

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Ray W3977

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of North Carolina } SS

County of Orange }

On this the 28 day of November in the year of 1844 personally appeared before the undersigned, Agness Freeland, a resident of New Hope, in said County of Orange aged 80 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on her Oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed July 7 1838 Entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows."

1.. This declarant sets forth upon her said oath that she has reason to believe & does believe that in the war of the Revolution, her Former husband John Ray, as Captain of Militia, did serve the United States, several different tours of duty, and that in each, he was in legally organized Corps, and called into Service by Competent Authority. But having not been married till after the close of the war, and her said first husband having been dead about 28 years, she is therefore unable to give any full or minute detail of Captain Ray's Revolutionary Services; but what she has heard him relate; and from the statements set forth by others; — she has reason to believe and does believe, that her former husband, the aforesaid John Ray, as Captain of a Company of draughted Militia, for Five months, did serve part of the tour in South Carolina, and was under Colonel [Francis] Locke & General [Griffith] Rutherford - was organized in the Town of Hillsboro' [Hillsborough] in the aforesaid County and served all of said Five months tour.

2. The said Agness Freeland widow as aforesaid, further setteth forth upon her said oath, that she has reason to believe and does believe, that in the summer of the year of 1780, there was a draught for three months militia men - that her dec'd husband, aforesaid was duly appointed and commissioned Captain of a Company and did serve as Captain a three months tour of duty, in the United States - & the said tour was in Gates' defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780].

3rd The said Agness Freeland widow as aforesaid, further sets forth, that she has reason to believe and does believe that in the month of February 1781 her first husband the aforesaid Captain John Ray, was in the United States' service, and with Lees [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's] Legion - but how long he served with the Legion she is unable to learn.

4th The Declarant further sets forth, that she has reason to believe and does believe that on or about the 1st September following, her dec'd husband the aforesaid John Ray was in Command again of a Company of Militia, and on the day Col [David] Fanning surprised and captured the Town of Hillsboro' in the aforesaid County, which is believed to be on or about the 15th day of said month [12 Sep], Captain Ray was at time in the neighbourhood of said town, and narrowly escaped being made prisoner by Col. Fanning; — The said Agness further states, that she has reason to believe and does believe that said John Ray, as Captain aforesaid with other troops under Col. Tinnin & General [John] Butler, did pursue the Tory forces to the neighbourhood of Wilmington and was under General Butler in the engagement with the enemy at Lucas' Lane.

That her deceased husband, aforesaid, remained in the Service, in this tour till about the middle of December following.

5. The said Agness Freeland widow, as aforesaid, further stateth that some time in the spring of the ensuing year 1782, the aforesaid John Ray, as Captain of a company of Militia, under Col. ONeal & Brigadier General Butler, served a tour to the South of three months duration - was on the Pee Dee, Sandy Creek, Cross Creek; this tour, the Declarant understands was to awe the Tories.

This Declarant further states that she has reason to believe and does believe that said John Ray as Captain of Militia, was in other tours in the United States Service, but is not enabled to give any detailed account of them. From what she has heard her husband say, and from the statements made by others, she has reason to believe that her deceased husband served other tours in the militia, in the Service of his Country.

The said Captain Ray died about Twenty Eight years ago, when all of his papers passed into the hands of Executors, who have not preserved any of his Revolutionary papers —

The said Agness Freeland widow as aforesaid, further sets forth that her maiden name was Trousdale, and that she was married by James Freeland Esquire to the aforesaid Captain John Ray on the Twenty Second day of January Seventeen Hundred and Eighty-four (1784)

That she has a family Record, which is taken from their family Bible, and is as it purports to be, a true & Genuine "Family Record" and is as follows, towit:

"John and Agness Ray was married on the 22nd January 1784."

"Isbel Ray married Oct. 4th 1804."

"Martha Ray do. Sept. 17th 1809"

"Mary Ray do June 26th 1816"

"Elender Ray was married March 1 1821"

"Births"

"William Ray Born February 27th 1785"

"Isbel Ray Born May 14th 1787"

"Martha Ray born April 14th 1789"

"John T Ray Born Oct 17th 1791"

"Nancy Ray Born June 25th 1794"

"James L Ray Born Oct 12th 1796"

"Elizabeth Ray Born Aug't 16th 1798"

"Mary Ray Born July 14th 1801"

"Ellenor Ray Born March 14th 1804."

The names that following the Family Records are Grandchildren.

Said Family Record is hereto annexed—

The Declarant further sets forth that her former husband, Captain John Ray, died on the 4th day of March, 1816.

That she again intermarried with John Freeland on the 17 January 1826. that said John Freeland did die on the 24 day of December 1843, leaving the said Agness, his widow who has not since married, but still remains the widow of the aforesaid John Freeland

That she was not married to her former husband John Ray previous to his leaving the Service, but that the marriage took place before the 1st day of January Seventeen hundred & ninety four: That is, at the time above stated to wit: 1784.

That from old age and bodily infirmity, the Declarant is unable to attend Court to make this declaration.

Agness herXmark Freeland

NOTE:

The family record of births of grandchildren reads as follows, as nearly as can be made out:

John R Fitch Sept. 24th 1805

Thomas Fitch Born Nov. 27th 1810

Asher H. Ray Born Jany 16th 1817

Nancy T. Fitch March 10th 1814

W. T. R. Person Oct. 24th 1818

John P. McCaddary was Born Oct 8th 1822

William W McCaddary was Born July 21 182[?]

Sarah E Ray was Born october 25th 1822

The family record also lists the following additional marriages:

A. H. Ray and Jane A. Curtis were married June 20th 1841

May Ray was married AD 1829 December 18th

Elizabeth Ray married February 19th 1829

The file also contains a copy of a marriage bond signed by John Ray and William Trousdale in Orange County on 16 Jan 1784.

On 23 Apr 1854 the executor of "Nancy or Agnes Freeland" wrote to the pension office stating that in the winter or spring of 1852 Mrs. Freeland had been trying to obtain an increase in her pension and died soon afterward.