

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William May W861

Susannah May

f30NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 6]

State of Tennessee Sumner County: SS

On this 16th day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting William May a resident citizen of said County State of Tennessee aged Seventy-four years 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service in May or June in the year 1780 as a Substitute for Samuel Peak for the term of three months in Wake County State of North Carolina that he was mustered into service at Wake County Court house then the plantation that Col. Harry Lane then lived on where the Town of Rawley [sic, Raleigh] now stands -- that the Company he belonged to was commanded by Capt. Lewis Bledsoe 1st Lieut. Jacob Bledsoe Ensign Andrew McCall and attached to the 3rd Regiment of North Carolina militia commanded by Col. William Moore & Major Noles -- General Butler [John Butler] commanded the Army -- that he marched from Wake to Chatham Court house and from thence by Cross Creek and by Coles bridge to Cotton Cross roads [roads] -- while encamped at this place General Gates [Horatio Gates] passed on his march to Camden South Carolina -- that he then marched into South Carolina to a place called Rudeslys [sic, Rugeley's] Mill about six miles from Camden where he was encamped and continued there for some time -- that the company and Regiment he belonged to was in the Battle of Camden when General Gates was defeated [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]¹ -- that he was unwell with the jaundice and was left behind to guard the baggage and was not in the battle; after the defeat of General Gates the Army was dispersed and he returned home.

He was again drafted into service in October 1780 that he repaired to Bell's Mill on deep River Chatham County and was there mustered into service under Capt. ___ Bryant [Cato Bryant] and Lieut. ___ Searcy for the term of three months -- Capt. Bryant's Company was attached to Col. ___ Pasley's [sic, John Paisley] Regiment that he was marched from thence and crossed Adkin River [sic, Yadkin River] and on to Sulsbury [sic, Salisbury] he was encamped about a mile from Saulsbury [sic, Salisbury] and remained there during his term of service -- while there he was employed in making cartridges for the Army, there was a company of 40 or 50 taken from his Regiment to act as a guard to guard some British prisoners, he was one of that company and was marched from Salisbury to old Moravian Town where the prisoners were and guarded them

¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

from there to Hillsboro Orange County North Carolina where he received his Discharge in the market house in Hillsboro -- he cannot read writing and does not recollect who it was signed by - - he has lost or destroyed it, that he has no written or documentary evidence of his services -- that he was born in Wake County North Carolina in the year 1758. That he resided there when he entered the service that he has no record of his age that he remained in North Carolina many years after the close of the war when he moved to Sumner County Tennessee where he now resides and has lived for the last 26 years.

He hereby relinquishes all 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 in open Court August 16th 1832.

S/ William May, X his mark

S/ J. H. Douglass, Clerk

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I do hereby certify that I know of my own personal knowledge that William May did serve as a Soldier in the Revolutionary [war] and that he was at Camden when General Gates was defeated and was left to guarded [sic] the Baggage as he has stated in his declaration for a pension.

Sworn to in open Court August 16th 1832

S/ A. H. Douglass, Clerk

S/ Stephen Forester,² X his mark

[Elisha Vaughan, a clergyman, and Thomas Anderson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee Sumner County

On this 19th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting William May and makes the following amendment to his Declaration for a Pension --

That he served two tours of three months each as a private Soldier making a service of six months for which he claims a pension. That he would refer to Thomas Anderson Esquire -- Elisha Vaughan & Michael Runnels as persons well acquainted with him in his neighborhood where he resides who can certify as to his credit & respectability for truth.

Sworn to in open Court November 19th 1832.

S/ William May, X his mark

S/ A. H. Douglass, Clerk

State of Tennessee Sumner County: I Michael Runnels [sic, Michael Reynolds?] of said County & state aged 70 years the 3rd day of December next do certify that I was well acquainted with William May whose name appears to the preceding Declaration for a pension in Wake County State of North Carolina that we were raised boys together he being about three years older than affiant -- that affiant knows of his own personal knowledge that applicant did serve one of the Tours he has spoken of in his Declaration -- and that he has always been informed by the father, brothers & neighbors of applicant that he served two Tours -- The reason why affiant does not know personally of but one tour of service is that affiant's father removed during the war from Wake County to Surry County upon the Addkin [sic, Yadkin River] and was living there when applicant done said service -- he then returned to Wake County about the year 1781 -- and affiant then understood that applicant had done two tours of Service and has always understood and

² [Stephen Forrester S1902](#)

believed so -- affiant has been well acquainted with applicant ever since they were Boys that he believes him to be a man of truth and that his statements are entitled to full credit.

Sworn to in open Court November 19th 1832

S/ Michael Runnels, X his mark

S/ A H Douglass, Clerk

[p 4: On September 4, 1843, in Sumner County Tennessee, Susannah May, 75, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William May, a pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum; that she married him on December 25, 1786; that he died January 5, 1843 and that she remains his widow; that she has no record of her marriage but has the record of her children's births and that her first daughter was born in 1788. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Facts in file: In 1844, the widow stated she was 80 years old, there is no explanation for the discrepancy in her age; the children of William and Susannah May are as follows:

Caty May born June 14, 1788

Nancy May born January 2, 1790

-ailey (torn) May born March 20, 1792

Thomas May born July 22, 1794

Mary May born December 22, 1796

Caty May the daughter
of Wm May & Susannah
May his wife was born
June the 14th Day 1788

Nancy May was born
January the 2nd Day 1790

Ailey May was born
March the 20th Day 1792

Thomas May was born
July the 22nd Day 1794

Mary May was born
December 22nd Day 1796

William May born after 1796, date not shown, in 1843, he was living in Sumner County,

Tennessee.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]