

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Ray W5657 Frances Ray VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 22 Sep 2014.

Virginia Franklin County Sct

On this 1st day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the justices in the County Court of Franklin now setting Benj^m Ray a resident of Franklin County born on James River Va aged as he believes seventy five year's who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 That during the War of the revolution he entered the service of the United States, under the officers hereafter named and served faithfully as herein stated – that in the early part of the war he was drafted into a company of militia and marched under the orders of a Captain Davis from Bedford to cross the mountains to Salem in Va At Salem he with three others were left to guard the place – while Davis and the residue of the company marched as he understood & believes to [?]king [probably Sinking] Creek Va This applicant remained about six weeks at Salem when he was discharged. This applicant was then repeatedly called out and marched against the Tories on the Carolina line in the mountains where they sought shelter that in these repeated expeditions against the Tories he was invariably under the immediate orders of Captain Thomas Arthur who afterwards rose to the rank of Colo. that in these various expeditions he says on his oath that he was in actual service six months. This applicant in 1781 was drafted in a company of riflemen commanded by Captain Jonathan Richardson [Jonathan Richeson] and marched from Bedford his place of residence into North Carolina and joined the Army commanded by Gen^l Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] – that the company he belonged to was attached to that portion of the army commanded by Colo [William] Washington that he was in the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse 15 Mar 1781] and did his duty as a faithful soldier that he continued to serve under Washington after the battle – that was in pursuit of the British from Guilford over Deep river and never left the army till he was regularly discharged in writing – that this discharge the only one he remembers to have received in writing – he has lost or mislaid. this tour in North Carolina under Gen^l Green – must he thinks have lasted fully three months — he remembers Gen^l Green Colo [Henry] Lee his brave commander Colo Washington and many other officers – in the Southern Army – many of his neighbours yet living know that he was a Whig and a Soldier & that he was frequently out on service in the field — John Campbell his near neighbour and a respectable man & patriot knows it. The Brother of this applicant James Ray [James Wray, pension application S5971] knows it – and he has no doubt Captain Greer Sen^r. [Moses Greer S8609] justice of the Franklin County court and an active officer of the revolution knows it – and to them he refers for this proof of his services and his character for veracity. He has resided ever since the War in Franklin County Va and is known to many very many – who he believes will unite in testifying to his character for veracity. This applicant files herewith the testimony of John Wright [S6449] if not sufficient others he believes can be procured – he has no documentary evidence — This applicant can read a little but cannot write — 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 the agency of any state. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Benj hisXmark Ray

NOTES:

On 27 Oct 1853 Frances Ray, 59, applied for a pension stating that as Frances Hurtwill she was married to Benjamin Ray in Franklin County on 7 May 1832 by Moses Greer, a Baptist minister, and that Benjamin Ray died in Franklin County on 16 April 1849. The file contains a copy of the record of marriage on 7 April 1832 of Benjamin Wray and Frances Hartwell. On an application for bounty land dated 3 April 1855 Frances Ray was said to be 60.

On 25 Feb 1869 Frances Ray, 74, applied for restoration of her pension, which had been

withheld during the Civil War, during which time she was “supported by her own labor and by the help of her son in law the said Abram Angle.”