

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of Isaac Rolston (Ralston) W26406 Nancy fn131NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 1/18/10

[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.]

State of Illinois, Pope County

On this the 5th day of August A.D. 1851 personally appeared before the Honorable George W. Waters presiding Judge of the County Court in and for the said Pope County the same being a court of record having and executing common law jurisdiction, and unlimited in point of amount, with a seal and clerk, during the sitting of said Court Nancy Rolston a resident of Pope County in the State of Illinois, aged eighty-seven years the 6th of January A.D. 1851, who being first sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed the 29th July A.D. 1848.

That she is the widow of Isaac Rolston, deceased, who was a captain in the regiment or squadron of dragoons or mounted men or cavalry under Colonel Washington, as she verily believes from the recollection she now has of the statement made to her by her said deceased husband (a Major Murphy with whom her said deceased husband had been very intimate was in the same regiment) in the Army of the United States in the War of the Revolution.

That he, the said Isaac Rolston, her deceased husband, enlisted or joined the army of the United States in Guilford County, NC, sometime in the year 1776. That he was in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. He was in and with the American Army at Charleston, SC. That he was in diverse other battles and skirmishes during the war and struggle for Independence, the times and places she has no recollection of, excepting it was pretty much in the South. That he continued in actual service in the said War of the Revolution for the term of between 6 and 7 years and was honorably discharged in the state of North Carolina in the year 1783, the precise time and place she does not now, recollect. After the war, when he, her said husband, was about leaving North Carolina to seek a new location, he left his papers, including his discharge, with a sister for safekeeping and never returned to get either the discharge or the papers, and considering the good length of time since, she has no doubt but what the papers and discharge have been lost long ago, and therefore prays a reference may be had to the rolls of the army in the department of war, she knowing of no living witnesses by whom she could prove the services of her said husband. She further declares that she was married to the said Isaac Rolston, captain, as aforesaid, in Greene County, NC in September 1784 by James Keel, a Baptist preacher, that she has no family records of her marriage, that she knows of no person in this country by whom she could prove the fact of her marriage, further than by circumstances showing the fact. That her husband the aforesaid Isaac Rolston died in Pope County Illinois on the 3rd of December 1823, aged seventy-three years at the time of his death, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 2nd of January 1800, viz. at the time above stated. She further swears that she is now a widow, and that she has been a widow

ever since the death of the said Isaac Rolston her deceased husband, and that she has never before made any application for a pension. The reason she assigns for not making an earlier application for a pension is that she did not until lately know that there was any provision made by Congress for the relief and benefit of the widows of deceased Officers and Soldiers of the revolution.

She further states that her age and bodily infirmity is such as to render her unable to make a support or to provide subsistence for herself, and at this time she is entirely dependent on others for support, having nothing herself.

S/ Nancy Rolston, X her mark

Sworn to and declared in open court this 5th day of August A.D. 1851

S/ Jno. Raum, Clk

[Baily Adams, a clergyman of the Baptist Church, and George H. Hanna gave a standard supporting affidavit attesting the age, credibility and reputation of the applicant and her husband.]

[fn p. 20]

State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I, William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that Isaac Rolston was a Lieutenant in Captain Hall's Company of the 2nd Regiment, entered the service on the __ day of __ 1777, said to be omitted in April 1778. A warrant was issued for his services on the 21st May 1784 No. 977 for 1240 acres of land said to be 36 months service.

Given under my hand this 6th day of February 1852

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[fn p. 99-101: on November 3, 1851 in Pope County Illinois, Rebecca Hazel, a citizen of Polk County for the last 45 years testified that she was intimately acquainted with Captain Isaac Rolston and his wife before his death in 1823; that they were held in the highest regard and always considered as man and wife; and "as to the services rendered by Captain Isaac Rolston in the Revolutionary War she knows only from the frequent and repeated talk the said Captain Rolston had with this deponent's father, and her uncle Captain Hays, who she thinks served in the same Regiment also old Moses Shelby who had been a Captain or Colonel and a Mr. Daniel, these all men would get together and in her presence would talk and as it were, fight their battles over, tell their sufferings and distresses and the dangers they encountered..."]

[fn p. 103]

State of Illinois Pope County: January Term 1852 of the County Court of Polk County in the State of Illinois

On this 5th day of January A.D. 1852 personally appeared before the Honorable George W. Waters presiding Judge of the County Court of said County during the sitting of said Court Nancy Rolston a resident of Pope County in said State of Illinois aged 87 years the 6th of January 1851 who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration in addition, and Explanatory to the declarations she made in this court on the 5th of August 1851 being the August term of said Court, and on the 3rd of November 1851 being the November term of said Court in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of

Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she stated in her former declarations referred to herein, that her deceased husband Captain Isaac Rolston was a Captain in the Regiment of Dragoons, Cavalry or mounted men under the command of Colonel Washington as she knew and believed from the recollection she had of the statements made by her deceased husband to her of the battles & skirmishes he was then and officers he served under &c. She now declares that she may be mistaken as to the Regiment he served in or the Officer he served under but she is not mistaken as to the services he rendered and she believes that he was a Captain and his services may have been and no doubt was in the North Carolina line, she declares that she recollects of him telling her, he first entered the Army at the "Snow Camps" she believes it was in the winter, the reason why the camps were called the snow camps from there he joined the Main Army and served until the close of the war. He joined the Army she thinks and believes in 1776 in Guilford County as heretofore stated in her former declaration, that he was in the Battle of Guilford Court house the night after the battle the two armies lay close to each other and she recollects, her husband the said Isaac Rolston telling that he and a Captain Philips rode over the Battle ground that night, to the meeting house where the wounded were lying that in one of the Battles he was in he had his horse shot under him, at another time he had his sword belt torn off with a shot, but he escaped unhurt. She further swears that her deceased husband, Captain Isaac Rolston applied as she understood to the pension Office Washington City for a pension but before his papers, proofs &c was completed he died and there was no further effort made. That he was honorably discharged from the service in North Carolina in the year 1783, as she believes his discharge he left in a pocket book with other papers with his sister, Mrs. Mary Depthro [?] who lived in South Carolina, he never went back nor did he ever get his discharge and she has been dead many years. She further more swears that previous to the marriage to said Isaac Rolston her name was Nancy McAdowe daughter of John McAdowe and Ann his wife that she was born the 6th of January 1764, that she was married to the said Isaac Rolston in Green County North Carolina in September 1784 by the Reverend James Keel a Baptist preacher, that she has no family record of her marriage, that she was married at the house of John Dikes about 9 or 10 miles from there a new town she thinks they then called Washington and believes it was then the County seat. She further swears that she does not believe there was a license that their intention of marrying was published previous to the marriage which was then the custom and she believes the laws of the Country. She does not recollect who was all present at the wedding excepting Mr. & Mrs Dikes, Robert the brother of Isaac Rolston her deceased husband and divers others not now recollected those named are dead long since. She swears by this marriage to said Isaac Rolston she had two daughters, that he was their father, that the oldest Celia Rolston was born the 9th of July 1785 the youngest one was born 15th April 1787 and that they both lived and moved with us to this County in the State of Illinois were both married and have had children, they died some years since, that some of their children are now living in this County, Illinois. She further more swears that her husband Captain Isaac Rolston died in Pope County in the State of Illinois on the 3rd of December 1823 aged 73 years, at the time of his death. That she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated.

She further swears that she is now a widow, and has been the widow of said Isaac Rolston since his death. She further declares that she caused two letters to be written to North Carolina, the one to the Comptroller of North Carolina with sufficient money enclosed to pay expenses, soliciting a search of the records in relation to the services of her deceased husband as aforesaid

requesting a certified copy to be forwarded from there to the Commissioner of Pensions Washington City and a duplicate of the same to her. The other to the clerk of Green County North Carolina for a certified copy of the record in relation to the marriage of the said Isaac and myself, if any record had been kept of marriages, and if not to certify the reasons why. She further declares that she caused letters to be written to others in North Carolina for information in relation to her marriage to those with whom she had been acquainted with them but so far she has received no information some have moved to other countries and nearly if not all are dead. She declares that in this country it is impossible for her to prove her marriage positively, further than by circumstances, by the most respectable witnesses in this Pope County who have known her and her husband for many years. She declares that she is poor, weak and feeble in consequence of old age, that she cannot expect to remain here many years, and would not for the world misrepresent facts to obtain that which he thinks ought to be allowed her according to the provisions made by the said act of Congress. She therefore prays that all the circumstances in the case may be considered and that a speedy action may be had in relation to her claim upon principles of Justice and Equity knowing and believing that the Government is liberal and prompt in adjusting claims when satisfactorily established. Therefore should her claim be rejected she will submit without a murmur taking it for granted that it could not be otherwise despaired of for want of proper proof.

S/ Nancy Rolston, X her mark

[fn p. 107-8: Elizabeth A. Robertson testifies in support of the widows claim stating that Captain Rolston and his wife moved to Pope County in about 1805; that they then had two daughters, the oldest Celia married a Mr. Hays who came to Illinois with them; the youngest daughter was 18 or 19 at the time they moved to Illinois, married there; that both daughters are now dead; that her (Elizabeth's) husband, Hugh Robertson, and in repeat it that we North Carolina and was about 14 or 15 years of age he attended the marriage of the Rolstons.]

[fn p. 100- 125 in yet another full application, this one dated March 1, 1852, Nancy Rolston again tells the same details as set forth above, pretty much word or word, except she adds specific reference to her husband entering the service as a lieutenant under Capt. Hall [reflecting the information in the certificate given by the NC Secretary of State] and adds at the end of her application:

"She now swears and declares that her husband and his brother Robert entered the service about one time, Robert as a Captain and her husband as a Lieutenant, and that Robert quit the service as a Major and her husband Isaac Rolston as a Captain."]