

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Philip Russell¹ W2575

Mary

f81VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 8/16/12

[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.]

[f p. 18]

State of Illinois Franklin County

On the Second day of October 1832, personally appeared before the Circuit Court holden in and for the county of Franklin, Philip Russell, a resident of the county of Franklin and State of Illinois aged sixty seven years the 14th November next, 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 7th 1832.

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

He was born in Lunenburg County in the State of Virginia in the year 1765. He has the record of his age now at home in his own bible which he took and copied with his own hand from the record in his father's Bible made by him.

He was living in the county of Pittsylvania State of Virginia when he entered the service of the United States which was about the first of February 1781. It had come to the turn of one Floyd Tanner to perform a tour of duty, and this applicant took his place as a private and rendezvoused at Wilson's Mill on Sandy River in Pittsylvania County under Captain William Dix, when he was received as a substitute of the said Tanner, the company then went to the place called the High rock Ford, on Haw river in Orange County, North Carolina as he believes when they joined the Virginia troops and the regulars under Genl Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], the Regiment to which Captain Dix's company belonged was commanded by Col. Peter Perkins, and the militia Genl. Who commanded these troops was General Stephens [Edward Stevens] In and from Culpeper County in Virginia. From the High rock Ford, the whole force under General Greene was consisting of militia and regulars, marched towards the south, the movements of the army consisted of marching to and fro, sometimes hanging upon Cornwallis and at others flying from him. The forces under Genl. Greene not being at this time sufficient to fight, until a considerable addition of strength enabled us to fight Cornwallis at Guilford Court house, about the middle of March as he thinks the 15th day which was on a Thursday. During the turn of the engagement, Genl. Stephens in person commanded and encouraged his men, in which fight this applicant was wounded by a shot in the right side. The army of Genl. Greene was ordered to retreat from the engagement and previous to getting engaged, orders were given to the men in case of defeat and rout, they were to reunite at a place called Troublesome Ironworks on the Haw River about seven miles from Guilford, when they accordingly reunited under the respective officers. From this place they were marched down by the battleground, in pursuit of Cornwallis,

¹ BLWt26883-160-55

who had hastily left the field and took his rout towards Wilmington, we pursued him as far as to Deep River and then moved back near to Guilford when after remaining some time we were discharged, sometimes in the forepart of the summer of 1781. The tour of duty was for five months and this applicant received an honorable discharge and returned home. He further states that Colonel Lee [Henry Lee, "Light Horse Harry Lee"] and Colonel Washington [William Washington] were along at the same time with their respective corps of Light Horse. He further states that he recollects of no other incidents of importance which happened during his service, that he received a discharge as above stated which he gave to his father at his return home which is lost many years since. The discharge was signed by Captain William Dix.

This applicant states that after this service he returned home and shortly engaged in driving a wagon in the service of the United States and continued for upwards of two years. He then returned again to his father in Pittsylvania County where he resided (following principally wagon driving for a living) until 1797, when he came to Tennessee Montgomery County, where he resided twenty years and then moved in 1817 or 18 to the county of Franklin State of Illinois, where he has lived ever since and still resides, he further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can conveniently at this time procure who can testify to his services.

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 any State or Territory.

S/ Phillip Russell, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ S. M. Hubbard Clk.

[Cudworth Harrison and Simon M. Hubbard gave the standard supporting affidavit]

[f p. 53]

State of Illinois Jackson County

Amended Declaration of Philip Russell to his declaration made in the Franklin Circuit Court court made in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

On the 23rd day of October 1833, personally appeared before the Honorable Thomas C Browne Judge of the circuit Court of Jackson County aforesaid in open court Philip Russell a resident of the County of Franklin for the purpose of amending his declaration made in the Franklin Circuit Court, and alleges as a reason for his appearance in this court that he was not able to get to the Franklin circuit at its last fall session, which came on previous to this Court and that he did not wish to delay until the next spring term of the said Franklin's Circuit Court, and further that he can the more readily procure the attendance of witnesses at this court, who reside in the County of Jackson and in his neighborhood he living at or near the line separating the Counties of Jackson & Franklin, and about equal distance from both places of holding court, in the two counties, the said Philip Russell states that his declaration is correct in all matters, as far as they are stated therein and that in his service as therein set out, he served five months and thirty days previous thereto, in a kind of irregular service, got up for the purpose of intercepting the British troops and Cornwallis, who about that time were for a time successful and in the chase of General Greene. He, further states that at the time of making his former declaration, he was advised that as he was a wagoner he could not receive pay for that time, but better advised now, he begs leave to lay before the proper authority, the nature of his service as a wagoner. As early as the 20th September 1781 [last digit unclear] the movements of Lord Cornwallis caused a call of the militia in the neighborhood where this affiant resided, and it came to be his father's turn to serve a tour of

duty of 3 months service, his name was William Russell and this applicant entered the service as a private & as a substitute for William Russell his father, under William McCraw, who was at that time Quarter Master and kept the public stores at Halifax old Town, and placed under George Elliott, who had charge of the public wagons and teams all of which were public property because he well recollects that the horses were branded U. S. A. how he came to be detached he does not now know or remember, but he drove the public wagons and at the end of his 3 months tour he was regularly discharge by William McCraw, whose rank he does not know, his station was at Halifax and was principally engaged from thence to Salisbury in transporting public stores arms clothing & provisions for the Army, in the capacity he served 3 months, this service and the manner of it is known to Joseph Williams now a resident of this County but of advanced age and is not able to be present in court, after its expiration, it had come to his applicant's time to serve a tour of 3 months, he having arrived in the meantime to the age of sixteen at which age persons were then enrolled in the militia he again entered it, drafted by a lot as those had been for whom he previously served, as a private, to perform his own tour, he was again taken for the same service by the said William McCraw, but to whose company him or William Russell before mentioned were attached to or detached from he does not now recollect having never joined the company, though his name may have been there registered, [indecipherable word] he served out his term of 3 months stationed at the same place, under the same George Elliott wagon master and in the pay of the United States performing similar service to those mentioned before, and at the expiration of 3 months he received a written discharge from William McCraw signed a fish him as Quarter Master, a week afterwards, he enlisted as he understands the engagement to have been turned under William McCraw, or 12 months he continued stationed at Halifax, but was often ordered from thence to different points, 6 months of this last period George Elliott continued in charge of the public wagons, and then William Walden became wagon master the remainder of the time; at the expiration of the 12 months he was regularly discharge, for the 12 months term by the same William McCraw, Quarter master serving as a private and in the home goal station of wagoner, he had but little means of information, and knows not anything of the Authority, by which his service was legalized, but he knows well the fax he has stated and that he was under the same discipline & strictness and received the same pay as a private soldier and was discharged as such after the latter discharge, he was employed by William McCraw by private contract, and continued his same employment in collecting together the public property of which there was a sale [?] at Halifax Old Town at the public storehouse after the peace was made, of a portion of these services Nelson McDowell a resident of Perry County in this State and now here, personally knows having seen him in the said service as a Waggoner at the [word too small to discern] and by reputation knows of all (as he was living in my neighborhood), from the respect of others who has seen me in this service, he knows that I was in the service those 3 tours amounting to 18 months, not as a contractor or in the employment of any contractor by civil engagement, by common report of those who saw may at the time of the service aforesaid I am also well known to Elijah Spiller of Jackson County, a clergyman, and Joshua Lyman a citizen [of] Franklin County State of Illinois, – who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a revolutionary soldier of the revolution, he further states that the discharges for the said terms of service given by the said William McCraw as aforesaid, when he returned home were given to his father and like those mentioned in his original declaration are long since destroyed or lost, He further states that he never received anything for his services but the memorable Continental money, which was of no value.

S/ Philip Russell, X his mark

[Elijah Spiller, a clergyman, and Joshua Lyman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 27]

State of Illinois Gallatin County: Sct.

Before me the undersigned a justice of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared Philip Russell a resident of Franklin County and State of Illinois, and made oath that he is the individual to whom the Secretary of War has issued his Certificate for a pension of \$20 per annum under the act of 7th July 1832 [sic June 7th, 1832] update 17 December 1833.

The said Philip Russell further deposes and says that he served under his first tour [tour] of service when he was a substitute for Floyd Tanner as stated in his said declaration, he served another ~~tour~~ tour of five months under the same Captain namely William Dix, but was put under William McCraw a wagon master, he thinks this tour of service was performed as a substitute for his father William Russell, and not on civil contract for the government, but as a Teamster under the command of the officers, and moreover that he was paid as a militia man out of the public money, he was, immediately after this tour again enrolled in Captain Dix's company, but transferred to the same service of Teamsters in which he remained until his term of service expired which was six months more and after which time he entered into the same kind of service to wit wagon driving, under a civil contract, for which he was paid by his employer, this is the employment which he gave as a part of his history, after his military service, he therefore states that he was in military service fifteen months as stated in his said declaration, he further states that he understands that persons "employed with the Army under civil contract" are not entitled to pay, but when he was regularly enrolled he had no control over himself & could but obey their orders and perform those services enjoined upon and he further states that having stated his service before and having proved it by a living witness, he makes this application for the purpose of getting a review of his original and amended application so as to enlarge his pension, if it should seem right and further this deponent sayeth not.

S/ Philip Russell, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 5 March [1834]

S/ T. D. Hewitt, JP

[f p. 14: On March 21, 1853 in Williamson County Illinois, Mary Russell, 65, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act as the widow of Philip Russell, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum; that she married him in Jefferson County Illinois February 12, 1835; that they were married by Thomas Davenport, JP; that her husband died in Williamson County Illinois August 17, 1842 and that she remains his widow. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[f p. 8]

On April 10, 1855 in Williamson County Illinois, Mary Russell, 64, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Philip Russell and as a pensioner herself at the rate of \$20 per annum under the 1853 act. She signed her application with her mark.]

[facts in file: the veteran married Mary Williams, his 2nd wife, February 12, 1835 in Jefferson County Illinois; the name of his 1st wife is not stated; the parents and place of birth of his 2nd wife are not stated.]

[f p. 22: On February 13, 1871 in Williamson County Illinois, James S Russell, 70, filed an affidavit in which he states he is the son of Philip Russell, deceased, a soldier of the Revolutionary war; that his father departed this life on or about August 17, 1842 in Williamson County Illinois leaving his present surviving widow Mary Russell his 2nd wife who still remains his widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James S. Russell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a closing bracket.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in the amount of \$96 per annum commencing July 27, 1868.]