

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Lofty S4571

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/18/13

[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 County of Cocke

On this 26th day of April 1834 personally appeared before me John Gillet a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Cocke and State aforesaid, William Lofty, a resident citizen of Cocke County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-two years and eleven months, who being first duly sworn according to law oath on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That the Declarant, William Lofty was born on the 10th day of May 1761 in Chesterfield County, within ten miles of Petersburg in the State of Virginia. At the age of six years he moved with his father to Dan River, in Halifax County, in the State of Virginia. He lived in Halifax County until he was thirty-six years of age, when he moved to the Catawba River in the State of North Carolina where he lived five years; Thence he moved to Cocke County, East Tennessee. He remained here five years and then moved to Powel's Valley, where he remained but six months – then his family becoming very unhealthy, he returned to Cocke County East Tennessee, where he has lived ever since and where he now lives. His father had a record of Declarant's age; But Declare as none. In the month of October day not recollected in the year 1780 Declarant was drafted at his company muster ground at the house of old Billy Wilson, about twelve miles from Halifax Court House by Captain Robert Jones. Our place of rendezvous was at the Red House where one Dobbins lived in the State of North Carolina, about ten miles from where we were drafted – Halifax County being bounded on the South by the North Carolina line. Captain Jones was crippled by being thrown from his horse, and was unable to proceed with his Company. At the Red House, Captain John Faulkner of Halifax County, took command of our company. The Lieutenant is not recollected. He believes that William Wilson Junior was the Ensign, though he is not certain. The orderly Sergeant's name has escaped his memory, though he well recollects the man. Wallace Wilson was a Sergeant, the other sergeants are not recollected. Ned Tuck [could be Ned Luck] was one of the Corporals, the other not recollected. There were other companies, who met at the Red House. From the Red House we were marched to a Magazine on the other side of Dan River below Fox's ferry. On our way we crossed Dan River at Sir Peyton Skipper's ferry, we were more than a week marching there, moving on slowly, on account of some of our men being sick. Our Company, together with several others, were stationed at this Magazine to guard it. The name of the Officer in command here has escaped the memory of Declarant. He believes that the commanding officer was a Colonel. We remained at the Magazine about seven weeks, when we were marched to General Parson's in the direction of Hillsborough. At General Parson's we remained seven days or thereabouts – being

three days in reaching his house. From Parson's we were marched to Hillsboro, being about two weeks in reaching that place. Two or three days after we reached Hillsboro, Captain Faulkner's men were discharged, having served out their tour of three months, and this Declarant received in the month of January day not recollected 1781 a written discharge from Captain Faulkner for his tour of three months, which discharge he lost, when he moved from Catawba River in North Carolina to Cocke County, East Tennessee. As soon as Declarant was discharged by Captain Faulkner, he volunteered at Hillsborough in the month of January date not recollected 1781 under Captain Dick, which company had just been raised being composed of volunteers for 3 months. Lieutenant and Ensign and noncommissioned officers are not recollected. Major Donohoe [perhaps Thomas Donoho] was a Major at Hillsborough in Declarant believes was in command there at that time. At Hillsboro we remained about seven or eight weeks. We were regularly drilled, and at the expiration of this time he was marched towards the main Army under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] near Guilford Court House. On our way this Declarant, with others, were attacked with fever and were left in Cabins on the road being unable to proceed – Captain Dick marched on with his company and a week after Declarant's attack of fever, the Battle of Guilford took place [March 15, 1781]. Declarant laid three weeks, a severe attack of fever, before he was able to move, when he joined his company on the other side of Guilford. Shortly thereafter in the month of April 1781, day not recollected, Declarant was discharged by Captain Dick not far from Hillsboro. He received a written discharge from Captain Dick for a tour of three months, which discharge he lost at the same time that he lost his other one. There were no regular Officers or Soldiers – either at the Magazine or at Hillsboro – when Declarant was in service and he did not join the main Army under General Greene he did not know any of the Regular Officers having never been connected with the main Army. The Declarant 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
this 26 day of April 1834
before me

S/ John Gillet, JP

S/ William Lofty, X his mark

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer 1st I was born on the 10th day of May 1781 in Chesterfield County, state of Virginia.

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

Answer 2nd. I have no record of my age. My father had one, by which I know the time of my birth.

Question 3rd. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer 3rd. When called into Service, I was living in Halifax County, state of Virginia. Since the Revolutionary War, I have lived in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee where I now live in Cocke County, East Tennessee.

Question 4th How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom?

Answer 4th. I was drafted in my first tour for 3 months by Captain Robert Jones and served out that tour under Captain John Faulkner. In my 2nd tour I volunteered for 3 months and served out that tour under Captain Dick.

Question 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.

Answer 5th. In my first tour, I was drafted in October 1780 and discharged in January 1781. I was mostly stationed at a Magazine on the other side of Dan River N. C. below Fox's ferry. There were no regular troops there. I was discharged at Hillsboro in January 1781 and in the month of January 1781 immediately after my discharge by Captain Faulkner, I volunteered under Captain Dick – under whom I remained mostly at Hillsboro, where we were regularly mustered and disciplined. We were marched towards the main Army in Guilford and I with others was attacked with fever, under which I suffered for 3 weeks, and was thus prevented being at the Battle of Guilford – I joined Captain Dick's Company afterwards and was discharged by him near Hillsboro in the month of April 1781. I served 2 tours of 3 months each. I did not know any of the Continental officers or regiments – not being in service with them. Being prevented by sickness from joining the Main Army immediately before the Battle of Guilford, and being discharged a few weeks after that Battle.

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

Answer 6th. I received it two discharges – one of 3 months tour from Captain John Faulkner, and another for a 3 months tour from Captain Dick. I lost them, while moving from Catawba River North Carolina to Cocke County, East Tennessee.

Question 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 Revolution.

Answer 7th. I would refer to the Reverend Thomas Smith and Mr. Joshua Smith and Mr. J. Gillett who can be examined as required by the War Department.

Sworn to and subscribed this 26 day of April 1834 before me

S/ John Gillet, JP

S/ William Lofty, X his mark

[Thomas Smith, a clergyman, Joshua Smith & Jackson Gillett gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]