

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Skaggs¹ W2182 Polly

f64VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/28/12

[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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Green County to wit

On this 23rd day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Green Circuit Court holden for Green County and State of Kentucky now sitting William Skaggs a resident citizen of Green County Kentucky aged 75 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 into the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: He states that in the year 1778 in the month of March he was called and entered as an Indian spy and continued to serve until the last of October or first of November in the same year. He states that he entered into the service aforesaid in the State of Virginia. The name of the County he did not now recollect, it was near the head of Clinch River in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Mastin. He states that whilst in the service he and one Thomas Ray were allotted to serve as spies in the boundary laid off commencing at the head of Clinch River and extending to the big Cain brake [canebrake] on Big Sandy River a distance of about 75 miles. It was made their duty to go about 1 mile below the cain brake for the purpose of meeting two other spies. He states that on one excursion as they were proceeding from the head of Clinch River to the lower end of their boundary, on their way they discovered that some Indians had taken up another fork of Sandy along a Buffalo trace which led towards the country settled by the whites, so soon as they made the discovery, they turned their course and endeavored to reach the settlement before the Indians, so that some efficient means might be effected for the purpose of repelling their invasion, but when they reached the settlement, they were informed that the Indians had reached some parts of the settlement the night before and attempted to commit some depredations that they had attacked the father of said William as he was returning from a neighbor's house and pursued him with such violence that he was compelled to turn and fire, by which he was successful in putting an end to one of his pursuers.

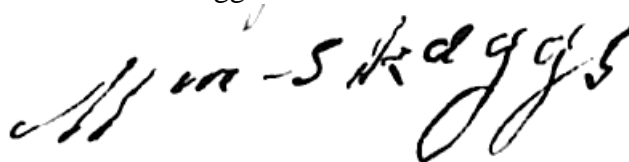
The said William Skaggs further states that in the year 1779 in the spring of the year the month not recollected he enlisted in the Virginia militia in the state of Virginia and near the head of Clinch River in a company commanded by Captain Mastion [Maston or Mastin or Martin?] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and served a tower [tour] under the last term of enlistment of three months. Immediately after his enlistment Colonel Shelby together with his Corps made a tower [tour] I water down to the Chickamauga towns on the South side of the Tennessee River which town was entirely settled by the Cherokee Indians: which they invaded, killing many Indians; after they put to flight & destroyed the inhabitants of

¹ BLWt27564-160-55

the place They put fire to the town and entirely consumed it – when the destruction of the town was completed Captain Bean proposed raising a scouting party for the purpose of searching for some of the inhabitants of the town who had made their escape. Some 30 of the soldiers joined Bean among whom was the said William Skaggs. They left the main Army and marched a north course across the Cumberland mountains: shortly after they had crossed the mountains they discovered an encampment of the Indians which they immediately ~~attaeked~~ invaded and killed three of the Indians and took three prisoners the said William states that in that attack he had the good fortune to take a squaw as prisoner. After this success they marched to meet the main Army and fell in with them at their encampment on a small Creek: they were marched from there encampment to Powell's Valley where owing to too great scarcity of provisions ~~they were discharged~~ the Army were disbanded and marched home where they were discharged the said William Skaggs states that he received a written discharge from Captain Mastin which kept for many years, but it was consumed in the flames of the roof which protected his family in conjunction with all his household property. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his services whatever nor is there any living witness within his knowledge by whom he can establish the same or any part thereof.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatever. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Skaggs

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Skaggs". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Wm Skaggs".

[Charles Blevins, a clergyman, and Samuel Brents gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 60]

State of Kentucky Green County S

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace William Skaggs of said County who being duly sworn by me deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service as a soldier of the American Revolution, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below , all in the grade of a soldier , I served for eight months the first tour as an Indian spy, being from the first of March 1778 to the first of November of the same year; the second tour was three months commencing in the spring season of the year 1779 the day of the month or month he cannot now remember, he recollects well , however, the whole tour was three months; and that he served it out fully , nor can he recollect the day of the month or months of which he was discharged, which two tours make the term of eleven months of service , for which service, I claim a pension – the said Skaggs further states that he was born in the state of North Carolina the County he does not remember; it was near a place called the horse pasture as he learned from his mother – He was born as he has learned from his parents in the year 1757, the in [sic] of what month he does not know. He stated he had no record of his age, he once had but the family Bible in which it was kept got burnt in his dwelling house, when it was consumed by fire many years since, and that he is known to many persons in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier in the American Revolution and amongst the number he would name Major Richard

Hazle, Captain Jacob Saltsman, & Captain Joseph Harrison, James Sweaney & Samuel A Spencer.

Subscribed and sworn to before me a Justice of the Peace for Green County Kentucky this 24th day of May 1833

S/ Wm B. Allen, JP GC

S/ Wm Skaggs

[Samuel A Spencer & James Sweaney gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[On March 10th, 1853 in Green County Kentucky, Polly Skaggs, 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of William Skaggs a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution at the rate of \$36.66 per annum; that she married him September 2, 1802; that he died in green County Kentucky August 20, 1848; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 11: Jane Warren & Louisa Gravatt gave testimony on March 10, 1853 in green County Kentucky that they were acquainted with William and Polly Skaggs; that they were married September 2nd, 1802; that her name prior to her marriage to William Scott next was Polly Pearce.]

[f p. 14: Of March 17, 1855 in green County Kentucky, Polly Skaggs, 75, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Skaggs.]

[f p. 19: copy of the marriage records from Green County Kentucky showing that William Skaggs and Polly Pearce were married September 2, 1802 by the Reverend William Mathis.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the Virginia militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing February 3rd, 1853.]