

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry King S8792

f52VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/26/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 36]

State of North Carolina Rockingham County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1846

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1846 personally appeared in Open Court, Before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions held in & for said County, now sitting Henry King a resident of said County & State aged eighty-seven 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

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

1<sup>st</sup>. He entered the service at Halifax Courthouse Virginia for a three or six months Tour as Private of Infantry under Captain William Army, Colonel Allen Jones, and General Thomas Caton; and marched to Savannah in the State of Georgia and from Savannah to near Charles Town South Carolina where he was discharged; and returned to his home in Brunswick County Virginia, he again entered the service at Brunswick Courthouse Virginia as Private of Infantry under Captain Vann; and marched to Swans Point where there was an engagement though he did not reach there in time to be in said engagement: and at said Point there was a call for seventy-five 18-months men; and he soon did entered the service again for the Term of Eighteen months as Private of Infantry under the command of Captain Stith; Colonel Elliott & Major Edmunds; and marched to Little York and was there during the siege in and surrender of Corn Wallis [Cornwallis, October 19, 1781]; and there discharged by Captain Stith; and he remembers that about eighteen months or more from the time of his being discharged at Little York, Captain Stith gave him a Paper the purport of which he is not able to say, But believes it was a certificate which entitle him to pay for his services in the Revolutionary War; and he was promised pay for said service; but he never received any;

That his discharges and certificate is mislaid so he cannot tell what has become of them and further he knows of no one whose evidence can procure who was a contemporary survivor and companion in arms with himself in the Revolution and he also saith that from old age and loss of memory he is unable to state the Particular periods of his service in the Revolution or exact length of said services but is firmly of the opinion he served eighteen months or more in said War;

Sworn to and subscribed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1846 in open Court

S/ Henry King, X his mark

[Henry Johnson & J Johnson gave a supporting affidavit as to the credibility of the applicant and

his reputation as a soldier of the revolution.]

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State of North Carolina County of Rockingham

On this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 1852 personally appeared before me Robert M Napier a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County Henry King a resident of said County and State aged ninety-five years very old and infirm but of sound mind 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers in the war of the Revolution, with Great Britain, and served as herein stated; He was drafted at "Brunswick Court House" in the State of Virginia on or about the first day of Me in the year 1779 as a private in the company commanded by Captain William Aimey in the Regiment of Virginia Militia, commanded by Colonel Thomas Eaton for the term of six months, that he served faithfully during the said term of six months, and was honorably discharged from said company and Regiment at or near Petersburg in the State of Virginia on or about the first day of November in the year 1779; that his discharge from said service was given & by Thomas Eaton so well as he can remember, and was dated at the time and place above mentioned, Which discharge, has been long since lost and destroyed: That after the above mentioned tour of service he resided in the County of Brunswick in the State of Virginia, until the first day of July in the year 1780 on or about which day he was enlisted at Brunswick Court House in the State of Virginia as a private in the company commanded by Captain William Vaughan (who was succeeded by Captain Townsend B Stieth or Stith, at Swans Point on the way to Yorktown, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Virginia (or US) Infantry commanded by Colonel (name of Colonel forgotten) that he served as a private in said company and Regiment until the about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year 1781 when he was honorably discharged from said Company and Regiment by reason of expiration of his term of service, and that his discharge was given him signed as well as he remembers by the aforesaid Colonel (not recollected) and has been also lost or destroyed, He further declares that during the last term of service, he performed the following marches, viz.) From Brunswick Court House to Swans Point thence to Yorktown direct; and was engaged in the battle of Yorktown in the State of Virginia on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1781. He further declares on the said 10<sup>th</sup> day of October was engaged in the assault and reduction of one of the redoubts under the command of Colonels Hamilton and Lawrens (the redoubt taken by the Americans the other by the French). He further declares he witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1781 he also declares, that ever since the close of his last term of service, he has resided in the following named counties viz. That he resided in the County of Brunswick in the State of Virginia until the year 1802 when he removed to the County of Rockingham in the State of North Carolina, and that he has resided in the last mentioned County of Rockingham in the state of North Carolina ever since the year 1802, and that he still resides in said County. That he applied for pension sometime in the year 1846 through a man named that occurred as his agent but that said Pickard having immediately thereafter died he (the affiant) has not until recently heard that his application was rejected for some informality, = which informality consisting in the fact (as he has learned) "that his different tours of service were not specified in said application by stating how long he was in service each time and when and where he entered the service" he (the affiant) does

now state the same to the best of his memory; and that although, a letter purports to have been sent to his aforesaid agent, from the Pension Office setting forth the above named facts, and bearing date 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1846, the said agent having died, about the said date, he (the affiant) has never seen or heard the contents of said letter, until recently, (He further declares, the reason he never made application for Pension before 1846, was he was blessed with health and strength to labor for his support, besides the Boon of liberty for which he fought and aided to win, was sufficient pay, a) until by reason of old age and infirmity he is totally unable to labor, and being indigent, I renew my application accordingly, and with all the evidence that he can, that he has no other evidence and that he knows of no other persons, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, most of his contemporaries having long since died. – 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 whatever.

S/ Henry King, X his mark

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This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 1787 in the name of Henry King as private Infantry and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £57.3.10, delivered to Peter Purcell but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this  
10<sup>th</sup> day of April 1852.

S/ Ro Johnston  
First Auditor

[No Seal of Office]

[p 46: On October 4, 1852, Alexander Lemonds<sup>1</sup> of Rockingham County North Carolina, aged 90, a revolutionary war pensioner, gave an affidavit in support of the claim of Henry King stating that he has known King for about 45 years and that based on their conversations together, he has no doubt that King served as he claims.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina County of Rockingham: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1852

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year 1852 personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the aforesaid County now sitting for ordinary purposes, Henry King, a resident of said County, now aged about 93 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in addition to others heretofore made by him, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832: viz.:

That he is the identical Henry King, who, in the year 1846, as well as in March or April

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<sup>1</sup> [Alexander Lemonds S8831](#)

last, did make application for pension under the above named law of Congress on account of his services in War of the Revolution, and that having been restored to health, he does now by great bodily exertion (rendered necessary by extreme old age) appear before Court in order to make this his third declaration: That having been informed in the recent unfavorable decision of the Pension Office "because he (the declarant) has not identified himself with the service," and "because he did not previously apply for pension," he does now reiterate that he did set forth in his last previous declaration in regard to his Revolutionary Services, and begs leave to set forth other facts and to abuse other testimony in support of his claim: that he is unable, from extreme old age, and consequent loss of memory, to relate with accuracy every particular of his service, but, that he is positive in having served not less than the periods set forth in said declaration viz.: first, six months in the Virginia Militia, and afterwards 18 months in Colonel Stith's Company of Virginia State Troops (5<sup>th</sup> Regiment): that he served as a private soldier during the entire periods alluded to, with an embodied Corps called into service by competent authority – that he was either in the field or garrison, and for the time during which the service was performed, he was not engaged in any civil pursuit: That about the year 1787 or 1788, and (while he was a resident of Brunswick County, in Virginia, he did receive from said State the arrearages of pay due him, and depreciation money; and that he is much surprised to learn that he is doubted by the Accounting Officers in Washington to be the same man who did receive said arrearages: That he left Brunswick County (in which nearly all his comrades resided) a great many years ago, and before the passage of the law allowing him pension; and that about the year 1833 or 1834, in making preparations to apply for pension, he was informed that all of his old contemporaries and comrades who had served in the same company or Regiment had died or removed, and that he had been diligent in making inquiry, from time to time, in regard to their whereabouts, up to the time of his application in 1846, but has not been able, after such a lapse of time, to find out any one of them; and that the only surviving soldier who can now testify to his (the declarant's) services is one John Swepston who now lives in Pittsylvania County, State aforesaid, who, (although he served in another Corps) will testify to the services of the declarant, that he has not been apprised until very recently that said John Swepston was still living, and that his testimony will be obtained and forwarded as soon as possible. That the above will be all the contemporary proof which he can possibly adduce; and "to require of him positive proof of service from Contemporary Survivors," (especially when all those contemporaries or either dead or had removed beyond his reach as far back as the date of the passage of the law itself) being tantamount to depriving him of the benefits of the magnificent act of Congress, he trust that the Pension Department will receive an act favorably on this his third declaration, and, from the corroborating testimony of which will be here with presented, grant him a pension for at least 18 months service under said act of Congress; he, the declarant, being entirely willing to waive all claims for pension for services in the Virginia Militia: "That he has brought forward the best proof in his power, and trust that one of the objections lately alleged against his claim, will be removed by the fact of all his comrades having died some thirty years ago, and thereby rendering it impossible for him to have a used such testimony; and that the absence of such testimony has principally prevented him from applying for pension until the year 1846, when, as well as at the present time, his extreme poverty and helpless old age have compelled him to call upon his government for that aid which is due him; and under all the circumstances, trust that his petition will be immediately granted.

S/ Henry King, X his mark

[p 5: Yancey Holeman, a resident of Rockingham County and a revolutionary war pensioner

upwards of 91 years of age gave a supporting affidavit in which he states that he has known the applicant for about 40 years; that he has never during that time doubted that said King did in fact serve in the Virginia service as he states; the affiant also provides statements as to the claims of the applicant as to the officers under whom he served and the difficulty that the applicant and the affiant both experienced in finding contemporary survivors to prove their services.]

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Questions propounded to the Applicant by the Court

1. Question: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in the County of Brunswick, in the State of Virginia in the month of January in the year 1760.

2. Question: Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer: I had a Family Bible Record of my age which has been destroyed for many years, and I never had any other record.

3. Question: Where were you living when called into service, and where do you now live?

Answer: I was living in the County of Brunswick, State of Virginia when called into service and am now living in this County, i.e. Rockingham, in North Carolina.

4. Question: How were you called into service; were you drafted? Did you volunteer? Or were you a substitute?

Answer: I at first was drafted for six months service in the Virginia militia, and after serving that tour of six months, I returned to my native County of Brunswick and there voluntarily enlisted in the Virginia State Troops as described in my last previous declaration.

5. Question: State the names of regular officers who were with the Troops where you Served; such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect; and the general circumstances of your service &c.

Answer: On account of my extreme old age and the consequent loss of my memory, a great many incidents, as well as a great many names of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where I served have been forgotten by me; but I will answer to the best of my recollection: The Regiment to which I belonged was operating in the State of Virginia a great part of the time from the spring of 1780 to the time of the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown in October 1781. During the tour we frequently encountered parties of the British and I well remember seeing the following Regular Officers during the year 1781 down to the siege of Yorktown viz.: Generals Washington, Lafayette, Lincoln, Wayne and Gist, and Colonels Lawson and Stuart and Trumbull – and the following Militia Officers viz.: General Thomas Nelson, General Muhlenberg and Baron Steuben, all of whom I very frequently saw during the summer and fall of 1781 and who were at the siege and Surrender of Yorktown. I well remember that General Thomas Nelson, then Governor of Virginia commanded a large body of Militia in repelling the enemy from that State in said year, and was at the Battle & Siege of Yorktown with a large body of Virginia Militia. I well remember that there were also the New York Regulars under Colonel Fish, the Pennsylvanians under Colonel Stuart, the South Carolinians under Colonel Laurens, and the Maryland Regiment's under Generals Wayne and Gist at Yorktown: I well remember many incidents of the siege & surrender of Yorktown, which, it would be tedious to relate. I believe I related some of them in a previous declaration.

6. Question: Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service; and if so by whom was it given and signed; and what has become of it?

Answer: Soon after the capture of Cornwallis, I was discharged, with many others, from Captain

Stith's Company and returned to Brunswick. My discharge was signed by Captain Stith, but I do not remember with certainty by what Colonel or General it was signed, though I believe it was signed by General Peter Muhlenberg who had also some Regulars under his command; and the said Discharge has been lost or destroyed some 35 years ago.

S/ Henry King, X his mark

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Virginia: Pittsylvania County: to wit

Before me William D Terry a Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid County and State personally appeared John Swepston<sup>2</sup> a resident of said County, a Revolutionary Soldier and Pensioner who being first duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical John Swepston who was placed on the pension list for the State of Virginia in the year 1833 for his services as a fifer in the Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War, and that he is now considerably upwards of ninety years of age and has appeared today to make this affidavit on the half of an old Brother Soldier whom he has for many years well known viz.: Henry King of Rockingham County in North Carolina, and who, he had thought, was long since dead &c – That he first became acquainted with said Henry King in the Campaign in Virginia in the fall of the year 1781 and some short time before the capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown – that said Henry King having come from the County of Brunswick in which he (the affiant) had a brother living who had also entered the service in the Virginia Militia, they did at once become acquainted and were for some time together during the fall of 1781 although in different arms of the service: That said Henry King was in the company of one Captain Stith in the Virginia State Troops or Regulars and that he was informed by said King that he had already been sometime in the service and would be discharged in a short time, and that, so well as he remembers said King was actually discharged shortly after the Battle of Yorktown and capture of Cornwallis – that he heard nothing more from said King until after the close of the war and that he did frequently hear from him through his aforesaid Brother (Jehu Sweptson) who did at that time reside in Brunswick County, and well knew said Henry King – that the last time he saw said Henry King was about the year 1824 or 1825 when he (the said Team, was passing from Rockingham County in North Carolina (to which County he had removed) to Brunswick County aforesaid, and that he (the affiant) immediately recognized him as being the identical Henry King whom he (the affiant) had known as a private Soldier in the Revolution as aforesaid – that they spent a whole day together and talked over the various incidents of the Campaign in Virginia in the year 1781 – and that he (the affiant) was then informed by the said Henry King that he had been residing in North Carolina for many years – that he has frequently heard from said King since his residence in North Carolina, but not having heard from him for many years he had concluded that said King was dead, when he short time since received a request from him that he (the affiant) would make an affidavit of what he remembered in regard to the service of said King, as he (the said King) was now an applicant for pension, and his addenda to was doubted by the Accounting Officers at Washington. He further declares that he knows said King to be the identical Henry King who served as above stated, and that he has heard said King speak of having received arrearages of pay from the State of Virginia subsequent to the revolution but that he cannot remember the precise amount, and that in making this affidavit at the request of the same King, he is entirely disinterested.

S/ John Swepston, X his mark

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<sup>2</sup> [John Swepston S15999](#)

[Attested November 10, 1852]

[Facts in file: Veteran died in October 1852 in Rockingham County North Carolina; in 1852 2 daughters of the veteran were living in Rockingham County, their names and ages are not stated. In 1859 Thomas H Kean, a son of the veteran was living in Granville, Jackson County Tennessee, his age not stated. He referred to his father as Henry B King. The file contains no information regarding the veteran's wife or other family data.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia line.]