

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Rankin S7342
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn22NC
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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. 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 North Carolina, Lincoln County: Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions October Session 1832

On the 30th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions, now sitting, William Rankin, a resident of Lincoln County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1777 to the best of my recollection, I volunteered under Captain Alexander in what was then called Tryon County in the State of North Carolina, now Lincoln County, and marched with him against the Indians to that part of North Carolina, now called Rutherford County to a Fort in Montford's Cove, and served there & in covering the surrounding country, a three months tour, for which I volunteered. And in the year 1779 in the latter part of the year I again volunteered under Captain Alexander in what is now Lincoln County North Carolina, for five months & was marched to Camden in South Carolina where we were met with the other troops from Rowan & Mecklenburg Counties in North Carolina, and from Camden we were marched to the ten mile house from Charleston South Carolina & after remaining there some short time were marched to Purrysburg in South Carolina & there joined General Lincoln's Army & after staying some time we were ordered to Charleston and again marched back to Purrysburg & there was discharged by Captain Alexander and this tour served about three months & a half. Again in 1780 I volunteered under Major Dickson also in Lincoln County and was marched into South Carolina against Colonel Floyd a Tory, not finding him, we were marched back to Lincoln County North Carolina & by that time the Tories were collecting in said County, we were marched to Mecklenburg County & joined General Rutherford's Army & marched with him to Ramsour's Mill where the famous Tory battle was fought, the engagement was however over before we reached the ground the Tories having been defeated we were discharged having served about two months. Again & not long after the battle of Ramsour's Mill, I substituted for one Henry E. Locke for a three months tour and was placed in the company commanded by Captain William Armstrong in Lincoln aforesaid, and was marched to Park's Mill near Charlotte, North Carolina, & remained there about two weeks & was then marched to Charlotte & joined Captain Spring's Company & marched & joined General Rutherford's Army near Phifer's and then made an attack upon the Tories in Mecklenburg or Anson County North Carolina at a place called Coleson's [sic, Colson's—July 21, 1780] where 70 or 80 Tories were taken prisoners by us. In that engagement General Davidson who afterwards killed at Cowan's Ford was wounded, from there we were marched to Cheraw in South Carolina & soon joined General Gates. I was still in Captain Armstrong's company, but cannot say who commanded as Colonel. I was in the battle of Gates defeat, & after the battle returned home having served a three months tour – while the British was stationed in Charlotte, North Carolina I served a month's tour under Major Dickson in Lincoln & Mecklenburg Counties after the Tories & British and under Captain Farney, I served at different times three months

in Lincoln & Rowan Counties, against the Tories & British & while in this service two Tories were killed in Lincoln County & another wounded and made his escape to the camp of the British & there died as informed. Before the battle of the Eutaw Springs I volunteered for three months in Lincoln County under Captain Lewis Little & marched to Rocky Mount in South Carolina & from there to the Eutaw & about 7 miles before we got there we joined the Army & our company was put in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Malmedy a Frenchman. I was in that engagement & after the battle I was one of the guard over the prisoners & marched them about 7 miles, a parcel of them we left behind of their wounds; from thence to Camden South Carolina where some of the prisoners were left, with the balance of the prisoners we marched to Rowan County North Carolina, where I remained till my time expired and I was discharged by Colonel Locke & the prisoners were sent to Virginia.

I have no evidence to prove my services except the annexed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. S/ Wm Rankin

Test: S/ Vardry McBee, Clerk
of Said Court

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of April Sessions 1833

On this 30th day of April 1833 personally appeared in open court of the County of Lincoln County sitting William Rankin a resident of said County & State of North Carolina aged Seventy two years, last January, 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 & served as herein stated: that in the year 1777, as I now believe, I volunteered under Captain Robert Alexander in then Tryon County, now Lincoln, North Carolina, and marched with him against the Cherokee Indians, in Western part of North Carolina now Rutherford County to a post in Montford's Cove & was employed in scouring the surrounding Country for three months. In the latter part of the year 1779 I again volunteered under Captain Robert Alexander in what is now Lincoln County for five months, was marched to Camden in South Carolina, where we met with troops from Rowan and Mecklenburg County North Carolina from thence to the 10 mile house near Charleston South Carolina after remaining there a short time, we were marched to Purrysburg South Carolina & there joined General Lincoln's Army, after a short stay there we were ordered to Charleston, and again marched back to Purrysburg & then discharged by Captain Alexander, having served in this tour three months & 14 days. Again in 1780 about the latter part of April or first of May he volunteered under Major Joseph Dixon also in Lincoln County, and was marched into South Carolina against Col. Floyd, a Tory, not finding him, we were marched back to Lincoln County North Carolina where the Tories were collecting in that County, we crossed over to Mecklenburg County & joined General Rutherford's Army, and marched with him to Ramsour's Mills Lincoln County where the famous Tory battle was fought; the engagement, however was over before we reached the ground & the Tories defeated; we were away having served six weeks-- very shortly after the battle of Ramsour's Mill I substituted for Henry E. Lake of this Lincoln County for a three months tour, and was commanded by Captain William Armstrong of said County, was marched Parks Mills near Charlotte Mecklenburg County North Carolina; where we remained a short time, was marched to Charlotte & joined Captain Springs company and joined General Rutherford's Army near Phifer's, in what is now Cabarrus County – and then had an engagement with the Tories at a place called Coleson's [sic, Colson's] in the [word torn out] Mecklenburg or Anson County N. C. where 70 or 80 Tories were taken prisoners by us, in that engagement General Davidson who afterwards fell at Cowan's Ford was wounded, from there we marched to Cheraw in South Carolina & joined General Gates continued with him until his defeat near Camden South Carolina in which battle I was and after which I returned home, having served the full term of three months. Whilst the British lay at Charlotte,

North Carolina, I served a tour of one month under Major Joseph Dixon, in Lincoln & Mecklenburg Counties, after the Tories and British, and again volunteered and served under Captain Peter Forney at different times. Three months, in the County of Lincoln & Rowan, against the Tories & British in the year 1781 during this service, two Tories were killed, at Dutchman's Creek in Lincoln and another wounded, who made his escape. Before the battle of Eutaw in 1781, I volunteered again three months under Captain James Little, of Lincoln County & marched to Rocky Mount in South Carolina and thence to the Eutaw, and about 7 miles before we arrived, we joined the Army & our company was put in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Malmedy a French officer. I was in that engagement & after the battle, I was one of the guard over the prisoners, and marched with them to Camden South Carolina, thence to Rowan North Carolina where I remained until my term of service expired & was discharged by Colonel Locke when the prisoners were sent on to Virginia. He has no evidence other than that offered of General Forney & John Starret and James Hill, Adam Stroup who can testify to 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.

Sworn to & subscribed day and year aforesaid.

Witness: S/ Vardry McBee

S/ Wm Rankin

Clerk of Said Court

[Hartwell Spain, a clergyman, and Vardry McBee gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1st: When and in what year were you born?

A. In January 1761 the 10th day in the County of Rowan North Carolina

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

A. I have no record: my father & mother, told me the day of the month & year of my birth: states that my age was in a family Bible but has been lost.

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

A. My father, when I was five or six years of age moved from Rowan County, to Tryon, now Lincoln County North Carolina, where I have lived before & since the revolution, & where I now reside.

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

A. I volunteered every tour except the one, I substituted for Henry E. Locke, a three months tour.

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.

A. I was under Generals Lincoln, Greene, Gates and Rutherford & knew them by sight, also Colonel Malmedy and Colonel Locke I knew by sight & were with – any other circumstances as far as my memory serves are mentioned in the body [of] the declaration.

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

A. I received a discharge from Colonel Locke only in writing and that is lost or mislaid: if I received any other, I do not now remember except a verbal discharge.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

A. Genl. Peter Forney, Alexander Moore, Lawson Henderson, William J. Wilson, Andrew Hoyle, Jno Hoke, Hartwell Spain, with many others.

James Hill¹ deposeth & saith that he was a Lieutenant in Captain William Armstrong's Company & that William Rankin was a private soldier in said company & that he served the three months tour in 1780 that said Rankin was with the Army at Gates defeat 17 August or thereabouts.

Sworn to in open Court.

S/ Jas Hill

Test: V. McBee, Clerk

Adam Stroup² also deposeth & saith that he is well acquainted with William Rankin & that he served with same company with said Rankin a three months tour & that he was in the battle at Gates defeat 17th of August 1780.

Sworn to in open court.

S/ Adam Stroup, X his mark

Test: S/ V. McBee, Clerk

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Personally appeared in open Court Peter Forney³ and after being Sworn in due form of Law deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted with the service of William Rankin in the Revolutionary war that he served under him this Deponent at sundry times as his Captain in the County of Lincoln the whole of which service was performed in 1781 as well as this Deponent recollects that the said William Rankin still lives in Lincoln County and his Character unimpeachable (the term he served under the then he thinks was about three months).

S/ Peter Forney [illegible last name]

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State of North Carolina, Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me John Starret who deposeth & saith that William Rankin was a messmate of he is in a three months tour in the Revolutionary war in the year 1780. The deponent further states that he left him the evening before Gates defeat at Rugeley's Creek & has reason to believe that he the said William Rankin was in said battle under the command of Colonel William Armstrong. Sworn to & subscribed before me the 17th of October 1832.

Test:

S/ John Starret, X his mark

S/ J. Forney, JP

¹ [James Hill W3815](#)

² [Adam Stroup S7628](#)

³ [Peter Forney W4955](#)