. The Langleys and the Mayfields moved together from Tennessee to Arkansas at the same time shortly after the deaths of the elderly veterans.