

RECORDS FOR THE COLONIAL/REVOLUTIONARY
ERA FOR THE RAY FAMILY OF
CENTRAL NC

Attached are 9 Pension Applications based on
Service in the Revolution - Two of these #3 &
#9 are related to Franklin Co, NC and have
been fully extracted. Of the remainder none
seem directly related to the RAY's of
northern Wake Co, NC - However some
reference Orange Co, NC and they could
somehow be related to the RAY's of northern
Wake - They have not been extracted.

These applications come from a website "Southern Campaign
American Revolutionary Pension Applications" provided
to RPA by Gertie Bradley 4 16 MAR 2010. - I alert
Wm C Ray & Janet (Morgan) Ray of this site

①

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Benjamin Ray: W5657

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

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 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 [sic: Guilfford Courthouse 15 March 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 knows it - and he has no doubt Captain Greer Sen'r. 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 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 his Xmark Ray

NOTE: On 27 Oct 1853 Francis Ray age 59 applied for a pension stating that as Francis 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.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Ray W26355 Nancy fn67NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 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.]

Virginia

At a Court held for Russell County is 5th day of May 1818

Benjamin Ray who resides in the County of Russell in this State, wishing to become a pensioner pursuant to the provisions of an Act of the Congress of the United States passed on the 18th day of March 1818 entitled “An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war,” personally appeared in Court and declared on oath that he entered the Services of the United States as a private soldier in the Revolutionary War in the Spring of the year 1775, in the 6th Regiment of the North Carolina line commanded by Thomas Clark & in Captain John Baptist Ashe's Company; and that the said Ray continued in the said service until the end of the war; and was discharged in Stafford County Virginia. And the said Ray further declared that he was in the battle at Brandywine and the battle at Germanton [sic, Germantown], the battle at Germantown commenced before day break in which engagement General Ash [sic, Francis Nash] was killed. The said Ray was also in the battle of Monmouth, but not present when the action commenced: he understood it commenced about sunrise with the horse [?], and he thinks it closed about two hours in the night. He was afterwards taken a prisoner at the siege of Charleston in South Carolina and remained a prisoner fourteen months and some days.

And from the knowledge which some of the members of the Court themselves have as well as from other satisfactory evidence the Court are unanimously of opinion and do hereby certify that the said Benjamin Ray is a person of credit as a witness; that it was generally understood in the neighborhood of the residence of the said Ray previous to the passage of the said Act of Congress that the said Ray had served as a soldier in the revolutionary War; and, that the said Ray is in such reduced circumstances in life as to need of assistance from his country for support. All which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War.

And, At a Court held for the said County of Russell the 6th day of July 1819.

This day personally appeared in Court Benjamin Ray, who at a Court held for this County the 5th day of May 1818, made a declaration on oath for the purpose of obtaining the pension allowed by the Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818, and being interrogated on oath relative to the facts stated in said declaration, the Judge of the Court is of opinion that the same are true which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War.

A Copy Teste.

S/ Henry Dickenson, C. R. C.

[fn p. 16]

District of Virginia

On this fourth day of September 1821 personally appeared in open Court being a court of record for the County of Russell in the State of Virginia Benjamin Ray aged sixty two years resident in the said County of Russell in said District who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows he enlisted under Captain Baptist Ashe or Nash in the sixth North Carolina Regiment for two years and a half and joined the Brigade at Wilmington, and shortly after reenlisted to serve during the War, and did serve all the time. He also made oath that he has received a certificate from the War Department that he is inscribed on the pension list roll of the Virginia agency No. 14,660 and that the original declaration of the above facts was made on the 5th day of May 1818: And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to wit

Two cows and calves one three year old heifer to heifer yearlings 13 gallon pot one half bushel of oven and lid one kittle with one leg broke out holds about three pecks one [illegible word, looks like "nonmedge"] and an old saddle one weeding hoe one pail & piggin one ax & an old spinning wheel. The whole not worth more than thirty Dollars and he owes upwards of three hundred Dollars.

S/ Benjamin Ray, X his mark

And the said declarant also made oath that he is a farmer has a wife about 50 years of age as one daughter named Lucy about 17 years of age himself and wife infirm and unable to do much labor his daughter capable of usual labor but perhaps may soon leave him.

Sworn to and subscribed before the Court of Russell County the fourth day of September 1821.

State of Virginia, Russell County

Be it known that before me Robert Boyd a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Benjamin Ray of Russell County Virginia, and made oath in due form of law, that he is the identical Benjamin Ray named in an original pension certificate, now illegally with killed by Harry [Smith?] of the said County of Russell, who undertook in the year 1819 to aid the said Ray in drawing his pension, and for that purpose the said pension certificate was then placed in his hands. The said Ray further declares that for several years the said Smith has refused to pay over to him his pension, and has also constantly refused although often requested and called upon to do so, to deliver up the said Pension Certificate, and still refuses to deliver the same. That he is entitled to a pension of eight dollars per month on account of services rendered to

the United States during the Revolutionary War; that he served in Captain McCree's Company of Regulars in the Sixth Regiment first, then in the first Regiment; that he now resides in Russell County, and has resided there for the space of nearly forty years past, and that previous thereto he resided in Surry County in the State of North Carolina.

S/ Benjamin Ray, X his mark

Sworn and subscribed this 31st day of July 1838 before me.

S/ Robt Boyd, JP

[fn p. 10: on April 27th, 1854 in Russell County Virginia, Nancy Ray, 76 [last digit written over and unclear], filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Ray, a pensioner for his services in the revolution; that she married him January 31, 1830; that her husband died January 28, 1841 and that she remains his widow.]

[facts in file: Nancy Ray was Nancy Wilson or Nancy Sutherland prior to her marriage to the veteran; the veteran died in Russell County Virginia

○ Extract of Pension Application for Revolutionary War Service on behalf of [△]FRANCIS RAY b. 15 JAN 1764 (Franklin Co, NC)

This application made 11 JAN 1836 in Caswell Co, NC.

Francis Ray was born in Franklin Co, NC and moved to Caswell County, NC when he was age 7 or 8 - About 1772. He died 28 FEB 1843 leaving no widow. He enrolled on 1 SEP 1780 in place of his brother [△]STERLING RAY

Children of Francis Ray:

- 1. [△]Susan Ray m(d) [△]Litteton Sledge
- 2. [△]William Ray
- 3. [△]Mary Ray
- 4. [△]Jordan Ray
- 5. [△]Rachel Ray
- 6. [△]Stephens Ray
- 7. [△]Thomas Ray
- 8. [△]Patsy Ray
- 9. [△]Sarah Ray m(d) [△]Samuel Bradley

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Francis Ray S7350

fn19NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/14/09

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[fn p. 7]

State of North Carolina, Caswell County

On this 11th day of January 1836, personally appeared in open Court before Abner Miles, John P. Harrison & Benjamin C. West, Esquires the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina now Sitting, Francis Ray, a resident of said County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, aged Seventy Two Years on the 15th day of January 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and Served as herein Stated. Some time in the month of August or the first of September 1780, this Declarant Substituted himself in the place of his brother Sterling Ray who was drafted in the Company commanded by Captain Adam Sanders of the Said County of Caswell and State aforesaid, and was marched to Hamilton's Store in said County, near the Residence of Colonel William Moore, who commanded the Caswell regiments at that time, and was there stationed for the purpose of Guarding the public Store and magazine at that place until after news reached that place of the defeat of General Gates [Horatio Gates] at Camden. Upon hearing that news, this Declarant was marched to the South being taken out of the company of Captain Sanders by the Colonel, William Moore, and made to wait upon him as his horseier [sic], and was taken or marched to South Carolina to the Waxhaw settlement's for the purpose of Checking the progress of the British then marching towards North Carolina from Camden and to keep in Check also the Tories who were troublesome in that part of South Carolina; This Declarant was with the Regiment commanded by Colonel Moore, and with the Caswell militia, at the time of the capture of Tories with Colonel Rugely [sic, Rugeley] at their head in South Carolina. This Declarant was also one of the Guard who marched the prisoners to Salisbury and there confined them. This Declarant was not under the immediate Command of any Captain, after he left Hamilton's Store in Caswell County, But was under the orders and command of the Colonel Moore, the Commander of the Regiment, Waiting upon him as his menial Servant, and orsler [sic], a Situation which he never desired, although he was Compelled to perform, The Colonel at that time being allowed to take from the Regiment three Soldiers to wait upon him, one of which was this Declarant. This declarant was with the Colonel throughout the Campaign and returned with him in his House in Caswell County and was there discharged by him after having served out his tour of duty of three months for which he Substituted himself in the place of his brother Sterling Ray. This Declarant reached home he thinks Some few days before Christmas 1780. This Declarant remained at Home until the fall of 1781, when he again volunteered under Captain Adam Sanders and was marched in pursuit of the Tories and British who had captured the Governor of North Carolina and who were then retreating to Wilmington. This Declarant was marched to near Wilmington and from thence up the River Cape Fear, and from place to place through the Woods in pursuit of the Tories until the Battle of

Brown Marsh where they had an engagement with the enemy and were defeated. From the Brown Marsh this Declarant was marched to Cross Creek and thence back again to the lower part of the State of North Carolina in pursuit of Tories and watching the enemy until his Term of three months for which he volunteered had expired, and was then discharged by his Colonel (Moore) and returned with him home, whose neighbor he was.

This Declarant, has now no Documentary evidence by which he can prove his Service, having long since lost them, and has to rely [upon] the Testimony of Holloway Pass¹ who was with him in the Service and his neighbor for his character as a man of credit and responsibility.

This Declarant was born in Franklin County State of North Carolina on the 15th day of January 1764, and moved to the County of Caswell when he was Seven or eight years of age. He has a record of his age which was taken from his Father's Bible (where his age was recorded) several years ago. He was living in Caswell County North Carolina when he was called into Service, where he now lives and where he has resided since the revolutionary War. This Declarant was called into Service first as a Substitute for his brother Sterling Ray, in his first tour of Service of three months; and he was a Volunteer in his Second tour of Service. And that he Served his Country faithfully six months in the Revolutionary War.

This Declarant does not recollect all of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where he Served But he recollects Colonel Washington of the Cavalry, General Morgan, Colonel Henry Dixon & others with whom he was in South Carolina. He also recollects the casual Regiment commanded by Colonel Moore and the Orange Regiments commanded by Colonel Mebane.

This Declarant received to discharges both of which was given by Colonel William Moore and which have been long since destroyed or lost never expecting they would be of any Service to him. He was promised pay for his Service in the Revolutionary War But he never received one Cent.

This Declarant would state that he is well acquainted with John P. Harrison his neighbor who will prove for him as he believes a good Character and also with Holloway Pass was with him in the Revolutionary War and who will prove for him his Services.

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 that he knows of.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Paul A. Haralson, Clk

S/ Francis Ray

[George Stevens, a clergyman, and John P. Harrison gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Holloway Pass of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Francis Ray who has Sworn and Subscribed the above declaration, and that he was a Soldier in the revolution as he states, that I was with him in the Army in South Carolina at the capture of the Tories with Colonel Rugeley at their head in the fall of 1780, and I was also with them, at the Battle of the Brown Marsh in the Lower part of North Carolina in 1781; and that the said Ray was a faithful Soldier – and that he is now and always has been a man of credit & truth.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court this 11th January 1836.

S/ Holloway Pass

S/ Paul A. Haralson

[fn p. 4]

State of North Carolina Caswell County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions September Term, 1844

Be it remembered that on this first day of October 1844, it was made to appear to the satisfaction of the Court now sitting, That Francis Ray late of this County died on the 28th day of February 1843, and left no widow him surviving but left the following Children viz. -- Susan who have intermarried with Littleton Sledge, William, Mary, Jordon, Rachel, Stephen, Thomas, Patsey & Sarah

¹ [Holloway Pass S7289](#)

who have intermarried with Samuel Bradley. The said Francis Ray was reputed to be a revolutionary Soldier and under an application for a pension. It is therefore ordered by the Court, to be certified to the Clerk of this court, signed by John E. Brown, William Long & John P. Harrison Justices of the court now sitting.

S/ John A. Brown, JP
S/ William Long, JP
S/ John P. Harrison, JP

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Ray (Wray): S5971
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Franklin County Sct

On this day towit the 27th of September 1832 personally appeared before me [name illegible] a justice of the peace in the county aforesaid - James Ray aged according to his register Seventy Six years who from bodily infirmity cannot attend Court - who as 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 He [illegible word] Ray says he was in the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit. first tour he served during the revolutionary war was in the year [several words illegible] mines to protect said mines [probably the lead mines near Fort Chiswell in Wythe County] from the Indians and Tories - that he was drafted to go out of Bedford County Va where he lived[?] - the company he belonged to was commanded by Captain Moses Greer who is yet living and is now the presiding justice of Franklin County court - and to said Greer he refers the department for information if necessary as to the fidelity of his conduct as a soldier. that he continued to serve till he was discharged - how long this tour lasted he [several words illegible] to say - this tour lasted [one or two words illegible] he believes three months - [several words illegible] he stayed in the service till discharged - After his return home he was ordered out he verily believes three different times under Captain Isaac Renfro [several words illegible] on the [several words illegible] mountains where they [probably Tories] had sought a refuge to secure themselves and took many of them - Capt Renfro acted under the orders of Colo [Thomas] Arthur. He was out several times under Colo Arthur in pursuit of the Tories in the mountains, and [word illegible] the Carolina line - the [word illegible] or length of these several tours he cannot more [one or two words illegible] but being a Whig and devoted to the cause of independence he was ready and obeyed every call - In the winter of 1780 or 81 he was drafted and marched from his residence in Bedford in a company commanded by Captain John Chiles [several words illegible] was Haynes. the name of the ensign he has forgot. the company marched to Petersburg in Va where they were [word illegible] with other troops and remained at Petersburg a short [several words illegible] went on to cabin point in [Surry County] Va, which was headquarters for a short time. from Cabin point the troops were marched to Sleepy hole ferry [on Nansemond River] from there we marched near [word illegible] point where he was discharged. The [word illegible] was commanded by Gen'l Mulingburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] - who he remembers well, Maj'r Jones[?] he also remembers well and other officers. He got a written discharge - which he files along with this declaration. he has no other documentary evidence if he had other discharges they are lost - One of his neighbours Abraham Abshire was with him on the first tour mentioned here at the lead mines and was also frequently along in the tours mentioned herein against the Tories - James Burdett and John Via yet living in Franklin County Va were with him as soldiers in his last tour to Petersburg Cabin point [several words illegible;] He says on his oath that he believes he served in all at least Eighteen months - He has resided in Franklin County Va ever since the War - and refers to his neighbours generally for his character - 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 [signed] James Wray

NOTE: A typed summary states that James Ray or Wray was discharged from his last tour on 19 April 1781 and that he died 8 Nov 1834.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Jesse Ray S7345

fn16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/14/09

State of North Carolina, Ash [sic, Ashe] County

On the 20th day of May 1833, personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, of the County of Ashe, Jesse Ray, a resident of Ashe County, aged Seventy three 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 provision of the act of Congress, June 7, 1832.

He entered the service of United States under the following named officers, and served as stated herein. I was living in Wilkes County North Carolina the year before the Gates' defeat [Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden], I think the year 1779. I volunteered in the Light Horse under Capt. Moses Guess, called out by Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland]. I volunteered for six months, but was discharged at the end of five months. In this tour I was actually engaged in scouring the country after Tories. Capt. Guess discharged him at the end of five months by disbanding them, but there was no written discharge.

My second tour was in the year 1780 about the last of June. I volunteered under Capt. Abraham Demoss to go to Ramsour's Mill, Col. Cleveland, commanded. We got to Ramsour's Mill the day after the battle. I saw at Ramsour's Mill, Genl Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], on his way with troops to join General Gates. General Joseph McDowell was there also. This tour lasted two months. From Ramsour's Mill, Col. Cleveland marched us in pursuit of Col. Bryant [sic, Bryan], a Tory, whom we followed to near Anson County. We were marched back & discharged, but not in writing.

The third tour was one month, to the best of my recollection. I volunteered under the same Capt. Demoss, and marched under Colonels Cleveland & Gordon to the Virginia line in pursuit of two Tory Captains, Caldwell & Brown. We took a Tory Officer who was hung by sentence of a Court Martial.

The fourth tour, I think was three months, I volunteered with the same Capt. Demoss in the Horse, but was furloughed to attend my brother, who was sick. When he got better I went to join my Company and met them on the Morgantown road, with prisoners taken at King's Mountain. I joined them and we were marched to the Moravian Towns. Col.'s Campbell [William Campbell], Cleveland, Winston [Joseph Winston], Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Sevier [John Sevier] were at the Moravian Towns part of the time I was stationed there and at the end of three months actual service, I was discharged and went home, but had no written discharge.

The fifth tour was I think in the winter of the same year. I volunteered with the same Capt. Demoss to scour the country of Tories, under the command of Col. Cleveland and was actually engaged one month. I had no written discharge.

The Sixth tour was in the year 1781 before the battle of Guilford. I volunteered under Capt. Demoss & for six weeks. We were watching Lord Cornwallis' light foraging parties toward the Shallow Ford, & in that neighborhood. We were discharged, but not in writing.

I was drafted after the battle of Guilford for the purpose of joining Gen. Greene, under Capt. Alexander Gordon. In the middle of July we were called out on this tour and we were marched to Salisbury [and] Charlotte & joined Gen. Green at Camden. Col.

Malmady [sic, Malmedy] had then the command of the Regiment in place of Col. Locke, who started with them. We were foot troops and I acted as Orderly Sergeant. At the time of the battle of Eutaw Springs, I was twenty five miles from Camden with some sick men. We joined the Company & marched with the prisoners to near Salisbury, where we encamped until late in November when Col. Locke, who had rejoined them, gave me a written discharge. This discharge is lost. In this tour I was enrolled six months and in actual service four months. I was engaged in other short tours during the war but do not recollect the times as from age I am losing my memory.

I never had but one written discharge and that was the last tour. I have no record of my age, but I have seen a record of my father's Bible which states me to be born in 1760. I was born in Amherst County Virginia but moved to North Carolina when twelve years old. I have lived in this county fifty five years, it was first Wilkes County and this part struck off is called Ashe.

I refer to Rev. Drury Center [sic], the Rev. Joseph Plummer and any other respectable citizen of Ashe County for my character. I have no means of proving any but the last tour of service except by my own oath.

I hereby relinquish any claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

S/ Jesse Ray

Sworn to & subscribed the 20th May, 1833.

S/ T. Calloway, Clerk of Ashe County Court

by S/ R. Gentry, Deputy Clerk

[Drury Senter, a clergyman, and Joseph Plummer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Francis Johnson [sic] do swear that I was at Camden under General Greene & in the same Regiment with Jesse Ray under Colonel Malmedy. I know that Jesse Ray he was a soldier at that time.

Sworn to and open Court

S/ Francis Johnston¹

¹ [Francis Johnston \(Johnson\) S13585](#)

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ray R8613	Mary	fn28GA
Transcribed by Will Graves		11/18/09

[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 Georgia of Wilkes County: August 12th 1846

On this the 12th day of August 1846, personally appeared before me William Q. Anderson a Justice of the Inferior Court in and for said County Mary Ray a resident of said County and State, aged eighty-three years past, 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 3rd Section of the act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836. That she is the widow of John Ray who was a private Soldier and served in the Revolutionary War in the Georgia militia: that the said John Ray was a resident of Columbia County Georgia until the year 1779 when he removed to Wilkes County Georgia: after her marriage with him. That she knows nothing of the services of her husband prior to the year 1779 of her own knowledge, but always understood that he was on the Florida Expedition under the command of Colonel Baker: that in the year 1779, the said John Ray was frequently in service to her own knowledge, as a militia man from Wilkes County, his Captain's name was Richard Heard, his Lieutenant David Phelps, he is Superior Officers not recollected. In the year 1780, he served a tour of 3 months as a drafted Soldier and another tour of 3 months as a volunteer Soldier. The officers and services not recollected. In the year 1781 he was at the Siege of Augusta under the command of Colonel Clark [Elijah Clarke] the length of service performed their not known; he was there taken sick with the smallpox and was sent home, and was never afterwards in the service of his Country. The service, of the said John Ray, to her own knowledge, was the rise of 6 months. That she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim the discharges and papers of her said husband having been destroyed or lost after his death.

She further declared that she was married to the said John Ray on the 12th day of January 1779 in Wilkes County State of Georgia, that she has no documentary evidence of her marriage other than her family Record hereto annexed, which is in the hand writing of her said husband John Ray and her son JW Ray; that her husband the aforesaid John Ray, died on the 21st day of November 1828 in Wilkes County State aforesaid: and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed:

S/ Mary Ray, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written before me a Justice of the Inferior court in and for the County and State first above written. I do further certify that the declarant Mrs. Mary Ray from bodily infirmity is unable to attend Court: and that the least hereto annexed, purporting to be a family Registry of the said John and Mary Ray was taken from a Bible in her possession, and which she affirms has undergone no alteration since the death of her husband. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this the 12th day of August 1846.

S/ William Q. Anderson, JIC

Family Record

Marriages

John Ray and Mary his wife was Married in the year of our Lord 1779 January 12th
John L. Ray and his wife Cynthia was married in the year of our Lord 1811 December 19th
Emily Ray and Elbert Harriss was married August the 11 day of the year of our Lord 1825
Amanda Ray and Ephraim Bailey was married July 13th in the year of our Lord 1826
Charles was born October 5 1807

Births

JW Ray son of John & Mary his wife was born the 27 February in the year of our Lord 1786
Sarra [sic] gray he was born the 21 June 178_ [last digit illegible]
John Ray Junior was born 27th of April 1790
Elisa Ray was born 13 April 1792
Sanders W. Ray was born the 11 September 1798
Joseph Ray was born the 4 May 1800 [could be 1801]
Amanda Ray was born in Lebanon November 1804
Emilla Ray was born 20 January 1808
Jamie Ray he was born the 4th of March 1811
John Ray Senior born August the 17th 1757
Mary his wife born June the 9th 1763

State of Georgia at Jackson County: Be it known that on this 18th day of September 1846 Before me Abner Wills a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Henry Anglin¹ and a Pensioner of the United States a resident of the County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law saith that during the War of the Revolution He claimed his residence in Wilkes County Georgia that he done service as a minute man until the year 1779 after which time he was in constant service in the militia until peace was made a narrative of his service he begs leave to have a reference made to his original Declaration now on file. That John Ray about the time or before his entering own militia service above named came into the neighborhood and married the Reverend Sanders Walker's daughter, Mary, and settled down a neighbor to deponent. That in the latter part of 1779 the said John Ray he entered the service of the United States as a militia man in Captain Micajah Williamson's Company with the poem, and date deponent and the said Ray, were in constant service together always in the same company from the time of the said Ray entering the service aforesaid until the last siege of Augusta Georgia after which time the said Ray did no regular militia service of the deponent's knowledge. That he deponent and the said Ray did as much as 9 months service together and entered service for a tour of 3 months when Ray he was discharged at Augusta as he was informed on account of being unable to do duty. That he has not seen the said John Ray or his wife Mary Ray for the space of 40 years. But has heard from them at different times since removing from Wilkes County Georgia and now has before him a Declaration purporting to have been made by the said Mary Ray and from her family record annexed & credible information He is satisfied as to the identity of the said Mary Ray and her deceased husband John Ray the identical person whose services are above described.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before
S/ Abner Wills, JP S/ Henry Anglin

¹ [Henry Anglin S31521](#)

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Ray W3977

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of North Carolina } SS
County of Orange }

On this the 28 day of November in the year of 1844 personally appeared before the undersigned, Agness Freeland, a resident of New Hope, in said County of Orange aged 80 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 Act of Congress, passed July 7 1838 Entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows."

1.. This declarant sets forth upon her said oath that she has reason to believe & does believe that in the war of the Revolution, her Former husband John Ray, as Captain of Militia, did serve the United States, several different tours of duty, and that in each, he was in legally organized Corps, and called into Service by Competent Authority. But having not been married till after the close of the war, and her said first husband having been dead about 28 years, she is therefore unable to give any full or minute detail of Captain Ray's Revolutionary Services; but what she has heard him relate; and from the statements set forth by others; — she has reason to believe and does believe, that her former husband, the aforesaid John Ray, as Captain of a Company of draughted Militia, for Five months, did serve part of the tour in South Carolina, and was under Colonel [Francis] Locke & General [Griffith] Rutherford - was organized in the Town of Hillsboro' [Hillsborough] in the aforesaid County and served all of said Five months tour.

2. The said Agness Freeland widow as aforesaid, further setteth forth upon her said oath, that she has reason to believe and does believe, that in the summer of the year of 1780, there was a draught for three months militia men - that her dec'd husband, aforesaid was duly appointed and commissioned Captain of a Company and did serve as Captain a three months tour of duty, in the United States - & the said tour was in Gates' defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780].

3rd The said Agness Freeland widow as aforesaid, further sets forth, that she has reason to believe and does believe that in the month of February 1781 her first husband the aforesaid Captain John Ray, was in the United States' service, and with Lees [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's] Legion - but how long he served with the Legion she is unable to learn.

4th The Declarant further sets forth, that she has reason to believe and does believe that on or about the 1st September following, her dec'd husband the aforesaid John Ray was in Command again of a Company of Militia, and on the day Col [David] Fanning surprised and captured the Town of Hillsboro' in the aforesaid County, which is believed to be on or about the 15th day of said month [12 Sep], Captain Ray was at time in the neighbourhood of said town, and narrowly escaped being made prisoner by Col. Fanning; — The said Agness further states, that she has reason to believe and does believe that said John Ray, as Captain aforesaid with other troops under Col. Tinnin & General [John] Butler, did pursue the Tory forces to the neighbourhood of Wilmington and was under General Butler in the engagement with the enemy at Lucas' Lane.

That her deceased husband, aforesaid, remained in the Service, in this tour till about the middle of December following.

5. The said Agness Freeland widow, as aforesaid, further stateth that some time in the spring of the ensuing year 1782, the aforesaid John Ray, as Captain of a company of Militia, under Col. ONeal & Brigadier General Butler, served a tour to the South of three months duration - was on the Pee Dee, Sandy Creek, Cross Creek; this tour, the Declarant understands was to awe the Tories.

This Declarant further states that she has reason to believe and does believe that said John Ray as Captain of Militia, was in other tours in the United States Service, but is not enabled to give any detailed account of them. From what she has heard her husband say, and from the statements made by others, she has reason to believe that her deceased husband served other tours in the militia, in the Service of his Country.

The said Captain Ray died about Twenty Eight years ago, when all of his papers passed into the hands of Executors, who have not preserved any of his Revolutionary papers —

The said Agness Freeland widow as aforesaid, further sets forth that her maiden name was Trousdale, and that she was married by James Freeland Esquire to the aforesaid Captain John Ray on the Twenty Second day of January Seventeen Hundred and Eighty-four (1784)

That she has a family Record, which is taken from their family Bible, and is as it purports to be, a true & Genuine "Family Record" and is as follows, towit:

"John and Agness Ray was married on the 22nd January 1784."

"Isbel Ray married Oct. 4th 1804."

"Martha Ray do. Sept. 17th 1809"

"Mary Ray do June 26th 1816"

"Elender Ray was married March 1 1821"

"Births"

"William Ray Born February 27th 1785"

"Isbel Ray Born May 14th 1787"

"Martha Ray born April 14th 1789"

"John T Ray Born Oct 17th 1791"

"Nancy Ray Born June 25th 1794"

"James L Ray Born Oct 12th 1796"

"Elizabeth Ray Born Aug't 16th 1798"

"Mary Ray Born July 14th 1801"

"Ellenor Ray Born March 14th 1804."

The names that following the Family Records are Grandchildren.

Said Family Record is hereto annexed—

The Declarant further sets forth that her former husband, Captain John Ray, died on the 4th day of March, 1816.

That she again intermarried with John Freeland on the 17 January 1826. that said John Freeland did die on the 24 day of December 1843, leaving the said Agness, his widow who has not since married, but still remains the widow of the aforesaid John Freeland

That she was not married to her former husband John Ray previous to his leaving the Service, but that the marriage took place before the 1st day of January Seventeen hundred & ninety four: That is, at the time above stated to wit: 1784.

That from old age and bodily infirmity, the Declarant is unable to attend Court to make this declaration.
Agness herXmark Freeland

NOTE:

The family record of births of grandchildren reads as follows, as nearly as can be made out:

John R Fitch Sept. 24th 1805

Thomas Fitch Born Nov. 27th 1810

Asher H. Ray Born Jany 16th 1817

Nancy T. Fitch March 10th 1814

W. T. R. Person Oct. 24th 1818

John P. McCaddary was Born Oct 8th 1822

William W McCaddary was Born July 21 182[?]

Sarah E Ray was Born october 25th 1822

The family record also lists the following additional marriages:

A. H. Ray and Jane A. Curtis were married June 20th 1841

May Ray was married AD 1829 December 18th

Elizabeth Ray married February 19th 1829

The file also contains a copy of a marriage bond signed by John Ray and William Trousdale in Orange County on 16 Jan 1784.

On 23 Apr 1854 the executor of "Nancy or Agnes Freeland" wrote to the pension office stating that in the winter or spring of 1852 Mrs. Freeland had been trying to obtain an increase in her pension and died soon afterward.

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

[fn p. 38]

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 Furgusson 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 of 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 Furgusson, JP

S/ Lydia Ray

THOMAS RAY - HIS WIDOW nee ELIZABETH
PEARCE - PENSION APPL RE REVOLUTION

(9)

Extract of Elizabeth Pearce's AHT 1767 (FC, NC) Application for Pension based on service of Husband Thomas Ray to AHT 1762 (WC, NC) service in Revolution. Copy of 4 page application placed in folder of Elizabeth & Thomas & in RAY FAMILY FILE - Revolution.

On 9 MAY 1842 Elizabeth at age 75 or 76 living in Addison TWP, Shelby Co, IN with son James & Hudson gave testimony to support her application. In 1842 6 of 7 Ch living she mtd Thomas early 1782 at age 16 by TANNER ALFORD. They moved to Randolph Co, NC then to Rowan Co, NC then in 1822 to Indiana

Thomas lived on his father's (William Ray, Sr) large farm in Wake Co, NC on Mossy Creek. Elizabeth lived just across creek with her father (Nathan Pearce, I b 1750-1735). Starting in 1799 Thomas served 5 three month enlistments one of which was as a substitute for JACOB WHEELER Charles & Hudson, brothers of Thomas, died in service others who served:

- △ John Seagrave, Sr △ John Seagrave, Jr △ Daniel Ray
- △ Jesse Bunn [BUNN] △ John Pearce △ Wm Wheeler
- △ Philbert Pearce △ John Sanders △ Thomas Sanders
- △ Alexander Tomblin △ Anderson NUNERY △ Richard Pearce
- △ James Pearce △ Joseph PARR (PERRY)

On 18 MAY 1842 John Pierce, brother of Elizabeth added more names of those who served:

- △ Shadrack Medlin △ John Bainwater △ Roger CRAIG
- △ Anderson Jackson △ John Martin △ Stanley Cooper

(3)

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Widow's Pension Application for Thomas Ray, W-9614

Transcribed by David Ross

Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray's widow's deposition and the supporting deposition of her brother John Pearce document the service of Thomas Ray and a number of his kin and neighbors in Wake and Franklin counties, NC.

Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray's Deposition

State of Indiana

Shelby County, SS:

On this ninth day of May in the year eighteen hundred and forty-two, Before the Probate Court in and for this County aforesaid now in session, personally appeared Elizabeth Ray a resident of Addison Township in the County aforesaid aged Seventy five (or seventy six) 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.

That She was married to Thomas Ray in the county of Franklin in the State of North Carolina in the Latter part of the Winter in the year (she believes) seventeen hundred and Eighty two, or 83, by a magistrate whose name was Tanner Alfred (or Allford) She also believes that said Allford was a Major in the Revolutionary War---The Maiden name of this deponent was Elizabeth Pearce---The said Thomas Ray, the late husband of this applicant, Served as this applicant verily believes in the Revolutionary War in the following manner,---The said Thomas Ray about the year 1799 Resided with his father in Wake County North Carolina near the line of Franklin County in the same State, and was drafted to Serve in the army operating in the South, the said Thomas was not then of proper age to be compelled to serve, but went into the service and served according to said draft, which was for the period of three months, after that term expired, without returning home he hired as a substitute and served another campaign of three months in the place and stead of Jacob Wheeler, and after that campaign expired, the said Thomas was again drafted into the Service, and Served successively in five campaigns of three months each, making in all the time he served twenty-one months to the best of the recollection of this applicant. The said Thomas returned home to see his father's family & friends between each of the campaigns above mentioned (except between the first & second) and this affiant Saw him at each time he so returned home---This affiant resided at that time with her father's family, on a plantation adjoining to the plantation of Said Thomas' father except that a creek being the line dividing Wake & Franklin Counties ran between them--This deponent cannot State the Countries or places through which he passed, but she always understood that he served in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and that he was in various skirmishes and with and against the Tories at or near Bell's Mills on Deep River, and was in the Battle with & against the British at Eutaw Springs, and in that battle was slightly wounded in the neck and foot by Shots from the British, the scars of which wound he distinctly retained during his life---He served under the following officers to wit: General

Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], Major McLeary, Captain Samuel Sharp. This applicant does not know whether any change of officers took place during the time of his service,—during the first Campaign the said Thomas on account of the youth served generally as a waiter, and afterward, during the residue of the time as a Common Soldier. The last time he returned home from that Service, he brought with him one of the Red coats said to have belonged to the British. This applicant believed that his services terminated Soon after the battle at Eutaw Springs and She believes it was in the month of August, and in the year 1781 but she is not positive as to the time, particularly of the year She is not certain, as She has no record of the time, or of the age of herself or her marriage, nor does she know of any document, or any other certain evidence of the Service of said Thomas Ray. This deponent does not know positively of her own knowledge, as to the Services of Said Thomas as above mentioned, and knows of and verily believes the same only from the fact of her near residence to and intimate acquaintance with said Thomas before and during the time & since said Service, the Statements of Said Thomas concerning the Same, and the General Conversation of the neighborhood on the subject at that time & Since, and the conversations of those of the neighborhood who Served, some with him and others about the same time, among whom were the following persons to wit, of those regularly enlisted, John Segraves Senr & Hudson Ray (the last named was Brother to said Thomas & was wounded in the Battle at Eutaw Spring and died in the Hospital).—The names of the Militia who served of the neighborhood were Charles Ray, (He was taken prisoner by the British at some time before the above named battle and died with the smallpox while a prisoner), Daniel Ray, Jesse Burr (was also a prisoner with Charles Ray but returned), John Pearce, William Wheeler, John Segraves Jun, Philbert Pearce, John Sanders, Thomas Sanders, Alexander Tomblin, Anderson Nunery (?) Richard Pierce, James Pearce & Joseph Parr.

This applicant further says that after the last period of the Service of said Thomas Ray as above mentioned, She was married to said Thomas Ray as above stated but she is not certain as to the year mentioned as to said marriage but believes it to have been early in 1782—but at the time of said marriage She was in her Sixteenth Year—The said Thomas and this applicant as his wife moved from said Franklin County to Randolph and Thence to Rowan County in the Same State & from thence to the State of Indiana about the year 1822. The said Thomas & this applicant always lived together as Husband & wife from the time of said marriage until the death of said Thomas, which was on the 16 day of November in the year 1829 in the County of Shelby, Indiana, since which time she has never been married to any other person. They have had a family of 7 children, 6 of whom are now living, the oldest of whom is Hudson Ray (now about 59 or 60 years of age next August) & the second James Ray now fifty seven years of age (in January last) both of whom reside in this county of Shelby & with whom she lives—

her

Elizabeth Ray

mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written, before Jacob Kennerly Judge of the Probate Court of said County in open Court

(signed) Jacob Kennerly Judge Probate Court Cty

And the said Jacob Kennerly Judge of the Court aforesaid does hereby declare his opinion

after the investigation of the matters set forth in the above declaration, That Thomas Ray, the late husband of the above applicant, was a revolutionary soldier, and served as stated by the above applicant. And the Court further certifies that he has been acquainted with the Said Applicant and several of her Children for Several years, particularly with Hudson & James Ray, the latter of whom is a respectable clergyman in the Methodist Church—and that Said applicant is a person of respectability and her statement entitled to full credit.

(signed) Jacob Kennerly Judge Probate C.S. Cty

I, Sylvan B. Morris Clerk of the Shelby Circuit Court and Ex-officio Clerk of the Probate Court of Said County of Shelby, in the State of Indiana, do hereby Certify that the foregoing Contains the original proceedings of the said Probate Court in the matter of the application of Elizabeth Ray for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of Said Probate Court at Shelbyville this Ninth day of May A.D. 1842.

(signed) Sylvan B. Morris, Clerk

Deposition of John Pierce

State of Indiana Hancock county Be it known on this the 18th day of May in the year 1842 Before me Andrew F. Hatfield a Justice of the Peace of Said county of Hancock personally appeared John Pierce a resident of Said county aged 76 years of Sound mind and memory who being by me duly Sworn on his oath Saith that he is the brother of Elizabeth Ray of Shelby county Indiana who is the widow of Thomas Ray deceased who died in Said county of Shelby Twelve years ago last faul during the revolutionary war and from the earliest recollection of this deponant he resided in the county of Franklin near the line of wake county in the State of North Carolina with his fathers family and a near neighbour to the father and family of Said Thomas Ray while the Said war was raging in Carolina and other Southern States about the faul of the year 1779 and when this deponant was a lad he thinks about 13 or 14 years of age the Said Thomas Ray being thereabout two years or upwards older than this deponant he the Said Thomas was drafted to Serve in the army for 3 months it was understood at that time among the family and neighbours that Said Thomas was not quite of Sufficient age to be drafted but his father did not go to prove his age and he Thomas went with Several others of the neighbours and Served and when his term expired he hired as a Substitute for one of the neighbours Jacob Wheeler for 3 months and after that time was out he returned home but was very Soon called out again and went Still on from one campaign to another till the war was about threw in that part of the country I think he must have served in all near two years from the general conversation and report in the neighbourhood he was in the battle at Eutaw Springs he came home Soon after that battle with a Slight wound on his neck and another on his foot he brought home one of the red coats of the brittish there ware Several persons who I know out in the Service at the Same time to wit—John Segraves Sen, John Segraves Jun, Charles Ray, Hudson Ray, Jesse buh (sic, Booe) John Pierce, Richard Pierce, William Wheeler, Shadrach Medlin, Philbert Peirce, John Rainwater, Anderson Nunery, James Peirce, Joseph Perry, Roger Craig, Andrew Jackson, John Martin, Starling Cooper, Tanner Alford who was a Mager in the Service I do not know where any of these persons are or wheather any of then are living Except I have had a late account from Andrew Jackson he was yet alive at that time

Hudson Ray was wounded in battle and died in the hospital and Charles Ray died a prisoner with the British they were both Brothers to Said Thomas the next winter after the war was over in those parts the Said Thomas Ray and my Sister Elizabeth was Married at my fathers residence in Franklin county by Tanner Alford a Magistrate I was present and Saw them Married they lived Together until the death of Said Thomas Ray as above mentioned they had Several children to wit—Hudson Ray, James Ray, Gilley Ray, Sarah Ray, Susanna Ray, Martha Ray, and Chaney Ray this deponent cannot State positively that he is exactly correct as to the dates or as to his own age or the age of said Thomas Ray the family Records of this deponents father and family was given up in the time of the war to be Sold to pay expences of the war this deponent remembers that Some man came to his fathers house for money or property for that purpose and his father had nothing for them but the Bible which he Gave up and that had the record of their ages in it Elizabeth the widow of Said Thomas is about Two years older than this deponent

his
(Signed) John Pierce
mark

Witnesses---

Wiley Wray

James M. McCorkhill (?)

Sworn to and Subscribd the day and year first above written----Andrew F. Hatfield
Justice of the Peace

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Ray R8615 Sarah fn21NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 12/17/09

[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.]

County of Martin State of North Carolina

On this 16th day of June A.D. 1857 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State above mentioned Sarah Ray aged 77 years a resident of Martin County and State of North Carolina who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the widow of Samuel Ray deceased who was a private in the Company commanded by Captain __ in the Regiment __ commanded by Colonel __ in the war of the Revolution.

To the best of her information and belief her said husband entered the service at Martin County and State of North Carolina on or about the __ day of April A.D. 1777 for the term of 2 years and continued in actual service in said war for the term of 6 months and was honorably discharged at Martin County in the State of North Carolina on or about the __ day of A.D. 1779.

She further states that she was married to the said Samuel Ray in Martin County and State of North [Carolina] on the 30 day of December A.D. 1819 by one James Moore a Justice of the Peace and that her name before her said marriage was Sarah Harrison that her said husband died at Martin County North Carolina on or about 6 day of September A.D. 1832 and that her husband never made any application for a pension as she knows of. That she was not married to him prior to the second of January A.D. 1800 but at the time above stated, and she further states that there is no private nor public record of her marriage but there is an eyewitness of her marriage if there is a man surviving who was at her marriage. That she cannot file herewith his certificate of discharge for the reason that it has been lost for some years and further she declares that she is now the widow of Samuel Ray deceased. She hereby appoints Wilson T. Dozier [?] at Blossom Hill D. C. Princess Anne County, Md her true and lawful attorney with power of substitution to prosecute this her claim for a pension to receive the Certificate when issued and to do all facts necessary and proper in the premises.

S/ Sarah Ray, X her mark
? S/ Elizabeth H. Ray

S/ H. W. Mizell

[fn p. 4: on the same day as above, Lawrence Cooper, 59, testified he was at the marriage of Samuel Ray to Sarah Ray in December 1816; that they were married by James Moore, JP and that her name prior to her marriage to Samuel Ray was Sarah Harrison.]

[fn p. 9: NC Comptroller's Department certificate dated August 28, 1857, showing a number of payments to a Samuel Ray of Edenton District for militia services during the Revolution.]

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Ray R8616
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS
County of Henderson }

On this tenth day of August, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty three, personally appeared before me, the undersigned, an acting Justice of the Peace, duly authorized by law to administer oaths, William P. Ray, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath declare, that he is the son of William Ray, who was a captain in the Revolutionary War, that he raised a company in the county of Orange, in the State of North Carolina, and served during the war. He, the said William Ray was in the engagements at Ridge's Mill [sic: see note below], Ramsey's Mill [NC, 19 Mar 1781], Guilford [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], Cowpens [SC, 17 Jan 1781], Lindley's Mills [13 Sep 1781], he was stationed at Butler's Ford under General [John] Butler. He further declares, that his rather, William Ray, died in the county of Henderson, in the State of Tennessee, in the year A.D. 1827, on the third of September, leaving four heirs, to-wit. Lucy Ross, Isabela Bradford, William P. Ray, Mary Patton, since which time two have died towit - Lucy Ross, Isabela Bradford, leaving William P. Ray, Mary Patton, now Mary Hodges, living. He further declares that his sister the said Mary Hodges has fully empowered him to apply for the pension money due the heirs of the said William Ray.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed March 18th 1818. William P. Ray

NOTES:

A William Ray, Sr. applied for a pension (\$7347) on 29 June 1833 as a Captain of Orange County NC Militia who was at the same engagements as the William Ray of the above pension application.

"Ridge's Mill" is most likely Rugeley's Mill, about 12 miles north of Camden SC. The deposition probably refers to the Battle of Camden on 16 Aug 1780. However, according to the pension applications of Abraham Parker (S3640) and Samuel Shepherd (S21476), Captain Ray (Rhea) was replaced by Lt. William Horton as commander of the company before that battle.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Ray S7347

fn34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this the 29th day of June A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me William H. Hall – one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid William Ray Sr. resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged 90 years on the 11th day of June 1833, who after having first in 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 of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the year 1776 declarant was duly appointed a Captain of a Company of militia in the County of Orange & State aforesaid, which Company consisted of drafted men for three months: and he marched his said Company from the Town of Hillsboro N. C. to Fayetteville N. C. then called Cross Creek. Declarant's Company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Moore, General Caswell was the commanding General. -- Declarant served out the term of three months, as Captain, of which his said Company was drafted. He did not receive a written commission as Captain.

The declarant was a militia Captain in the County of Orange aforesaid, during the whole of the revolutionary war, and was generally engaged, in pursuance of instructions given by superior officers, in drafting men and delivering them at the Town of Hillsboro N. C. In addition to the tour of three months for which he served in the capacity of Captain as aforesaid, he performed two or three tours of three months each commanding the militia Companies as Captain, & was on each occasion duly appointed to the captaincy, but did not receive any either case, a written commission. -- One of the said Tours he performed in the year 1781, which commenced as soon as the capture of Hillsboro N. C. by the Tories took place. The declarant marched his Company from Hillsborough to Lindley's Mills in Orange County, the day after the battle with the Tories at that place. He was in pursuit of the Tories. In this tour General Butler and Colonel Mebane were his Superior Officers. In the same year of 1781 before the capture of Hillsboro as aforesaid, the declarant, as Captain as aforesaid, marched a Company of drafted Militia from Hillsboro on a tour of three months duty, to the Yadkin River in N. C. and there joined General Butler's Brigade. This, it is believed, was when Lord Cornwallis was pursuing General Greene's Army from South Carolina into North Carolina. The declarant performed a great deal of other military duty during the revolutionary war – but on account of his advanced age & want of memory, he cannot pretend to specify the details of his service. He remembers the three tours of three months each, above set forth – but he cannot remember the circumstances & details of them, further than he has stated. He is very deficient in memory & is not enabled to give a more precise account then the above of his service – the general result of his having performed three tours of duty as a Captain of the militia & having served under the Officers aforesaid & of his having been engaged in that duty, & the additional one of drafting & delivering soldiers as above set forth – is distinctly impressed on his memory but most of the accompanying circumstances have passed entirely from his recollection. He was born on the Susquehanna [River] in the State of Pennsylvania on the 11th June 1743. He hath no written account or record of his age. He was removed to the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina when he was about 18 months old: and he hath resided in said County & State ever since. He knew Captain William Lytle, Major Tatum & Col. Archibald Lytle who were Continental or regular officers. The declarant always volunteered his service. He knows of no person by whom he can prove his service except William Cummings¹ of Hillsboro. He hath no documentary [evidence] of his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and

1 Sic, William Cumming FPA S8265

declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State. He is known to John Hanks a clergyman, Rankin McKee and Alexander G. Hall residence of his County.

Sworn to & subscribed before me.

S/ William Ray, Senr., X his mark

S/ Wm. H. Hall, JP

[John Hanks, a clergyman, Rankin McKee and Alexander G. Hall gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

North Carolina, Orange County

On this the 25th day of November 1833, personally appeared before me William Horner one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid William Ray Senior, a resident of said County, and an applicant for a pension to the Government of the United States, in consideration of military service rendered by him to the United States, in the War of the Revolution, -- and after having first been sworn according to law, doth on his oath, say, that he is conscious that the infirmity of his memory is great, as he has before stated in his declaration made for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, which declaration, he is informed, is now in the Pension Office at Washington City: that he hath a recollection of important or striking events, of the service he rendered in the Revolutionary War -- but his recollection of minor or unimportant details of his said service is vague and confused: that when he made his declaration, he did not remember that he had received a Commission of a Captain in the Revolution, and therefore he stated the fact of his not having received one, as he now thinks, which fact, this Affiant supposes was incorrectly stated, for two reasons viz.: First, this Affiant believes, that he as stated in his said declaration, that he had no documentary evidence of his service, except the affidavit of one or more persons which accompanied his said declaration -- and he knows that that allegation was made in perfect good faith, and yet he is now certain that it was not correct: for since that time, he hath found a file of old papers, of the existence of which he had no knowledge at the time he made his declaration, which this affiant considers proof, above suspicion, of his service in the War of the Revolution, which is now begs leave to present to the inspection of the pension Office: viz., papers marked A, B, C, D, E, F and G hereunto affixed: this affiant having in this particular committed an obvious error in a matter of evidence of no light import, he thinks it equally probable that he might in like good-faith, have given an incorrect statement in regard to his Commission of Captaincy: Secondly, this Affiant now thinks, but his recollection of the fact is indistinct and confused, that in the Revolutionary War, he did receive from or through the hands of the Colonel of his Regiment, viz. Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Moore a printed paper conferring on him some authority, which is now supposes and indeed from what he has understood, he doubts not, was a Commission of a Captaincy, to this Affiant -- and that it was, by virtue of that commission, that he performed the services of a Captain, in the War of the Revolution, as he has stated in his aforesaid declaration, but this affiant wishes it to be distinctly understood, that he does not and cannot conscientiously swear positively, that he did receive a Commission of a Captain, but only that he does not doubt the fact & believes it to be true, for the reasons above stated & for the reason that he was recognized as such, performed the duties & enjoyed the privileges of that grade.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this the 25th day of November 1833.

S/ Wm Horner, JP

S/ William Ray, Senr., X his mark

[fn p. 19, "B"]

"Captain Wm Ray has leave of absence for ten Days then to Join his company.

Sept. 24th 1780

S/ John Butler"

fn. p. 32, this document is authenticated by John Taylor, clerk of Orange County, as being in the handwriting of General John Butler.]

[fn. p. 17, "C"]

“By Stephen Moore commanding the Second Regiment of North Carolina Militia whereof Ambrose Ramsey Esq. is Colonel --

The bearer Captain William Wray he has leave of Absence from the Regiment that he may assist and apprehending Delinquents and the County of Orange, or whatever else he may have information of their concealing themselves from there Duty.

S/ Stephen Moore, Lt. Col.”

The above document was authenticated by Stephen Moore, grandson of Lt. Col. Stephen Moore, by affidavit [almost illegible by reason of its faintness] given Nov. 30, 1833 in Orange County, NC. fn p.21.]

[fn. 15, “F”

Capt. Ray

1 pott, & 1 ax

1 pr Shoes

2 Shirts

1 Hunting Shirt

1 pr Brirches [sic] & Trousers

1 Hatt

1 Blankett

5 yd Tent Cloth]

[fn p. 12, “G”--largely illegible document that appears to be half [halved vertically] of a letter or order directing the sending of Volunteer drafted men to Cross Creek.]

North Carolina, Orange County

William Cumming, of the County and State aforesaid on this the 10th day of August 1833 personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the Peace, in & for the County aforesaid, and after first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, state, that he is now a pensioner of the United States for military service performed by him in the War of the revolution; that he well knew during the war of the revolution, **William Ray Senior** a resident of the County & State aforesaid, who have sworn to & subscribed the declaration to which this is appended, made for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that this affiant remembers well that the said William Ray was actively engaged during the revolutionary war, as a Captain of the Militia in Orange aforesaid – in drafting men for the service & delivering them at Hillsboro N. C. to other officers; that he remembers to have heard of the said William Ray having performed a three months service as a Captain in said War; and he knows of the said William Ray having been in a tour of duty in the war of the revolution, as a Captain of Militia, which the said Ray have not inserted in his said declaration viz. in the summer of 1780, the said Ray was in the battle of Gates defeat with this Affiant, who was under the command of Captain Thomas Farmer; that he understood & believes, that said Captain Ray was engaged at that time in a tour of three months service – whether he served out the tour he does not absolutely know, but he believes he did – for he remembers that the said Captain Ray & himself entered on said tour of duty on the first or second week of May, preceding the said Battle of Gates defeat.

S/ Wm Cumming

Sworn to & subscribed

S/ Thos. Clancy, JP

[“A,” “D”, “E” are not found in this file.]