

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Lyon S8875

fn31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Lawrence

On this 12th day of March 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for Lawrence County now sitting William Lyon resident in the County of Lawrence and State of Kentucky aged eighty-two 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 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, under Colonel Branham Captain James Henderson Lieutenant William Runnells Ensign Aron Parks in the County of Wilkes County in North Carolina in Wilkesboro on the 29th of March 1781 for 3 months in the militia of the State, from Wilkesboro he was marched to Moncks Corner, he returned, from that expedition, and then marched to Cross Creek in NC against the Tories, the militia were under the command of General Caswell. The Tories were very troublesome in the back part of Carolina and had killed several persons, and indeed they were more to be created than the English Army. After they were dispersed from this place, where he remained for some considerable time, he was discharged from the service, he was in no battles, and there was no Continental officers that served in the troops during the time he served, the officers were the Army [sic?]. There was many militia officers in Company with him the object of which was to keep down the Tories under one Fanning [David Fanning] a commander of the Tories, when he was out this tour the Tories done little or no mischief at Cross Creek, he was discharged and received his discharge from William Runnells gave him he is, most of the men and according to his present recollection went home and he did also, discharged, 29th of July 1781.

After General Greene had passed into South Carolina the Governor of the State ordered a company in each place in the state, orders being received he engaged for nine months, in the service of the State on the 5th of September 1781 in Wilkes County, at the Court house under Colonel William Nash, Captain Larkin Cleveland Lieutenant Martin Gamble, Ensign James Bunyard, a Frenchman by birth. The true object of Company was to subdue the Tories and to march wherever they were, he states that he scouted in Surry, Iredell and Mecklenburg counties, in those Counties he states that they had great difficulties with the Tories being so numerous, they frequently fired on us from behind houses and on occasion when he was going down the Catawba River, the Tories and engagement ensued between us and the Tories in which some men

were killed, & wounded and Captain Larkin Cleveland was shot by them in the thigh, after this he the said Captain was unable to perform duty anymore, this occurrence took place in the winter of 1781, the precise date not recollected, a part of this applicant's time he rendezvoused near the Court house in Wilkesboro NC in January 1782 -- he scouted with his Company until his time expired, and he received his pay and discharged in June 1782. The Colonel did not serve with them, nor was there a militia Regiment that served during the aforesaid time with him, nor was there any regular Officers along. There was none else than militia man along whose object was to keep the Tories down, he marched chiefly from Surry, Iredell and Wilkes Counties all of which were beset during the whole revolutionary war, and even on the close of the revolution; he forewith [forthwith?] on the reception of his discharge, engaged under Martin Gamble who was then the Captain, for one year in the same place and under Colonel Branham the former Colonel this was in Wilkesboro North Carolina in July 1782. This Company was militia in the State establishment and he served under his same Lieutenant and Ensign again he marched to Mecklenburg and remained here and caught some Tories and put them in the jail from this place they marched into Iredell County and had an engagement with the Tories and took some of them, from here his Company came back to Wilkesboro and scouted and dispersed some Tories in the Eastern part of the County the Tories did show themselves in large bodies, but in parties, and his Company were rarely altogether, they would separate many of them that had been with the British the year before they would lie out, and rob and steal, many say many were caught, the [indecipherable word] of this year of 1782, when the hopes of the [Tories] were blasted, whenever they could not get supplies from the British Army, the greater part of them retired in November or December and he forgets which to the mountainous districts of the State where many were caught and some of them were hung in December he marched into Surry County, and remained there for only a few days this was December 1782. He states that he was then stationed on the Yadkin River [sic, Yadkin River] a place appointed for that purpose, where he remained during the winter: in the spring he continued in the service, and according to the orders attended to the Counties assigned to the Company, a part of this year 1783 in April he was in Surry County, in May and in June he was in Mecklenburg and returned to Wilkes County the 4th day of July and peace being made, he was discharged from the service of the United States, the troops were all sent home and the British left the Country. He states he did not serve all the time of his year out during the spring of 1783 and the summer of that he did not see any Tories in arms, some gave themselves up to us, he lacked a few days of serving out the year he has tried to remember the dates precisely when he entered, he knows it was in July 1782, but cannot be positive as to the day, his best impression is it was between the 15th and 20th of July 1782, and he well remembers that he was disbanded on the 4th of July 1783, for there was a barcue [barbecue?], and the company was on that [indecipherable word] by invitation, in the evening the Commander discharged the man. He believes there is many living witnesses by whom he can prove all his services by for they were all rendered in the same section of Country where he had always lived until he moved to Kentucky he states that there was no militia or Continental companies or regiments or regular officer, he received discharges for all his services for all his services and he lost or mislaid them about 17 years ago. 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 aforesaid.

S/ William Lyon

[Elias Kesee [could be Kesu, of Kesec], a clergyman, and Drury Riggsby gave the standard

supporting affidavit.]

1st Where and in what year were you born?

In Culpeper County Virginia February 17th, 1752

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have it in a Bible taken from a family record.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. In Wilkes County North Carolina where he lay of the ever since he was a man, and resided there until some years since he moved from Wilkes County North Carolina to Lawrence County Kentucky where he now lives.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. He was drafted first for 3 months -- He then engaged (enlisted) twice after once for 9 months, & lastly for a year he never was a substitute --

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

He states he never served with no regular Officer during the whole time of his service, the regular Officer all were in the Army and he never served with the Main Army. He knew several militia officers, but he never served with any militia regiments by [but] Colonel Branham's and Colonel Nash, and he served under General Caswell -- he served first for 3 months the 2nd time he served 9 months and he served 12 months lacking a few days, he thinks, that he entered somewhere between 15th & the 20th of July 1782 and he was disbanded and discharged on the 4th of July 1783 he was engaged altogether after the Tories, and he had many engagements with the Tories, he caught many of them, had had his Captain shot during the time he served --

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. He received 3 discharges, one was signed by William Runnells, the other by Cleveland, and lastly by Martin Gamble, they have been long since lost or mislaid, he does not know what has become of them

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. William Holbrook, Mathias Kelly, Samuel Kelly, William Walters, Randolph Holbrook, Drury Evans, Miles Terry, Reverend Elias Kezee, and Reverend James Wheeler
S/ Wm Lyon

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for one year service in the revolution.]