

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Ray S7350

f19NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/14/09 & 10/25/14

[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 7]

State of North Carolina, Caswell County

On this 11th day of January 1836, personally appeared in open Court before Abner Miles, John P. Harrison & Benjamin C. West, Esquires the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina now Sitting, Francis Ray, a resident of said County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, aged Seventy Two Years on the 15th day of January next, 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and Served as herein Stated. Some time in the month of August or the first of September 1780, this Declarant Substituted himself in the place of his brother Sterling Ray who was drafted in the Company commanded by Captain Adam Sanders of the Said County of Caswell and State aforesaid, and was marched to Hamilton's Store in said County, near the Residence of Colonel William Moore, who commanded the Caswell regiments at that time, and was there stationed for the purpose of Guarding the public Store and magazine at that place until after news reached that place of the defeat of General Gates [Horatio Gates] at Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15 – 16, 1780]. Upon hearing that news, this Declarant was marched to the South being taken out of the company of Captain Sanders by the Colonel, William Moore, and made to wait upon him as his horseler [sic], and was taken or marched to South Carolina to the Waxhaw settlements for the purpose of Checking the progress of the British then marching towards North Carolina from Camden and to keep in Check also the Tories who were troublesome in that part of South Carolina; This Declarant was with the Regiment commanded by Colonel Moore, and with the Caswell militia, at the time of the capture of Tories with Colonel Rugeley [Henry Rugeley] at their head in South Carolina [December 4, 1780]. This Declarant was also one of the Guard who marched the prisoners to Salisbury and there confined them. This Declarant was not under the immediate Command of any Captain, after he left Hamilton's Store in Caswell County, But was under the orders and command of the Colonel Moore, the Commander of the Regiment, Waiting upon him as his menial Servant, and orsler [sic], a Situation which he never desired, although he was Compelled to perform, The Colonel at that time being allowed to take from the Regiment three Soldiers to wait upon him, one of which was this Declarant. This declarant was with the Colonel throughout the Campaign and returned with him in his House in Caswell County and was there discharged by him after having served out his tour of duty of three months for which he Substituted himself in the place of his brother Sterling Ray. This Declarant reached home he thinks Some few days before Christmas 1780. This Declarant remained at Home until the fall of 1781, when he again volunteered under Captain Adam Sanders and was marched in pursuit of the Tories and British who had captured the Governor [Thomas Burke, September 12, 1781] of North Carolina and who were then retreating to Wilmington. This Declarant was marched to near Wilmington and from thence up the River Cape Fear,

and from place to place through the Woods in pursuit of the Tories until the Battle of Brown Marsh where they had an engagement with the enemy and were defeated. From the Brown Marsh this Declarant was marched to Cross Creek and thence back again to the lower part of the State of North Carolina in pursuit of Tories and watching the enemy until his Term of three months for which he volunteered had expired, and was then discharged by his Colonel (Moore) and returned with him home, whose neighbor he was.

This Declarant, has now no Documentary evidence by which he can prove his Service, having long since lost them, and has to rely [upon] the Testimony of Holloway Pass¹ who was with him in the Service and his neighbor for his character as a man of credit and responsibility.

This Declarant was born in Franklin County State of North Carolina on the 15th day of January 1764, and moved to the County of Caswell when he was Seven or eight years of age. He has a record of his age which was taken from his Father's Bible (where his age was recorded) several years ago. He was living in Caswell County North Carolina when he was called into Service, where he now lives and where he has resided since the revolutionary War. This Declarant was called into Service first as a Substitute for his brother Sterling Ray, in his first tour of Service of three months; and he was a Volunteer in his Second tour of Service. And that he Served his Country faithfully six months in the Revolutionary War.

This Declarant does not recollect all of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where he Served But he recollects Colonel Washington [William Washington] of the Cavalry, General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], Colonel Henry Dixon & others with whom he was in South Carolina. He also recollects the casual Regiment commanded by Colonel Moore and the Orange Regiments commanded by Colonel Mebane [Lt. Col Robert Mebane].

This Declarant received to discharges both of which was given by Colonel William Moore and which have been long since destroyed or lost never expecting they would be of any Service to him. He was promised pay for his Service in the Revolutionary War But he never received one Cent.

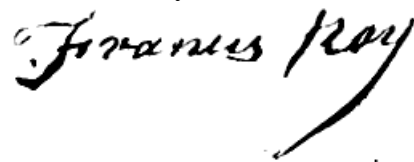
This Declarant would state that he is well acquainted with John P. Harrison his neighbor who will prove for him as he believes a good Character and also with Holloway Pass was with him in the Revolutionary War and who will prove for him his Services.

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 that he knows of.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Paul A. Haralson, Clk

S/ Francis Ray



[George Stevens, a clergyman, and John P. Harrison gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Holloway Pass of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Francis Ray who has Sworn and Subscribed the above declaration, and that he was a Soldier in the revolution as he states, that I was with him in the Army in South Carolina at the capture of the Tories with Colonel Rugeley at their head in the fall of 1780, and I was also with them, at the Battle of the Brown Marsh in the Lower part of North Carolina in 1781; and that the said Ray was a faithful Soldier – and that he is now and always has been a man of credit & truth.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court this 11th January 1836.

¹ [Holloway Pass S7289](#)

S/ Holloway Pass

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

S/ Paul A. Haralson

[p 4]

State of North Carolina Caswell County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions September Term, 1844

Be it remembered that on this 1st day of October 1844, it was made to appear to the satisfaction of the Court now sitting, That Francis Ray late of this County died on the 28th day of February 1843, and left no widow him surviving but left the following Children viz. -- Susan who have intermarried with Littleton Sledge, William, Mary, Jordon, Rachel, Stephen, Thomas, Patsey & Sarah who have intermarried with Samuel Bradley. The said Francis Ray was reputed to be a revolutionary Soldier and made an Application for a pension. It is therefore ordered by the Court, to be certified to the Clerk of this court, signed by John E. Brown, William Long & John P. Harrison Justices of the court now sitting.

S/ John A. Brown, JP

S/ William Long, JP

S/ John P. Harrison, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia. His pension was discontinued February 28, 1843 when he died.]