

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hays S37973

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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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Kentucky Warren County: Sct.

On this 28th day of May 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Warren Circuit Court now sitting William Hays a resident in said County & State aged seventy-four years the 10th of March next, who 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 the 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1781 with Colonel or General McDowell and served in the Regiment commanded by him under the following named officers – etc. he well answered the interrogatories prescribed by the War Office in their order¹

1st He was born in Augusta County Virginia on the 10th of March 1761

2nd The book in which his age was recorded has been burnt together with the house in which it was.

3rd While a boy his father removed from Augusta Virginia to Rutherford County North Carolina where he lived when called into the service – he came to this State during the service – remained 5 years – returned to Rutherford – married and returned to Kentucky where he now lives.

4th & 5th In the spring of that year in the fall of which Ferguson was defeated at Kings Mountain it was shortly after planting corn – say about the 1st of April, That he volunteered in the company of Captain Adam Hampton of Major Gray's Battalion & of Colonel or General McDowell's Regiment. He rendezvoused at Gilbert Town North Carolina and there joined McDowell. He then marched into South Carolina – to Sugar Creek – while encamped there we learned the approach of the enemy commanded by Colonel Ferguson & Dunlap – being weaker

¹ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

than they we retired a short distance to an elevated or more eligible [?] position where we waited their approach. They came & we fought them but were defeated and recrossed Lawson's fork at Warfords [Wofford's] Iron works² at a Bridge – here we rallied & opposed their passage. In the attempt Captain Cooper of one Battalion was wounded by the sword of a British Dragoon. We had again to give way but were not further pursued by the enemy. We lost 20 or 30 men if not more. They were 5 to our 1. We then returned to Rutherford where your applicant was taken with the yellow fever & furloughed by his Captain. He remained sick & on furlough till after the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] – when he was discharged by his Captain. He volunteered for six months, and at its expiration received his discharge from his Captain. It was not more than a month previous to the expiration of his tour that he was taken sick. He claims therefore a pension for the whole tour. This service was performed in the year 1781 [sic, from the events described by the veteran, this tour must have taken place in 1780].

2^{ndly} The same fall, he removed to Kentucky. The next spring or early in the summer (it is impossible for him to remember the precise period) he was drafted into the company of Captain Hosten [?] for the purpose mainly of fortifying Fort Clark, at the falls of Ohio – now Louisville – This was a three months tour. We surrounded the Fort with picketing & a ditch. General Clark & his Army were there – Your applicant belonged to Colonel Hugh McGary's Regiment – & was a horseman. While here your applicant was pressed for the purpose of conveying the magazine from Ft Clark to Old Town, now Harrodsburg, at which place McGary was commander & where his tour expiring your applicant was discharged. This was in the year 1782.

3^{rdly} After he was discharged from this tour there was a call for men to guard Denton's Station. Your applicant volunteered for this purpose on a three month tour, in the company of a Captain whose name he does not remember. The expedition was ordered out by Colonel McGary. They were engaged in scouring the Country & defending it from the Indians. During this tour the Indians attacked Hite's Station. We heard the guns & ran to its relief. When we reached there they had retreated. At the expiration of this tour he was discharged. This tour was in the fall of the year 1782. To require him to state its precise commencement or termination were to require an impossibility. He was a private in every term. He states that he knew Captain Potts, Hampton & Cooper, Major Grey. He thinks John Miller was a Captain in the service, he might have been a Lieutenant.

6. He received discharges in every tour. They have all been lost. He never took care of them not believing them to be of any account.

7th He names the following persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, who can state his character for veracity &c viz. Thomas Hill, Sutton Gott, Math & Henry Motley & Jonathan Hopson, Gen E. M Covington, & J. Vanderhorst.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. He would further state that by reason of old age & the loss of memory, he cannot state precisely the commencement & termination of his tours of Revolutionary Services, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than one year as a private, & for such service he claims a pension.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jonⁿ Hobson, Clerk

S/ William Hays, X his mark

² This sounds like a reference to the action on August 8, 1780 at Wofford's Iron Works. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_woffords_iron_works.html and <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/wofford.htm>

[Zachariah Morris, a clergyman, Jeremiah Thomas and John L Claypole gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one-year in the North Carolina militia.]