

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Ray S7347

f34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/25/17

[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.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina, Orange County } SS

On this the 29th day of June A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me William H. Hall – one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid William Ray Sr. resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged 90 years on the 11th day of June 1833, who after having first in 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the year 1776 declarant was duly appointed a Captain of a Company of militia in the County of Orange & State aforesaid, which Company consisted of drafted men for three months: and he marched his said Company from the Town of Hillsboro N. C. to Fayetteville N. C. then called Cross Creek. Declarant's Company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Moore [Lt. Col. Stephen Moore], General Caswell [Richard Caswell] was the commanding General. -- Declarant served out the term of three months, as Captain, of which his said Company was drafted. He did not receive a written commission as Captain.

The declarant was a militia Captain in the County of Orange aforesaid, during the whole of the revolutionary war, and was generally engaged, in pursuance of instructions given by superior officers, in drafting men and delivering them at the Town of Hillsboro N. C. In addition to the tour of three months for which he served in the capacity of Captain as aforesaid, he performed two or three tours of three months each commanding the militia Companies as Captain, & was on each occasion duly appointed to the captaincy, but did not receive any either case, a written commission. -- One of the said Tours he performed in the year 1781, which commenced as soon as the capture of Hillsboro N. C. by the Tories took place [September 12, 1781]. The declarant marched his Company from Hillsborough to Lindley's Mills in Orange County, the day after the battle with the Tories at that place [September 13, 1781]. He was in pursuit of the Tories. In this tour General Butler [John Butler] and Colonel Mebane [Robert Mebane] were his Superior Officers. In the same year of 1781 before the capture of Hillsboro as aforesaid, the declarant, as Captain as aforesaid, marched a Company of drafted Militia from Hillsboro on a tour of three months duty, to the Yadkin River in N. C. and there joined General Butler's Brigade. This, it is believed, was when Lord Cornwallis was pursuing General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army from South Carolina into North Carolina. The declarant performed a great deal of other military duty during the revolutionary war – but on account of his advanced age & want of memory, he cannot pretend to specify the details of his service. He remembers the three tours of three months each, above set forth – but he cannot remember the circumstances & details of them, further than he has stated. He is very deficient in memory & is not enabled to

give a more precise account than the above of his service – the general result of his having performed three tours of duty as a Captain of the militia & having served under the Officers aforesaid & of his having been engaged in that duty, & the additional one of drafting & delivering soldiers as above set forth – is distinctly impressed on his memory but most of the accompanying circumstances have passed entirely from his recollection. He was born on the Susquehanna [River] in the State of Pennsylvania on the 11th June 1743. He hath no written account or record of his age. He was removed to the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina when he was about 18 months old: and he hath resided in said County & State ever since. He knew Captain William Lytle, Major Tatum & Col. Archibald Lytle who were Continental or regular officers. The declarant always volunteered his service. He knows of no person by whom he can prove his service except William Cummings¹ of Hillsboro. He hath no documentary [evidence] of 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. He is known to John Hanks a clergyman, Rankin McKee and Alexander G. Hall residence of his County.

Sworn to & subscribed before me.

S/ William Ray, Senr., X his mark

S/ Wm. H. Hall, JP

[John Hanks, a clergyman, Rankin McKee and Alexander G. Hall gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

North Carolina, Orange County } SS

On this the 25th day of November 1833, personally appeared before me William Horner one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid William Ray Senior, a resident of said County, and an applicant for a pension to the Government of the United States, in consideration of military service rendered by him to the United States, in the War of the Revolution, -- and after having first been sworn according to law, doth on his oath, say, that he is conscious that the infirmity of his memory is great, as he has before stated in his declaration made for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, which declaration, he is informed, is now in the Pension Office at Washington City: that he hath a recollection of important or striking events, of the service he rendered in the Revolutionary War – but his recollection of minor or unimportant details of his said service is vague and confused: that when he made his declaration, he did not remember that he had received a Commission of a Captain in the Revolution, and therefore he stated the fact of his not having received one, as he now thinks, which fact, this Affiant supposes was incorrectly stated, for two reasons viz.: First, this Affiant believes, that he as stated in his said declaration, that he had no documentary evidence of his service, except the affidavit of one or more persons which accompanied his said declaration – and he knows that that allegation was made in perfect good faith, and yet he is now certain that it was not correct: for since that time, he hath found a file of old papers, of the existence of which he had no knowledge at the time he made his declaration, which this affiant considers proof, above suspicion, of his service in the War of the Revolution, which is now begs leave to present to the inspection of the pension Office: viz., papers marked A, B, C, D, E, F and G hereunto affixed: this affiant having in this particular committed an obvious error in a matter of evidence of no light import, he thinks it equally probable that he might in like good-faith, have given an incorrect statement in regard to his Commission of Captaincy: Secondly, this Affiant now thinks, but his recollection of the fact is indistinct and confused, that in the Revolutionary War, he did receive from or through the hands of the Colonel of his Regiment, viz. Lieutenant

1 Sic, [William Cumming \(Cummings\) S8265](#)

Colonel Stephen Moore a printed paper conferring on him some authority, which is now supposed and indeed from what he has understood, he doubts not, was a Commission of a Captaincy, to this Affiant – and that it was, by virtue of that commission, that he performed the services of a Captain, in the War of the Revolution, as he has stated in his aforesaid declaration, but this affiant wishes it to be distinctly understood, that he does not and cannot conscientiously swear positively, that he did receive a Commission of a Captain, but only that he does not doubt the fact & believes it to be true, for the reasons above stated & for the reason that he was recognized as such, performed the duties & enjoyed the privileges of that grade.
Sworn to & subscribed before me this the 25th day of November 1833.
S/ Wm Horner, JP

S/ William Ray, Senr., X his mark

[p 19, “B”

“Captain Wm Ray has leave of absence for ten Days then to Join his company.
Sept. 24th 1780 S/ John Butler”

[p 32, this document is authenticated by John Taylor, clerk of Orange County, as being in the handwriting of General John Butler.]

[p 17, “C”

“By Stephen Moore commanding the Second Regiment of North Carolina Militia whereof Ambrose Ramsey Esq. is Colonel --

The bearer Captain William Wray he has leave of Absence from the Regiment that he may assist and apprehending Delinquents and the County of Orange, or whatever else he may have information of their concealing themselves from there Duty.

S/ Stephen Moore, Lt. Col.”

The above document was authenticated by Stephen Moore, grandson of Lt. Col. Stephen Moore,

by affidavit [almost illegible by reason of its faintness] given Nov. 30, 1833 in Orange County, NC. p 21.]

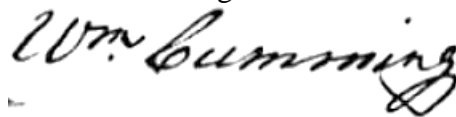
[p 15, "F"
Capt. Ray
1 pott, & 1 ax
1 pr Shoes
2 Shirts
1 Hunting Shirt
1 pr Brirches [sic] & Trousers
1 Hatt
1 Blankett
5 yd Tent Cloth]

[p 12, "G"--largely illegible document that appears to be half [halved vertically] of a letter or order directing the sending of Volunteer & drafted men to Cross Creek.]

North Carolina, Orange County

William Cumming, of the County and State aforesaid on this the 10th day of August 1833 personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the Peace, in & for the County aforesaid, and after first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, state, that he is now a pensioner of the United States for military service performed by him in the War of the revolution; that he well knew during the war of the revolution, William Ray Senior a resident of the County & State aforesaid, who have sworn to & subscribed the declaration to which this is appended, made for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that this affiant remembers well that the said William Ray was actively engaged during the revolutionary war, as a Captain of the Militia in Orange aforesaid – in drafting men for the service & delivering them at Hillsboro N. C. to other officers; that he remembers to have heard of the said William Ray having performed a three months service as a Captain in said War; and he knows of the said William Ray having been in a tour of duty in the war of the revolution, as a Captain of Militia, which the said Ray have not inserted in his said declaration viz. in the summer of 1780, the said Ray was in the battle of Gates defeat with this Affiant, who was under the command of Captain Thomas Farmer; that he understood & believes, that said Captain Ray was engaged at that time in a tour of three months service – whether he served out the tour he does not absolutely know, but he believes he did – for he remembers that the said Captain Ray & himself entered on said tour of duty on the first or second week of May, preceding the said Battle of Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780].

S/ Wm Cumming



Sworn to & subscribed
S/ Thos. Clancy, JP

["A," "D", "E" are not found in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$180 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a Captain for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]