

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

Pension application of Henry Pumphrey W8535  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Lucy  
fn111NC  
9/30/09

[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.]

[fn p. 82[sic]]

State of Kentucky Rockcastle County & Circuit Set

On this 26th day of November 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Rockcastle County court it being a court of record Henry Pumphrey a resident of said County in the State aforesaid aged 78 next Christmas this day before whom being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, That he enlisted in the Army of the United States as a Ranger in Captain Alston's Company in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Blumet,<sup>1</sup> to what state troops he does not know, but when he enlisted he resided at Natchize [sic, Natchez ?], now Mississippi State and so did his Captain aforesaid. He does not remember the year but he believes it was in the 1778, this enlistment was for 18 months. His Lieutenant was Hocket, Ensign forgotten, he does not remember any regular officers unless his officers aforesaid were regular officers under this engagement he served as a Ranger in the neighborhood of Natchize until his term of 18 months expired when he was discharged at Natchize by Colonel Blumet as he supposes in the year 1779. In this enlistment he was in no engagement or Battles except at the Siege of Natchize. About 2 weeks after his discharge he again enlisted in Natchize for 18 months as a Ranger under Captain Alston aforesaid in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Blumet as aforesaid. He continued to serve as a Ranger in the neighborhood of Natchize until his term of service for 18 months had expired when he was honorably discharged at Natchize by Colonel Blumet, some time before the surrender of Lord Corn Wallace [sic, Cornwallis], during this route he was in no regular Battles. He remembers no regular officer unless the officers he has mentioned except they were Regular officers. On his return home to Maryland from Natchize he was taken prisoner on the Oconee River in the State of Georgia by Captain Ingram a Tory & taken to Savannah then in the possession of General Campbell<sup>2</sup> a British officer and his discharges were taken from him.

He was born in Maryland Nailand [sic ?] County, near Baltimore, the year his age will show. He has no record of his age. Since the time of his enlistment aforesaid he has resided in North Carolina about 40 years since that time he has lived in Indiana & Kentucky where he now resides. He entered the service both times for himself. He knows of no person in this State whose testimony he can procure to testify to his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State, nor has it ever

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<sup>1</sup> The War Department interpreted this name as Col. Brumet.

<sup>2</sup> Possibly a reference to Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell.

been

X

Sworn & subscribed this day & year aforesaid

S/ Henry Pumphrey, X his mark

X He refers for his good name and character to his neighbors John B. Dysart, John Colyer and General William Smith

[fn p. 537 sic]

State of Kentucky Rockcastle County

On this \_\_\_ day of March 1833 personally appeared, in open Court before the Honorable Joseph E. Circuit Judge in the County & state aforesaid Henry Pumphrey and being duly sworn according to law upon his oath made the following addition to his declaration, for a pension filed before the County Court of said County on the 26th day of Nov. 1832. He states that he served out to enlistments of 18 months each, making 3 years in actual service under Colonel Blumet as stated in his original declaration he supposes he belonged to the Georgia line of State troops -- Subscribed and sworn to this \_\_\_ day & year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Humphy [sic]

[Richard Colyer, a clergyman, and General William Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 995 sic]

State of Kentucky Rockcastle County

On this 12th day of September 1833 before me James C. Jones a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared William Pumphrey who being sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following additional declaration to his original and amended declaration's heretofore made for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He states that by reason of old age and infirmity he has very much lost his recollection particularly in relation to dates and cannot State the time precisely that he entered the Service but states that he knows he was 3 years in actual Service in the Revolutionary War -- that he entered the Service at Natchez in what was then called Georgia territory -- that there were 83 man in his company, Georgians and South Carolinians, that there employment was to continually range the Country -- that they ranged up the Mississippi River to the Bi open [sic ?] and big black Rivers and down the River occasionally below Natchez -- that he was in a great many small engagements with the British and Indians, that the British came up the River in schooners & sloops in the night and the next morning they attacked the Town, and Fort and we all evacuated the place and went about 7 miles below and about 2 miles from the River and stationed near a widow Winfrey's and stayed there about 6 weeks when Captain Willin [sic James Willing] from Fort Pitt came down the River with 3 sloops of men and we went around the Town and met him about 2 miles above, and we marched down and retook the Fort<sup>3</sup> and Town we laid siege for several days and at length we were about to undermine the Fort and blow them up and they came out and stacked their arms and were made prisoners, but were in a few days furloughed and went down the River this fighting he believes was during his first 18 months service. In the last 18 months service he was in several Sevier little engagements and attacks with the British, Indians and Tories, they were out ranging and scouting once and took lodging in a house the family of

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<sup>3</sup> Applicant appears to be describing the siege of Fort Panmure by forces led by Capt. James Willing on February 17-19, 1778. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortbute.htm>

which had moved into the Fort at Natchez, there were 14 of us in Company and in the night whilst we were asleep except the guard at each door, the ~~Indians~~—enemy fired in and killed 11 out of our number and took all our horses. He was in another engagement on the Birpiu [?] and into on the Big black River. He served out both his engagements and was discharged at Natchez and started home in Company with Colely Rucker,<sup>4</sup> John Henderson, Philip Hays & Willis Cotton, they had a considerable drove of horses, and they were taken prisoners on their way on the Oconee River by General Campbell's Scouts and was taken to Savannah and kept four months and 5 days when he got away from the enemy and went to General Wayne's Camps at Ebenezer and from there he went to North Carolina and was immediately called on into the service again and he hired a man by the name of John Hall to go in his place who went and served out a tour of 6 months and was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs. He was afterwards called on and he volunteered a three months tour and served it out after the Indians under Joseph McDowell Captain and Joseph Hern Colonel and marched to the Cherokee nation and killed a great many Indians burnt their huts and their corn and took prisoners. This Service he thinks was in the latter part of the year 1781 or in the forepart of the year 1782, and he believes his Service aforesaid at Natchez commenced in 1778 and ended some time in 1780 or 81. He says he is no scholar, can neither read or write and cannot ascertain dates by figures. He knows of no person living by whom he can prove his Service, there was a man by the name of Colely Rucker with him in the service who lived at Clinch Mountain, but he died about 12 months ago as he is informed.

In the drawing his original declaration the draftsman called the Company to which he belonged a Regiment but he believes they were called a Company of Rangers.

After his return from Natchez he was well acquainted with General Wayne, General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and other officers. As in his former declarations he hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State whatever -- Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Pumphrey

And my the said James C. Jones further certify that it Elijah Denny of said County personally appeared before me on the day aforesaid and made oath that he had been acquainted with the said applicant Henry Pumphrey for at least 50 years, that he recollects that the said Humphrey and a certain Coleby Rucker came into Wilkes County North Carolina some time in the year 1781 or 2 and it was then understood that they had been in the War at Natchez, and he also believes that he served a three months tour after the Indians shortly after he came from Natchez, under Captain McDowell that he has no doubt that the said Pumphrey served as he has stated in his declarations that he has always been considered by his neighbors & acquaintances a man of truth, and that it is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he lives to have been a revolutionary Soldier. Witness further states that he is 70 years of age and I further certify that the said Elijah Denny is a credible man And I further certify that the said Humphrey is illy able to attend Court. Given under my hand this day & year aforesaid.

S/ Jas. C. Jones, JP

State of Kentucky Pulaski County

On this the 2nd day of April 1839 Personally appeared before me William Bradley a Justice of the peace for the County of Pulaski and State aforesaid Lucy Pumphrey a resident of Pulaski

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<sup>4</sup> Sic, Colby Rucker FPA R9061

County and State of Kentucky aged 77 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of Henry Pumphrey who was a Soldier in the revolution, and a pensioner on the roll of the Kentucky agency at the time of his death. She further declares that she was married to the said Henry Pumphrey on the 24th day of December in the year 1783 in the County of Wilkes in the State of North Carolina by a Baptist preacher by the name of Thomas Gilbert the bands first having been published 3 successive Sabbaths in the Church before marriage that her husband the aforesaid Henry Pumphrey died on the 17th day of October 1834, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated. And she further declares she knows of no record evidence of her marriage nor of the age of her children.

S/ Lucy Pumphrey, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me William Bradley a Justice of the peace for the County of Pulaski and State aforesaid by Mrs. Lucy Pumphrey and aged woman and I certify she is a woman of great moral character and a person of truth and veracity. And in consequence of old age and bodily infirmity is unable to attend Court.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of April 1839 S/ William Bradley, JP

[fn p. 161 [sic]: Ruben Bullock, 42, filed a claim dated June 17, 1850 in the Pulaski County court in Kentucky in which he states he is the son in law of Henry Pumphrey and his widow Lucy Pumphrey, deceased; that Lucy's maiden name was Lucy Shepherd; that Henry and Lucy were married in Wilkes County North Carolina; that Henry Pumphrey lived in his house in The union County Indiana for the 2 years preceding his death and that Henry Pumphrey died in affiant's house the latter part of August or first of September 1835 which she dates by the birth of the affiant son Zimri Bullock [Bullock] who was born December 9, 1834; that Henry and Lucy Pumphrey raised a large family of children, 9 in number according to his recollection named to wit Larkin, John, Eliza, Andrew, McHenry, Sally, Delphy, Lucy, and Elizabeth; that Lucy Pumphrey died in Pulaski County Kentucky "some years ago close".]

[fn p. 1196]

State of Kentucky Rockcastle County

On the 12th of September 1843 in open Court, before the Honorable T. Quarles Judge of the Rockcastle Circuit Court, Colby Rucker, 83 years of age the 10th of October next, residing in Grainger County Tennessee, upon his oath swears that in the Revolutionary War, he was acquainted with Henry Pumphrey late a Pensioner of Rockcastle County Kentucky; That during the War of the Revolution he was a volunteer soldier in the State of North Carolina in Wilkes County and in a campaign of 3 months against the Cherokee Indians under Colonel Benjamin Harrold under General Charles McDowell, his Captain was John Keys. In this company the said Henry Pumphrey served 3 months as a volunteer in the same campaign -- this was before the close of the war. This took place after Pumphrey left Natchez on the Mississippi River. He got acquainted with him at Natchez where there was some troops from Fort Pitt under Captain Harden, when they left Natchez they went together to North Carolina.

S/ Colby Rucker

[fn p. 737 sic: Elijah Denney,<sup>5</sup> a pensioner, gave an affidavit in support of the widow's claim for a pension.]

[facts in file: widow died in Garrard County, Kentucky on December 31, 1844 or 1845. The family of the veteran and his wife consisted of

Larkin born in 1785

John born in October 1786

Sally born in 1789, married a Thompson

Elijah born January 11, 1790

Lewis born July 1792

Delpha or Delphy born May 1795

Andrew born February 1798

Lucy born September 1801

Elizabeth born July 1804, married Reuben Bullock born February 28, 1809

McHenry born 1810

Reuben and Elizabeth Bullock had a son Zimri born December 9, 1834; John Harrison Pumphrey, grandson of the veteran, had a son Elija born in October 1844; parents of John H. Pumphrey are not designated nor is his wife's name given.

[fn p. 1219 sci] On May 18, 1840, Nathaniel Judd, 62, of Russell County, Kentucky, testified that he was the brother in law of Lucy Pumphrey and Delphy Judd, 60, testified she was the sister of Lucy Pumphrey; both Judds testify that the veteran and his wife were lawfully married and lived together as man and wife. Likewise, Elijah Jennings, 68, of Russell County, Kentucky testified he was the brother in law of Lucy and Sally Jennings, 66, testified she was the sister of Lucy.

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<sup>5</sup> FPA S2513