

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

Pension application of Joseph Ray W5656

Lydia

fn42NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/14/09

[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 Tennessee Smith County: On this 10th day of February 1837 personally appeared before me Reason Barrow one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Lydia Ray a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged eighty-five years old on the 4th of next April who being first duly 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 July the 4th 1836. That she is the widow of Joseph Ray who was a private soldier in the Army of the revolution he was drafted in the month of September 1780 under Captain George Hodge to serve a tour of six months. She and her husband lived at this time in Orange County State of North Carolina about seven miles from Hillsboro they had been married ten years before that time by Captain Robert Lytle a Justice of the peace they had 3 children when he entered the service. In August before Colonel Armand was stationed in the neighborhood with his troop of light horse she thinks that they had to support and feed thirty men and thirty horses for a short time and order to recruit them when Colonel Armand left he gave her husband a ticket on the Government which was never paid. In September as above stated her husband entered the Service. In 2 or 3 months after he entered the service her oldest child James Ray sickened and died and she wrote her husband a letter as the Army was not far off. Her husband rather than leave his family in a forlorn situation made an arrangement with his Captain and gave him \$1000 in the concurrency of that time which was Continental paper money that the Captain received for the purpose of hiring a substitute for the balance of the time he received it and hired a substitute who served out the balance of the time of her husband's service which was 6 months in all. It was in the February following as well as she recollects that the battle of Guilford was fought. The British Army marched before this -- passed in one half miles of where she lived. She was then a widow her husband was sick when he returned and died: Doctor Gillette attended him until his death -- lived in this situation with 3 small children to take care of, the British Army as above stated camped close by and the consequence was knowing that her husband though dead still had a substitute in the American Army they took everything that suited them her flour, meal, corn and fodder & also a large number of cattle. She had 14 milk cows the summer before they stripped her of everyone except one cow which was out of their reach, her husband's clothing and the most valuable of her and her children she put into her chest and then put it into the stable and buried it there but it was all in vain for they found & took it. Another circumstance tended greatly to add to her distress and hurried her husband to make the arrangement with his commanding officer was her state of pregnancy but she was not confined nor was her youngest child born until after their husband's death for she recollects distinctly her helpless Situation when the British Army stripped her of almost everything she had.

She further declares that she was married on the 21st day of March 1771 to the said Joseph Ray and that her husband the aforesaid Joseph Ray died on the 2nd day of January 1781 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year above written. She has no documentary evidence to prove the above facts.

Test: S/ R. Barrow, JP

S/ Lydia Ray {Seal}

State of Tennessee Smith County: This day personally appeared before the subscriber one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County Andrew G. Ford aged 61 years who being first duly sworn deposes and says that he has been acquainted with Lydia Ray for 29 years past that he has seen and conversed with respectable citizens who were well acquainted with Joseph Ray and his wife Lydia Ray previous to their marriage that Joseph Ray died as above stated and that she has remained a widow ever since. He further makes oath that she has followed the procession of a midwife for the last 30 years and that full faith and credit are due to her statements he further states that though old age and bodily infirmity she cannot attend the court house to make the necessary declaration in open court.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me

S/ A. G. Ford

State of Tennessee Smith County

On this day personally appeared George M. C. Ray before me Silas C. Cornwell one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that from the record kept by his father in the family Bible a copy of which he has now in his possession taken correctly from said family Bible more than 30 years ago he is now 62 years of age and was to the best of his recollection at the time his father Joseph entered the service in the war of the Revolution about 7 years old. He recollects very well when his father was drafted it was about the first of September or last of August 1780 he is Captain's name was Lowe was attached to the Brigade under General Butler they drafted for what was called 12 months men. They were marched to Hillsboro and from thence to the Pedee [River] and there stationed he served to the month of December and was taken sick he acted part of his time as Issuing Company upon his taking sick his father made an arrangement with his Captain and got a furlough to come home and furnished a man in his place to serve out the 8 months balance of the time but his father was to be responsible until the service was completed; he returned home but was still sick and built but a few days when he died. He died on the last of December and was buried the 1st January 1781. The subject to continued to serve out the term of 12 months and was paid by my mother, about the 16th of February Lord Cornwallis and the British encamped adjoining his father's plantation and lay there one week and took all the stock of cattle and horses and everything else except one milk cow. His mother was confined in child bed at the same time with her 5th child -- and always when any of the British would come there would be a Sergeant who would place a Sentinel at each door to keep the Hessians from taking the only bed and close [sic, clothes] my mother lay on. After the British left there he recollects the date of the battle of Guilford which took place the 15th of March following; his aunt Jane Ray was out in the yard and she came in saying to his mother "Aunt Lydia it is clear and I have heard thundering most powerful." That he now resides in Jackson County State of Tennessee and has come over into Smith County to make this affidavit.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 11th day of September 1837

S/ Silas Cornwell, JP

S/ George M. Ray

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State of Tennessee Robertson County: On this day personally appeared Charles Allison¹ a pensioner of the United States aged seventy-four years before me Warren L. Payne one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law that he lived about 2 1/2 miles from Joseph Ray the husband of Lydia Ray at the time Cornwallis encamped in the neighborhood about this time it was that Joseph Ray came home sick out of the service and died this affiant had lived in 2 1/2 miles all his life time from a little child and was well acquainted with Joseph, his wife was Miss Lydia Miller before she married said Joseph Ray. This affiant recollects distinctly that Joseph Ray was out a tour of service in the light horse troops and served 3 months they were marched into South Carolina and performed a tour of about a year before he was called out in the tour in which he died. It was he thinks a little before the battle of Gates defeat that Joseph Ray performed this 3 months tour he was married at this time. He thinks it must have been about the year between the 2 tours of service as near as he can recollect he cannot recollect the name of the Captain but knows he performed 2 tours of service one of 4 months as a militia man and one of 3 months as a light horse man and further this affiant saith not

Sworn and subscribed before me this 22nd day of October 1838

S/ Warren L. Payne, JP

S/ Charles Ellison

[fn p. 41]

State of Tennessee Smith County

On this 30th day of July 1840 personally appeared before me Patrick Fergusson one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid video gray a resident of the County aforesaid aged upwards of eighty-five years as stated in a former Declaration sent to the War office at Washington City, who being 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 July 4th 1836. That in addition to her former Declaration here taken made under said act as above stated Granting pay and pensions to certain widows she further states that at the time of making this Declaration she did not know that it was necessary to state all the services of her husband in the War of the Revolution nor does he recollect now at this time that the question was asked of her at that time the subject was new to her and had only been known to her a few minutes before she made said Declaration and she gave in the service of her husband that was most fresh in her memory to wit the last service being an engagement for 6 months and during that time as before stated he served 4 months came home sick and died but a few days before Cornwallis encamped on her plantation and robbed her of all her property.

She now declares and states that her husband the aforesaid Joseph Ray served a tour of 3 months in the light horse troops of North Carolina under Captain Hodge and in the Regiment of Colonel Almond some time previous to the last tour in which he died and furnished his own horse making in all 7 months service and this she is abundantly able to prove by witnesses if living of the highest respectability. She does not make the statement for the mere purpose of obtaining the small pittance Government may allow her but that Justice should be done in the case and this she is certain of a she recollects the service. She further declares that she is now old and infirm not able to attend to any business whatever and cannot in all probability lived long

¹ Sic, [Charles Ellison W354](#)

to reap the benefits that she is justly entitled to but as she is informed that it is her right she claims it agreeable to the act aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this day and year first above written.

S/ Patrick Fergusson, JP

S/ Lydia Ray