

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William May W5335

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } On this 2^d day of August 1833 personally appeared before the
McMinn County } Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid
William May a Resident of the County of Murry [sic: Murray] State of Georgia aged Sixty nine
years who being first duly sworn according to law doath on his oath make the following
declaration in order to obtain the Benefits of the provision of the act of Congress passed June
the 7th 1832 that he Entered the service of the United States and served in the grades hereafter
mentioned — that he Entered the Service as a private soldier in the fall 1779 or 1780 as a
substitute for John Bolt in Capt John Dillard's Company in the state of Virginia Henry County
and marched through Stoakes [sic: Stokes, formed from Surry County NC in 1789] and Roan [sic:
Rowan] Counties north Carolina after the Toryes and Returned to Henry County and was
dismissed from said Company though not discharged which Tour he was Entitled to a Credit of
three months that he was in actual service Lieutenant [James] Tarrance and Robert Bolt were the
subaltern officer in said Company and under the Immediate Command of his Excelency Patrick
Henry [Governor 6 Jul 1776 - 1 Jun 1779] of said state, he also Entered as well as he now
Recollects in the year 1780 in the Spring of said year as a private and served as such under Capt
Hamby [sic: Jonathan Hanby] for one month and served as such said period marched from
Henry County through Stoakes County and Montgomery County [sic] north Carolina stationed
on the Yadkin River against the tories had no Battle and Returned home and was dismissed
from said Company a man by the name of Smith was Lieutenant in said Company but does not
Recollect who was Ensign he also Volunteered in Capt John Dillards Company for one year
marched from Henry County as aforesaid through Stoaks County Crossed Yadkin River at the
Shallow ford met a Corps of our men who had a Battle with the tories [14 Oct 1780] then to the
Battle ground, then Crossed Hunting Creeke and Stationed near said Creeke. then marched up
the Yadkin while we were there we heard of we heard of Fergusons Defeat which took place
about 20 miles distant from us [sic: defeat of Maj. Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of Kings
Mountain SC, 7 Oct 1780, about 75 mi SW of Shallow Ford] afterwards we Returned home to
Henry Cty and was dismissed from said service but dose not know wheather he received a
discharge or not he state that in this Servise he was a mounted gun man
he also substituted in the room of Joseph Morris in Capt Peter Hasting [sic: Peter Hairston's]
Company in Henry County va and marched through Pitsylvania [sic: Pittsylvania County VA, and]
Bedford garding the British and Tories prisoners which were taking at the Battle of the Cowpens
[17 Jan 1781] and was dismissed near new London [in present Campbell County] we give up the
prisoners to another gard who met us there to receive them then marched home to Henry
County Va and was dismissed he served as a private in said company which Tour was a three
months Tour he also states they were verry fearful of Gen Tarleton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre
Tarleton] and some time drew the prisoners off the road to keep them out of the way of Tarlton
and believes the Battle at Guilford Courthouse was faught during this Servise - [15 Mar] in the
year 1781 as well as he recollects he was drafted in Haman Crites [sic: Haman Critz's] Company
as a private Soldier in Henry County Va. and served as such in said Company a Tour of at least
three months marched through Through Pitsylvania and Halifax Crossed Staunton [River] at
Bookers ferry through Charlotte Prince Edward Powetan [sic: Powhatan County] Petersburg
[sic: Petersburg] Apamatox [sic: Appomattox County] Cabbin point [sic: Cabin Point near James
River in Surry County] Crossed James River at the Mobin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill in Henrico
County] and joined the Reigment at that place Comanded by Gen [Robert] Lawson General
Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] also commanded a Reigment in said armies under the Immediate
Command of Gen Delayfayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] marched up towards Richmond
Chickehominy [sic: Chickahominy River] and went to Johnstons old fields and was discharged
there as his term of service had expired Said discharge is lost or mislaid he does not know what
has become of it
after which time he was drafted as a private soldier in Capt Rubles [sic: Owen Rubell's] Company

a man by the name of [David] Barton was Lieutenant in said Company marched from Henry County on to Williams Burgh [sic: Williamsburg] Joined and joined Washingtons service and marched to Litle york [sic: Little York = Yorktown] and faught through the Seige of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and was discharged the day after the British Surrender to Washington previous to our joining Washingtons armie Capt Rubles Company was larger than the Regulations required and I was Transferred into Capt James Poteats [sic: James Poteet's] Company and served in Major Boyce Battalion General Lawson Gen [Anthony] Wayne Gen Layfayette was there Gen Washington had the command and says he had the Honour of seeing Lord Corn Wallace and his men surrender themselves prisoners of war to Gen Washington and his army [see note below] there was one opening made near where the french troops was and Corn Wallace marched his arney out We formed a line on Each side and marched with them I did not see Washington and Wallace meet being at two grate a distance to see them the British were ordered to ground arms the did so When the march out they had their drums muffled and played the dead march the were then marched Back to york town and garded for the night and says he seen them march out next day he then left the place being discharged by Jesse Winningham orderly Sargent in said Company who was authorised to discharge him by Capt Poteete a Tour of not less than four months

he hereby Relinquishes Every Claim whatever to a pentian or anuity Excepting the preasent and declares that his name is not on the Pention Role of any agency of any state he also states the reason that he aplyed to the Court in McMinn County Tennessee and not in Murry County Georgia is that he made application in Murry County where he lived and the Court nor no other person there knows how the declaration was to be taken it being a new County and lately organized and all new officer and unexperienced in their dutyes and that he had heretofore lived in Hiwassee and was well known there and could git persons to certify to his Character easier there than where he now live further there is no preacher of the gospel near where he now lives and he is aquainted with a number of them hear who can testify for him and that he lives at no grate distance from the Tennessee line and could obtain his money easier in Tennessee than in Georgia also that the only proof that he knows of is in this County by which he can prove any of his services by to (Witt) John May [his brother; pension application R7051]
[signed] William May

Interogatories

- 1st Where and in what year were you Born
I was Born in Essex County Va o the 3^d day of May 1764
- 2^d Have you any Record of your age and if so where is it
Answer I have a Record of my age in my house at this time that I Transcribe from my fathers Bible
- 3^d Where ware you living when called into Servis whare have you lived since the Revolutionary War and whare do you now live
Answer I was living in Henry County virginia when called into servis I removed from henry County about 8 years after the war Union County South Carolina and settled and Braud River near the mouth of Thickitee [sic: on Broad River near the mouth of Thicketty Creek] and lived there 6 years and from thence I Removed to Buncomb [sic: Buncombe] County North Carolina 8 miles from Ashvill [sic: Asheville] on the watter of Swannenow [sic: Swannanoa River] from thence I Removed to Blount County Tennessee from thence to Hiwassee River in the Cherokee Nation and was permitted as a Ferry Man on said River by Gen Goverment for several years thence Removed to Chattahoochy [Chattahoochee] and kept a Ferry on said River known by the name of Varner Ferry thence Removed to what is now Murry County in the State of Georgia whare I now Reside
- 4th how ware you called in to Service, ware you drafted did you volenteer or ware you a substitute and if a substitute for whom
Answer I first substituted a Tour of three months but was dismissed sooner, Secondly I Enlisted under Capt Hamby for a Tour of three months but I Believe I did not Serve all the time as we were dismissed, thirdly I volunteered under Capt Dillard for one year but was dismissed sooner, fourthly I substituted in Peter Hastons Company for three months But dismissed sooner I was drafted in Capt. Crites Company and served in said Company as a private

soldier for three months I then was drafted in Capt Rubles Company Transferred to Poteets and served a Tour of at least four month

5th State the names of some of the Regular officers who ware with the troops whare you served: such continental and militia Reigements as you can Recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Answer Patrick Henry command us in the first Tour and in the two second Tours Coln Abraham Penn [Henry County Militia] commanded and the last Tour I was commanded by Genl Washington last but one I was commanded by Genl Lawson we ware after the Torries all the Tours Except the two last we ware after the British this is all that I now Recollect about it at present

6th did you eaver Receive a discharge from the Service and if so what has become of it and by whome was it given

Answer Received three discharges well as I now Recollect one of them signed by Capt Crite one signed by some person I do not Recollect by who unelss by Capt Hamby the ware Boath lossed or mislaid I also Received one from Jesse Winningham which is hearin Enclosed [not found].

7th State the names of persons to whome you are known in your preasant Neighbourhood who can Testify as to your character for varasity and their Belief of your servises as a Revolutionary Soldier

Answer there is verry few persons in my preasant neighbourhood that are white men as the Country is just settling but I am well acquainted with James Barnette our[?] Sheriff Amos Barnett also with John Williams also with Joshua Roach also with Judges Robert Reed and Oats

I am Intimately acquainted in the County of MCminn with the Revernd Obediah Boulding also the Revend John Boulding also with Coln Henry Bradford also with Robert Sloan Esqr also with Jacob Moore Esqr also with Samuel McConnell Esqr also with Robert Hood also with Levi Bailey who can Testify as to my character and their Belief of my Services in the Revolutionary War

State of Tennessee }

McMinn County }

This day came William May Sen'r. before me Jacob Hoss one of the acting justices of peace for said County and made oath in due form of Law to this additional statement in order to obtain a pension under the Act of 7th June 1832. that in his original statement for which he claims remuneration for 1 year's servitude, that he served as in said declaration set forth under Capt Dillard under the Command of Col Abraham Penn, and entered as minute men and served as well as he now recollects at least four months and in his next tour of duty of 3 months served as guard over the torries and continued in actual service forty five days or fifty, no Col and in the last tour by him set forth he says he served as in said decl mentioned and believes he was under the immediate command of Col. Stephens, but cannot distinctly recollect, and the Colos. herein set forth are all he can recollect owing to the great lapse of time, and the consequent loss of memory he claims a pension for the services he performed only, and those are as nearly set forth in this and his original as he can possibly do. the accompanying discharge is certainly proof as far as it goes which ought to substantiate the whole of his statements. He was also under the command of Capt Rubles in his company, and was afterward transfered to Capt Potetes Company & served as in s'd. decl set forth and served 4 months in this tour, and cannot recollect the Col. by whom commanded
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of Mar 1834 [signed] William May

Camp Before york Oct'r 25th 1781

William May a Soldier in my Comp'y of Militia from henry County is hereby Discharged from this present Tower of Duty Given Under my hand. James Poteet Capt

NOTES:

Lord Cornwallis did not personally appear at the surrender ceremony. He delegated the actual surrender to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara, who gave the sword to

Washington's second, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

On 6 May 1844 Rhoda May, 79, of Polk County TN, applied for a pension stating that she married William May in July 1783, and he died 4 Mar 1844. The file includes part of a family register certified by their son Daniel and transcribed as follows:

William May was born In the year of our Lord on the 3rd May 1864

Rhoda May was born the 3rd February 1765

Orpah May was born the 6th May 1784

John May was born the 13th January 1786

Daniel May was born the 16th April 1788

William May was born the 11th January 1890

Ruth May was born the 8th October 1792

Maryann May was born the 8th February 1795

~~Asa May was born the 29th October 1797~~

James May was born the 29th April 1800