

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Green W24319

Betsy Green

f69SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/7/06 revd' 10/23/15

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

[p 5]

State of Kentucky, Hickman County: Sct.

On this 19th day of August 1836 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County & State aforesaid William Green aged Seventy eight years and 7 months a Resident of said County of Hickman and State aforesaid 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 after stated, to wit: he was born on the 14th day of January 1758 (and he knows this fact having a record of his age now in his possession) in Stafford County Virginia his father moved with him when he was a child from Stafford to Henry County Virginia where he remained until the year 1779 when your declarant left his father and went to the house of his brother in Washington County Virginia near the town of Abingdon and was here, to wit, in Washington County Virginia where he first entered the service of the United States in the beginning of September 1779 the Shawnee Indians committed considerable depredations on the northwestern frontiers of what was then called New Virginia and your declarant under the authority of the Governor of Virginia volunteered his service for the purpose of guarding the said frontier he entered as above remarked in the beginning of September 1779 his engagement was for 12 months his Captain's name was John Shelby and his lieutenant's name was Reese Bowen he joined a corps commanded by Colonel Philip Waters and marched to the [word missing from tear in page] North Western frontier of Virginia on the waters of Clinch River where he was stationed with the whole corps of Colonel Waters' alternately on Blue Stone & Walkers Creek and occasionally scouring the woods in search of Indians he continued in this service & upon this station until the first of April 1780 when a temporary truce having been made with the Indians your declarant was discharged with the whole corps to which he was attached he received a written discharge signed by Captain John Shelby but has long since lost it (your declarant served seven months this tour).

2nd tour 1780 After having been discharged as above stated your declarant came home with his fellow soldiers and although they were discharged they had not served out their term of 12 months according to engagement your declarant was therefore called on again under his old engagement he entered under the same officers (that is company officers) in the first week in June 1780 the corps was commanded this time by Colonel Daniel Smith we marched across the blue ridge & took our route towards the River Yadkin along the southern country of North Carolina we crossed the Catawba on our march when we received intelligence of the Battle of Aimsaours Mill [Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780] which for the present relieved the territory of North Carolina from the enemy we then retraced our steps towards home where we arrived about 20th July 1780 we were temporarily disbanded and remained at home until the beginning of September 1780 when we were again called into service of the United States under the said old engagement same County & State & same company officers but our

regiment or corps was commanded this time by Colonel William Campbell we crossed the blue ridge again took our route to the south towards Augusta where we were joined in North Carolina by Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and a large force of North and South Carolina militia with whom we marched and attacked and captured the British & Tory Army under Colonel Ferguson [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson] at Kings Mountain in the beginning of October 1780 [Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780]¹. Lieutenant Reese Bowen was killed in this affair your declarant was detained in the mountain region of North Carolina guarding prisoners taken at the battle of Kings Mountain until about the 15th day of December 1780 when having completed his original voluntary engagement of 12 months including his Indian tour of seven months on blue stone on Walkers Creek your declarant received a written discharge signed by Captain Shelby which he has now lost.

3rd When your declarant was discharged as above stated he did not return home to New Virginia but proceeded to South Carolina on the Saluda River and he there voluntarily joined a small corps of South Carolina militia which was stationed there under the command of Colonel Boardy [?] Waters [sic, Philemon Waters?] for the purpose of guarding a considerable body of Tories prisoners and for the purpose of overawing & preventing the Tories from rising. Colonel Waters was an old acquaintance of your declarant and he entered the service of the United States under his command for a tour of three months about the 9th day of January 1781 and he served out the whole tour at the station say 3 months at the end of which period he was discharged in the month of April 1781 he received a written discharge signed by Colonel Waters which discharge is now lost.

4th your declarant next entered the service of the United States by joining General Marion [Francis Marion] voluntarily for an indefinite period near the Great Pee Dee [Pedee River] in the neighborhood of Georgetown South Carolina in the latter part of April 1781 and he continued in the service of the United States under the orders and directions of General Marion for the term of 12 months and he was employed the whole time in the South Eastern Maritime District of South Carolina and chiefly between the Santee and Pee Dee Rivers in making small expeditions against the British and Tories he was generally under the immediate command of General Marion in person who sometimes would have a large and sometimes a small company occasionally General Marion would entrust your declarant with the command of a small party and upon those occasions he was called Captain yet he had no commission from the government but only a temporary appointment from General Marion he was in no particular stated battle that has acquired any celebrity yet he was engaged doing this tour in a great variety of little skirmishes with the Tories – your declarant was discharged by a written certificate from General Marion about the 1st day of May 1782 having served in all the term of two years and three months (to wit: in Western Virginia against the Indians under Captain Shelby – Lieutenant Bowen & Colonel Waters 7 months in North Carolina under the same officers and Colonel Daniel Smith & Colonel William Campbell 5 months in South Carolina under Colonel B. Waters 3 months in South Carolina under General Francis Marion 12 months: 27 months in all cases as a volunteer militia man. Your declarant states that he has no documentary evidence of his services and he knows of no living witnesses by whom he can prove his services and he states that John Tyler A. S. Tyler Thomas Ross & Joel Rusk are his neighbors who will testify as to his character for veracity and as to his reputation of having been a soldier of the revolution and whilst on this subject he will state that the first year General Andrew Jackson came to Tennessee he (your declarant) and the General lived and boarded together at the house of General Daniel Smith in Sumner County Tennessee (who was the same Colonel Smith that your declarant served under in his second tour Armsoar's Mill). General Jackson was studying law that year & became intimately acquainted with your declarant and he has no doubt but he yet recollects him and can testify as to his character for veracity and he hopes that this declaration may be presented to the president for his inspection and decision.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and

¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory whatever. He states as above remarked that he was born in Stafford County Virginia, that his father moved with him to Henry County Virginia when he was quite young, that he left his father and in the year 1779 and went to his brother's house near Abingdon in Virginia then he afterwards came he thinks in August 1784 to Sumner County Tennessee where he lived in the house of General Daniel Smith (with General Jackson) until June 1785 when he returned to Stafford County Virginia where he was married in August 1785 he then returned with his wife to Sumner County Tennessee in the same year in 1786 he moved to Logan County Kentucky in 1788 he moved to Robinson County Tennessee in 1789 he returned to Sumner County Tennessee in 1796 he returned to Logan County Kentucky & in 1802 he moved to Stewart County Tennessee and in 1833 he moved to Illinois and in 1834 he moved to Indiana and in 1836 he moved [to] Hickman County Kentucky where he lives at present and this declarant further states that owing to old age and bodily infirmity he is unable to go to the county seat and attend court for the purpose of making his declaration.

Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Hickman and State of Kentucky.

S/ William Green, X his mark

S/ A. S. Tyler, J. P.

[Thomas Ross, clergyman, and Joel Rusk, neighbor, attest to declarant's veracity &c.]

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Hickman County Kentucky

December 14th, 1836

Hon. J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions

Dear Sir

The undersigned William Green of Hickman County Kentucky made a declaration in the month of August last; and transmitted it to you through the Honorable Lyam Boyd [Linn Boyd] for the purpose of availing himself of the benefits secured to him as a Soldier of the revolution, by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – which has been filed in your office with suspended cases. Your letter to Mr. Boyd of 22nd September last announcing this fact has been put into my hand, and is now returned with this explanatory communication with the hope that you will reinvestigate my claim. The first objection that you make to my claim is that "The militia of that state (Virginia) was not called out to perform continuous services for so long a term of 7 months." This principle I admit may be true when applied to the great body of Virginia Militia. But those living West of the great Allegheny Chain of mountains formed an exception to the rule as I well know from personal experience at the period of my service a narrow strip of Country immediately west of the mountains constituted the Western frontier of Virginia; extending from the Holston River on the south to the Monongahela on the North embracing an extent of at least 250 miles – which was exposed to the Continual depredations of the Indians – The Inhabitants of this mountain region of which I was one were compelled to rely on their own strength for defense against the Savages, but such was the necessity of the times that they were frequently called on to contribute their aid to their fellow citizens east of the mountains as in the case of Kings Mountain &c. Thus they were in effect placed between two fires and were subjected to the operation of two distinct systems 1st their local system of defense against the Indians and 2nd the regular or militia laws of the state by which they were subjected to regular calls or drafts for service to be performed east of the mountains against the British and Tories.

The local system of defense above alluded to which was adopted West of the mountains so far as my knowledge extended was as follows to wit – The Governor of Virginia delegated plenary powers to certain militia officers in the mountain region as for instance Colonel Campbell on Holston and Colonel Preston on New rivers vesting them with full authority to adopt any system of defense against the Indians which the necessity of the times might require. In pursuance of this authority stations or

forts were established on the extreme frontier where small parties of militia were kept stationed and portions of these small garrisons were employed daily in ranging and exploring the wilderness for the purpose of discovering the insidious approach of our Savage. Sometimes the service of these people were voluntarily and at other times they were simply detailed alternately as they stood on the militia muster roll and it was under this irregular system for our local defense against the Indians that I first entered the service in 1779 and served as stated in my declaration in an embodied Corps and that to by authority of the Governor of Virginia which declaration I now confidently rely upon as complying fully with the regulations of the war department.

In relation to my service under General Marion I have been informed that immediately upon the reception of your letter referred to above the Honorable Lynn Boyd addressed a letter to W. Laval Esquire Secretary of State at Columbia South Carolina on my behalf but has not yet received an answer and I Greatly fear that this rule thus laid on me is in effect rejecting my whole service under Marion for this reason I am an obscure old man one down with age and infirmities incapable of transacting my own business and having no property, or other means to hire others to transact it and I am told that the clerks in these great offices will not make strict and thorough examinations and make out proper statements without a fee which I am wholly unable to pay having no means whatever. But independent of the above permit me respectfully to remark that from my knowledge of the nature of the service under General Marion I am fearful there is not full evidence of the service of all those who served under him to be found in the South Carolina office – his force whilst I was with him was very fluctuating, sometimes several hundred and again not one hundred and such was the severe nature of the service and destitute Condition of the Country that there was generally no means of keeping a regular roll. Hence I suppose that the evidence in South Carolina office is very defective but permit me respectfully to present this matter in another point of view. I have been informed that the department has been in the habit of granting pensions to General Marion's man upon the general principle of militia man without requiring proof of service – If that is true I must be permitted respectfully to protest against the application of a principle to me which has not been brought to bear upon my fellow soldiers.

Finally, the reason I did not make an earlier application for a pension is that for several years after the law passed I had property enough to live upon, and I concluded that I had nearly reached the end of my life without pay for my revolutionary services; that I would now trouble my Country since I have lost all my property and am now wholly dependent upon one of my sons-in-law for support finally when I Concluded to make an application, my bodily infirmities were such that I could not attend Court, and I waited a long time hoping I would get better and eventually when all hope of recovery failed I experienced great difficulty and another long delay before I could procure a person to come to me and make out my declaration thus four years elapsed when I succeeded in August last Completing my application.

I hope these explanations will be satisfactory and that you will now see the Justice of placing me on the Pension roll.

Test

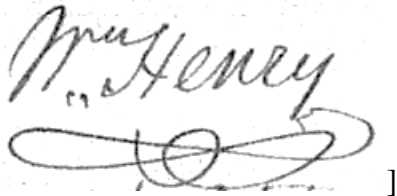
S/ A. S. Tyler

S/ William Green, X his mark

[Acknowledged in Hickman County Kentucky December 15, 1836]

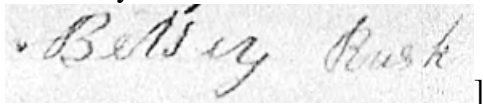
[p 13: On December 3, 1855 in Randolph County Illinois, William Henry, aged 61 and a resident of said County, made application for the pension due Betsy Greene, deceased, at the time of her death on December 23, 1851 under the 1838 act as the widow of William Green; that affiant is the duly appointed administrator of the estate of Betsy Green; that William Green was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$52.70 per annum; that Betsy and William were married in Stafford County Virginia on August 29, 1785; that the only surviving children of Betsy Green are: Betsy Rusk, Polly Haines, Sally Goff and Rachel Sills; that William Green died in Graves County Kentucky on or about

April 29, 1837; that William Green had lived in said County and state only about one or 2 months before his death; prior to that time, William Green had lived in Hickman County Kentucky; that Betsy Greene died in Randolph County Illinois on December 23, 1851; that prior to her removal to Illinois the widow had lived in McCracken County Kentucky; that Betsy Rusk was born April 10, 1795 and married Joel Rusk on January 15, 1814; Polly Haines was born January 17, 1789 and married John Haines (date not stated); Sally Goff was born August 5, 1792 and married Essy Goff (date not stated); and Rachel Sills was born January 24, 1803 and married Willy Sills (date not stated); that when last heard from, Betsy Rusk lived in Randolph County, Polly Haines lived in White County Illinois, Sally Goff lived in New Madrid County Missouri and Rachel Sills lived in Stewart County Tennessee.



Mary Henny]

[p 18: On May 8, 1855 in Randolph County Illinois, Betsy Rusk of said County, gave testimony that she is the daughter of William Green, a revolutionary war pensioner; that her father died at his residence in Graves County Kentucky at which time he drew a pension of \$63 per annum; that her father died in April 1837; that her mother Betsy Green, whose maiden name was also Betsy Green, married William in Virginia on August 13, 1785; that her mother died in Randolph County Illinois December 23, 1851; that her mother had remained a widow ever since the time of the death of her father; that affiant, Polly Haines, Sally Goff and Rachel Sills are all of the living children of William and Betsy Green.



Betsy Rusk]

[p 52: Certificate dated February 2, 1837 from the South Carolina Comptroller showing payments made to William Green for militia duty per Captain John Norwood's pay bill for a total of 183 days.]

[p 54: certificate dated February 2, 1837 from the South Carolina Comptroller showing payments made to William Green

for 95 days service in Captain Frederick Wommack's Company of militia of horsemen;
for 35 days service in the militia in Waters' Regiment since the fall of Charleston

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$52.70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry & Cavalry of both the Virginia & South Carolina militia for a total of 15 months. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]