

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of David Wray S7973

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 Nov 2012.

State of Virginia Pittsylvania County to wit

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832. personally appeared before the county court of said county David Wray, a resident of said County aged 81 who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he volunteered in april or May 1778 during the revolutionary war in an expedition against the Indians in the Western part of Virginia on the borders of new river; He went from this County then called Henry [sic: see note below] under Capt. John Dollison [sic: John Donelson], that whilst in said service he was usually stationed at Lucas's Fort when not in active service. That there were other companies of Militia stationed at different points along said River and adjacent country, each company seperate from the others and there was no officer above the grade of Captain, the object being to guard the Frontier against the Indians. That said Tour was three months and on leaving there he was discharged, but got neither himself nor the other privates in said Company any written discharge. That two years thereafter [sic] he volunteered in a militia company from this County then called Henry County commanded by Capt. William Witcher [of Pittsylvania County]. That in said Company he marched first to Saulsbury [sic: Salisbury] in North Carolina thence to Stono in South Carolina was then attached to Colo. David Mason's Regiment [of Halifax County VA], General Lincolns [Benjamin Lincoln's] Brigade. That he performed service there five months and was sick at the time of a battle fought on said river [Battle of Stono Ferry, 20 Jun 1779]. that he never received any written discharge from that place because Colo. Mason authorized Capt Witcher to give said discharge to all his company and it was neglected as they all lived in said County & neighbourhood. That he was afterwards called on to guard five hundred prisoners [see note below] who were taken by Genl. [Daniel] Morgan at the battle of the Cow pens [Cowpens SC, 17 Jan 1781], which said prisoners were guarded from County to County by the Malitia of each County & he aided in guarding them to Bedford County Virginia, that as soon as he returned home he was ordered out to Gilford County NoCa under Capt James Brewer he was stationed near Gilford Court house and during the Battle of Gilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] he was a waggon guard that in this Tour he served only seven weeks. That his discharge from said service was written all in one with the others of said Company and was taken by a man by the name of Hunt, one of said Company. he further states that he never was in any battle, that he cannot now state the day month or year particularly in which he entered the service at the different times mentioned or the precise time he left the service

That there were continental troops at Stono in South Carolina to the number of 30.000 [sic: see note below] the different companies or regiments he cannot specify — That he can now only remember the names of Gen'ls. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], Lincoln & Moultry [sic: William Moultrie] in the south. To the Interogatories prescribed by the war department, He answers as follows.

To the 1<sup>st</sup> Born in Brunswick County Virginia exact year not recollected. To the 2<sup>nd</sup> answer none [no record of age]. To the 3<sup>rd</sup> answer in Henry County now Pittsylvania and has lived since the Revolutionary war & now lives in the same County — To the 4<sup>th</sup> he volunteered for the most part. To the 5<sup>th</sup> He refers to the preceeding part of this declaration as containing all the information he can give, To the 6<sup>th</sup> he also refers to the foregoing part of this declaration on the subject of his discharges. To the 7<sup>th</sup> Capt James Hopkins, Caleb Hundley, Jabez Smith & many others [are neighbors who can testify to his character for veracity and belief 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. Sworn to and subscribed the

day and year above stated

David hisXmark Wray

NOTE: Henry County was formed in 1777 from Pittsylvania County, not vice versa. Most accounts state that there were more than 600 prisoners from the Battle of Cowpens. Patrick O'Kelley (*Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vol. 1) estimates the total number of American troops at the Battle of Stono Ferry as about 1200, almost all militia.