

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Henry Wakefield (Weakfield) W35

Mary

fn43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/4/10

[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. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Smith County

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in Open court before John Chambers, Solomon [illegible last name, looks like "Debrow"] & William Garrison Justices of the court of pleas & quarter sessions of Smith County now sitting Henry Wakefield a resident of Smith County in the State of Tennessee aged Eighty one years next May who being first duly sworn according to Law make[s] the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

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

That in the month of September in the year 1775 or '6 but which of these years he now is unable to say he entered a Volunteer under Captain William Penlan [sic, William Penland?] in Burke County State of North Carolina and marched to Cathey's Fort where he remained better than two months when he marched with the company against the Cherokee Indians across the Blue Ridge to the waters of French Broad River there went out on a hunting party he came upon an Indian and shot him near Bulls mountain and whilst in the act of loading his gun he himself was shot in the back by another Indian at this time Captain Penlan and nine other men was near me but fled to the Fort – with my horse leaving me for Dead with difficulty however I reached the Fort in six days after in a very low state from there I was taken home and unable to do further service until the March following. In July following I entered the service again with Captain Thomas Kennedy and a troop of Light Horse raised in Burke County North Carolina and marched to Black River and joined Genl Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] in keeping the Tories in check and taking prisoners until sometime in October when news having reached the General that the Indians were coming on the frontier settlements the General sent home one hundred men this deponent amongst the number, who stayed at home but a short time until news reached him of the Tories being collected at Ramsowers [sic, Ramsour's] Mill he then started with Captain John Russell for that place but missed being in the Engagement by the misconduct of our guide Captain Irwin. At this time the country was overrun with Tories and the neighborhood in constant alarm. This deponent with others attached to the American cause for a long time continued to defend their families from the Tories and follow them on short excursions until Col Joseph McDowell raised a Regiment to march against Ferguson's [Patrick Ferguson's] Army. Deponent then attached himself to Captain John Russell's company in Burke County North Carolina and marched with it and Col McDowell's Regiment to the Cowpens and from thence to King's Mountain. Deponent was in the Battle of King's Mountain and there received a slight wound in the mouth after the Battle deponent marched with the prisoners to the Moravian town and from there to Morgan town where he was discharged by Col McDowell after a tour of about five months. The war being then at a close deponent went to his house in Burke County North Carolina where he resided until the year 1796 or '7 when he

moved to Sumner County in the State of Tennessee from there he moved to Smith County where he now resides. Deponent never received any written discharge from his officers or at that time thought of any such thing it is now impossible for him to recollect particular dates or the precise length of time he served in the different tours. This much only he well knows that at the beginning of the war he set out as a volunteer soldier to do his duty and throughout the whole war until the close he was always ready and with the foremost in every service required except the time he was disabled by wounds from doing so he has no Documentary evidence of his service and knows of no person in this part of the country whose Testimony he can procure who can testify to his service indeed he knows of none now living except Enoch Berry<sup>1</sup> who he understands resides in Warren County Tennessee and Henry McKinney in Overton County whether their testimony can now be had or not he is unable to say. 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 agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Weakfield

S/ I. Burkett, Clk 28 Aug. 1832

Questions by the court

Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in the year 1752 in Albemarle County State of Virginia

Question have you any record of your age if so where is it

Ans: I have it set down in my Bible at home

Q where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war

Ans: That is detailed in the foregoing declaration as well as the manner in which I was called into service and also the names of the officers with whom I served and that I have never had any discharge all of which is true

Q State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood and who can Testify as to your character for veracity and belief of your services

Answer I am known by most of the citizens in Smith County and many of your body do all I refer you to my character.

[John Bransford, a clergyman, and Pleasant Chitwood gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Smith County: Personally appeared before May he one of the acting justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County, Henry Wakefield, and applicant for a pension, who being first duly sworn deposes & says 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 in the War of the Revolution. But according to the best of his recollection he served not less than three years in the War of the Revolution -- as a private soldier. That during the time he was in the service of the Country, he was not engaged in any civil pursuit whatever -- He cannot state with more precision he has already stated in his declaration the period of time at which he entered the service, but supposes that many of the dates of the events of the service, with which he was connected, well be found of record in the war department and for which service he claims a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 21st day of May 1833

S/ Elijah Taney, JP

S/ Henry Weakfield

[On September 30, 1851 in Macon County Tennessee, Mary Wakefield, 78, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Henry Wakefield, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution; that she married him on October 25, 1791 in the County of Burke in North Carolina; that they were married by William Pentland, JP; that she is the 2nd wife of her husband

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1 [Enoch Berry W8128](#)

his first wife having died; his first marriage took place during the revolution; she has a family record which she encloses with her application showing first her own age then the ages of her children; the Bible record also reflects the marriage of her husband to Elizabeth Alexander on March 20th, 1778; that her husband died November 12, 1850.]

[family record]

Henry Wakefield Son of Charles Wakefield & Elisabeth his wife was married to Elizabeth Alexander daughter of William & Elizabeth Alexander March 20th 1778

Mary Wakefield was born January 23rd A.D. 1773

Agnes Wakefield Daughter of Henry Wakefield & Mary his wife was born December 23rd A.D. 1792

Isabella Wakefield was born December 8th A.D. 1794

Henry Wakefield was born June 6th A.D. 1796

Simpson Wakefield was born March 6 A.D. 1797

John & Alexander Wakefield were born August 22nd A.D. 1801

Silas Burkes Wakefield was born May 12th 1807

James Matison [? Madison?] Wakefield was born May 13 A.D. 1811

Polly Wakefield was born January 26 1814

Thomas Jefferson Wakefield was born August 12 A.D. 1816

[On May 18th, 1852 and Macon County Tennessee, John Wakefield, 52, and James M. Wakefield, 40, gave testimony in support of their mother's application for a widow' pension stating that their father died November 13, 1850, instead of November 12, 1850 as testified by their mother.]

[On December 10, 1851, James Simpson, 82, a resident of White County Tennessee testified that he is a near relative of Mary Wakefield; that he was present at the wedding of Henry and Mary Wakefield which took place in Burke County North Carolina on the 25th day of October 1791; that Henry Wakefield lived until his death in Smith County and died a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for one year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]