

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Reuben Coffey S46916

fn18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/24/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Wayne County

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Wayne County now sitting Reuben Coffey a Resident of Wayne County, and the County of Wayne and State aforesaid, aged seventy-two years old the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September last 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit: That I the said Ruben Coffey volunteered under Captain Moses Guest in Wilkes County North Carolina, in a horse company for as long a period as our country needed my services & in the Service of the United States, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 1780, before the battle of King's Mountain and served as a private. I marched under my Captain Moses Guest, Lieutenant Thomas Ferguson & Major \_\_\_\_\_ Hartgrove, his Christian name not recollect, & Major Joseph Winston and Col. Benjamin Cleveland with adjutant Major Jesse Franklin. We first marched to Ramsour's Mill in Lincoln County North Carolina the day after the Battle there. And where we met General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and General Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and their Army. The Tories being then defeated, our Regiment marched towards home and was generally engaged in scouting after the Tories. We had some several small engagements with them. They British and Tories having collected in force and marching towards Virginia as far as Burke County, North Carolina. We pursued them and they retreated towards King's Mountain. Our commanders were Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Colonel William Campbell, Colonel Isaac Shelby & Colonel John Sevier. We overtook and fought the British and Tories at King's Mountain in South Carolina & defeated them on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 1780. We remained on the Battle ground until Sunday the next day and then marched with the Prisoners up to one Colonel Walker's in Rutherford County North Carolina. We then marched about three miles to a widow Bickerstaff's where a court martial was held and condemned and hung nine of the Tories. We after marched through Burke County, Wilkes County and towards the Moravian Town. The main Army marched to the Moravian towns & guarded the British & Tories. But my Ensign Benjamin Guest with myself & five or six others of our company by orders were detached to go back upon the frontiers to quell & pursue the Tories, who had caused a considerable alarm. I was upon several small expeditions, one down to Guilford, another to Hunting Creek, another to the hollows of the Adkin [sic, Yadkin River] & was sometime stationed at Hamlin's old Store in Wilkes County & at another time at John Stabler's in Burke County and other places and Remained in service twelve months & upwards. Our country having no further call for our services, myself and others were

discharged by our Captain sometime in the fall of the year 1781 at his own House in Wilkes County North Carolina, But not in writing having served fully 12 months for which I now claim.

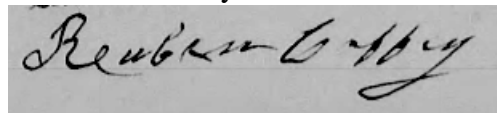
I the said Reubin Coffey was born in the State of Virginia Albemarle County on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1759. My Father moved to Amherst County Virginia four or five years after, where I lived about 15 years. My Father then moved to the State of North Carolina and settled in Wilkes County near the head of the Yadkin River where I resided several years, I think about 14 years. I then settled in Burke County and lived there about 22 years. I then moved to the state of Kentucky in Wayne County where I now live & have lived here a little upwards of 15 years.

That I have no Documentary evidence.

But can prove by Masten Durham<sup>1</sup> and Lewis Coffey of my being engaged in said service. I the said Reuben Coffey hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the Present and declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Reuben Coffey

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reuben Coffey".

[fn p. 10]

We Mastin Durham of lawful age do certify that I know of the said Reuben Coffee's being engaged in the Revolutionary Army, & was with him near Kings Mountain Battle, losing my horse I was joined to a foot company, & was with him many other places. I Lewis Coffee of lawful age doth certify that I know the said Reuben Coffee my brother was absent during the part of the Revolutionary War, & believe from report that he has made a true statement of his services.

Sworn to in open court

S/ Mastin Durham

S/ Lewis Coffee

[Adam Vickery a clergyman and Rodes Garth gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 16]

Court of Wayne June 21st 1833 the said Reuben Coffey made an addition to this his Declaration for a pension that he entered the service to the best of his recollection & belief on the 17th day of June 1780 under Captain Moses Guest as in his Declaration aforesaid & that he served as a private throughout his service that he was discharged sometime in the fall of 1781, the precise month and date not recollected, by my Captain Moses Guest. But not in writing. I served fully 15 months, but claim only for 12 months.

S/ Reuben Coffey

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>1</sup> [Mastin Durham S1197](#)