

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Ryan S7436 NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 Aug 2014.

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions
Guilford County } August Term 1832

On this 22nd day of August AD 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Guilford County now setting William Ryan a resident of the County of Guilford State of North Carolina aged sixty nine years 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 the 7th AD 1832 That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated That he was first drafted for the term of three months and served in a company commanded by Capt Peter Oneal [Peter O’Neal] in the month of May 1780 That he first marched into Randolph & Chatham Counties North Carolina in pursuit of the Tories, he then returned to Martinwell [sic: Martinsville] Guilford County and from thence marched to General Rutherfords [Griffith Rutherford’s] Camp in Mecklenburg County North Carolina. That he then marched to the Cheraw Hill in the state of South Carolina; and from thence marched and joined the American Army under General [Horatio] Gates & the Baron De Kalb a short time before the defeat of General Gates [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. That he was in the battle when General Gates was defeated near Camden South Carolina. He retreated to Salisbury North Carolina and after remaining there a short time was discharged by Genl [Richard] Caswell — In the month of October following he volunteered during the war or as long as troops were necessary for the defense of the Country & joined a troop of Cavelry commanded by Captain Daniel Gillaspie [Daniel Gillespie]. He was first engaged in dispersing the Tories that were embodying to join Lord Cornwallis in his march through North Carolina. Then joined General [Nathanael] Greene as he marched through North Carolina [Feb 1781] and went with him to Halifax Virginia. He then returned to North Carolina & joined General [Andrew] Pickens & Col. [William] Preston and went into Orange County for the purpose of attacking the Tories under Col. [John] Pyle. And reached the ground on which Pyle was defeated [in Alamance County, 25 Feb] on the same evening & before Col. [Henry] Lee had left the field. A few days after he was in the battle at Whitsells Mills [sic: Wetzel’s Mill, 6 Mar] in the Eastern part of Guilford County. Genl Pickens commanded the American forces at this battle [see endnote]. That he was taken sick and his Capt Daniel Gillaspie supposing he had the small pox sent him home where he remained at the time of the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781]. A few days after the battle of Guilford he joined his Captain Daniel Gillaspie & continued in service (with the exception of some short periods that he was permitted to go home) until the close of the war That he was frequently called out against the Tories under Col Fanning & other Tory leaders, and in the summer or fall of 1781 he marched from Guilford County to the Raft Swamp near the South Carolina line A in ~~pursuit of the Tories~~ & was about two months engaged in this service. On his return home he heard of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [at Yorktown VA, 19 Oct 1781] in Fayetteville. The Tories under Col Fanning and other tory leaders seemed to be driven to despair by the surrender of Cornwallis They divided themselves into small parties and prowled about the country & sought every opportunity to commit the most cruel and unprovoked murders & so frequent were murders robberies & Arsons committed by them that the Counties of Guilford Randolph & Chatham were in a state of continual alarm throughout the fall and winter of 1781 & the spring & summer of 1782 –and the Tories did not give up the contest until the British wholly evacuated South Carolina. This declarant was almost constantly in the field against the Tories during the summer & winter of 1781 and the spring & summer of 1782. The troop of Cavelry under Capt Daniel Gillaspie to which he belonged being volunteers and always holding themselves in readiness for immediate service they were always called upon in the slightest alarm – and they kept up this continual & harrassing warfare until about the close of the year 1782—
That he does not now recollect whether he recd a discharge for his first term of service but if he did he

delivered it to his Capt Daniel Gillaspie — after the close of the war he provided his claim for his services & recd through his Captain Daniel Gillaspie specie certificates to the amount of sixty two pounds two shillings which certificates he afterwards sold for 8 or 9 Dollars being all they would then bring in market which is all he ever recd from his Country for his services in the revolutionary war. He never held any commission

That he was born in Guilford County North Carolina on the 17th day of September 1762 That he has the record of his age now in his possession entered in a Bible formerly the property of his father and he believes it is true as there stated. That he has resided in Guilford County ever since this birth and was residing in said County when called into service. He further states that he is well known to the Rev'd Wm D Presley & Jonathan Parker Esqr among many other persons and that they can testify to his veracity. He does not now know of any person who can prove his services except John McBride [pension application W4730] & Joseph Lovett [W26804] all his officers being now dead

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

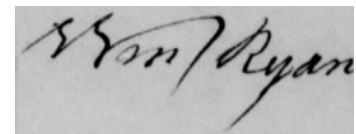


State of North Carolina }
Guilford County }

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid William Ryan who being duly sworn

deposeth & sayeth that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mention below & in the following grades — for three months under Capt Oneal in the year 1780 as stated in his declaration as a private — That he next volunteered in the month of October 1780 as a private under Capt Daniel Gillaspie and was almost constantly in the service of his Country until the April following, and he verily believes that he served at least four months between October 1780 & April 1781 — That from April 1781 until August of the same year he served under Capt Gillaspie & other officers against the Tories as a private in the Cavelry and was almost constantly in the field & he verily believes he served at least three months during the last mentioned period — That in the month of August 1781 he was called on & marched against the tories embodied at the Raft Swamp as stated in his declaration that he served as a private under Capt Gillaspie in this expedition and was in service at least two months. That after his return from the Raft Swamp as before stated he served as a private under Capt Gillaspie in a number of expeditions against the tories in the Counties of Randolph & Chatham during the winter of 1781 and the spring & summer of 1782 and he is positive that he served four months and more during the winter of 1781 and the spring & summer of 1782 – but from defect of memory he cannot now recollect either the number of times he was called out or the length of the different expeditions. But well recollects that he was in the service a very large portion of the period last mentioned. Time in all sixteen months And for such service he claims a pension

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 26th day of Jnny 1833



NOTE: Although Andrew Pickens held the rank of General, Colonel Otho Holland Williams was in command at the Battle of Wetzel's Mill by virtue of his being a Continental officer.