

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Commans S9259

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } Ss.

County of Brooke }

On this thirtieth day of July 1832 personally appeared before the Court of Brooke county, Robert Cummins, resident of said County, and Stated, aged Eighty years past, 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 in the Town of Carlisle [sic: Carlisle], in the State of Pennsylvania, in the month of February or March in the year 1776 [sic: 1775] he, with a number of others, volunteered his services, to go to the assistance of the Americans near Boston, under the command of Captain [Robert] Adams, Lieutenant Samuel McFerrin [sic: Samuel McFerran], and Second Lieutenant Bratton – when intelligence was received that Bunker’s Hill was taken [17 Jun 1775], and that the contemplated volunteer service would be of no use; this Declarant and a majority of the said company of volunteers, enlisted in the army of the United States, with the said Captain Robert Adams and his two subaltern Lieutenants, to serve, as a private, for the term of one year. The Major’s name (as well as Declarant can recollect) was Dunlap [sic: James Dunlop], and the Colonel was Doct. William Irwin [sic: William Irvine]. From Carlisle we were marched to Philadelphia, thence to New York, thence, by water, to Albany, thence to Lake George, thence to Ticonderoga, thence to St. John’s [St-Jean Quebec], thence to Chambalee [sic: Chambly], thence to the Three rivers [Trois-Rivieres], where under the command of Col. Irwin, and Lieut. Col. [Thomas] Hartley, we had an engagement with the British, and were defeated [8 Jun 1776]. Col. Irwin was taken prisoner. We then retreated under the command of Lieut. Col. Hartley to Barkee, on a small lake in Canada – thence returned to Chambalee, thence to St. Johns, Crown point and Ticonderoga; at which place (Fort Independence [sic: Fort Independence, referring to Mt Independence in Vermont]) remained all the winter of 1776 and until Feby. or March, 1777. On our retreat, the Declarant’s commander, Captain Adams, with three other Americans, were killed at Isle le Mote [sic: Isle aux Noix on 24 Jun 1776, not Isle la Motte 25 mi S], by Indians, and declarant assisted to bury them. On declarant’s return he passed through New Jersey and the Eastern part of Pennsylvania to his residence at Carlisle, having served in the Army of the United States, under this enlistment, fifteen months. No written discharge was ever given to this declarant.

In the latter end of the month of March, in the year 1778, the said Declarant was drafted to serve two months as a militia man, under the command of Capt. Buchanan, Col. Watts of Carlisle commanded the Regiment, and Samuel Ross was Lieutenant Colo. We were marched from Carlisle to a place called “the crooked billet,” where on the next day after our arrival, we had an engagement with the British, and were defeated [Battle of Crooked Billet at present Hatboro PA, 1 May 1778]. General John Lacey commanded the Americans. After our defeat, Capt. McClay and a number of American wounded and killed soldiers, were stripped of their cloathing, and burned by the British in a heap of Buckwheat straw. The battle at the Crooked billet was in a field of Buckwheat. for the last mentioned service declarant has no documentary evidence, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure.

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.



[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

Robert Cummins/ Pen. Brook Cty.  
draws too much. [see endnote]

Mr. Edwards [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] will examine this case in connection with the cases of Wm Stephens & Richard Matthews of Brook county & James Holliday of Ohio Cty [William Stevens W19109, Richard Mathews R7028, and James Holliday S7025] – they were all in the same expedition & none I think longer than one year. If so Cummins draws too much

W. G Singleton

Note. Holliday, Stevens & Cummins all claim 15 mo – Mathews, alone claims only 12 mo

Robert Cummins

Alleges to have served 1 yr & 5 months under Col. Irwin Major Dunlap & Capt Adams. (So says abstract for Brook Cty).

I the undersigned Robert Cummins, in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of war, make the following redeclaration of my Revolutionary Services for the purpose of testing my right to a pension.

I shall be 85 years old the [blank] day of October next. am a native of Ireland. Came to the United States in 1771. lived in Cumberland county Pa. during the war of the Revolution and until within the last 40 yrs. during that time I have lived in this country.

In February or March 1776 (I think in February) I enlisted under Capt Robert Adams for one year, my company marched to Philadelphia then joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Batallion commanded by Major Dunlap. – the Batallion marched from Phila. to Trenton thence through N. Jersey to New York and thence to Albany by water, from Albany across lake George to Ticonderoga, from thence across lake Champlain to St Johns, thence to Chambelee, thence down the St. Lawrence to the 3 Rivers. at the latter place, we had an engagement with the British army in which we were “beaten.” the American army retreated to Chambelee and from thence to Ticonderoga and thence to Mount Independence, we remained at the latter place until some time in March, at which time the army dispersed every man left at full liberty to work his way home in the best way he could. I finally got back to Carlisle. although I enlisted for twelve months as before stated I considered myself in service until I returned to Carlisle, I cant well recollect how long it was from the time we marched from Pennsylvania as before stated until we were discharged at Mount Independence, but I am confident that it was not less than one year. I know that I was from home fifteen months. – at the Battle of the three Rivers Genl. Irwin commanded the Americans, and was taken prisoner, so also was Col. Smith taken prisoner, Genls. Thompson and Sullivan were in the engagement, so also was Col. Hartly [William Thompson, John Sullivan, and possibly Thomas Hartley].

After my return and when the British army was in Philadelphia [26 Sep 1777 - 18 Jun 1778] (I cant tell the year) I was drafted for a two months tour, and served under Capt Buckhannon at the Crooked Billet – and was attached to Col. Watts Regt. Genl Lacy commanded – whilst in this service we had an engagement which resulted in the defeat of the American army – it was at least 3 months before I got home, although only drafted for two months, the forgoing comprises all the service I done. Capt. McCluney wrote my Declaration. I gave him the same statement in substance here given except that I told him I was in service for fifteen months in the first expedition. I proved my services by Wm Stephenson who was in service with me,

In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name July 10, 1835 Robert his Xmark Cummins  
Witness/ W. M. McClung [or McCluney]. a copy W G Singleton

NOTE: Robert Commans was granted a pension on 26 Dec 1832 for \$56.66 per year for 17 months service. There is no indication that the amount was ever changed.