

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension app of George Cunningham W2071

Mary

fn68SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/10/11

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

[fn p. 14]

State of Tennessee, Bedford County

On this 13th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before Samuel Philips, John L. Neile & John B. Armstrong, Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions in the County of Bedford and State of Tennessee now sitting George Cunningham a resident of said county and State aged seventy nine 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated.

That he was born on the 7th day of April 1753 as appears by a record kept by his father which is now in the possession of George W. Cunningham of this County; that he was born in Rowan County, North Carolina; that he was living in York County, South Carolina when he entered the service and lived there until the close of the war when he moved to Buncombe County, North Carolina where he resided until the year 1815 when he removed into the said County of Bedford where he resided until 1824 when he removed back to Buncombe where he resided until December last when he returned to Bedford County where has since resided and still resides.

That sometime in the latter part of the winter of 1779, as he believes, he entered the service as a volunteer in York County, South Carolina under Captain Robert Thompson, John Cunningham (brother of affiant) was Lieutenant, the Ensign he does not recollect, Frank Ross was Major; that there were about one hundred volunteers at the same time; that shortly after they volunteered they marched to Augusta, Georgia and joined Col. Hammond [LeRoy Hammond] who was stationed there; that they were then marched down the country to the aid of Genl. Ashe [John Ashe] and joined him at Briar Creek the evening before he was defeated; that on the next morning after he joined Ashe he was sent out on a scouting party and took 4 or 5 Tories prisoners and when they returned to Camp, they found that Ashe had been defeated and that the British had possession of the ground and the British fired upon them as they returned to Camp after night; they then returned to Augusta and remained there sometime, when he returned home, and remained there a few weeks during harvest; that whilst at home he and a man by the name of Duncan were taken prisoners by a party of Tories under Col. Floyd and made their escape in about 24 hours; that a few weeks before the battle of Hanging Rock he and Duncan joined Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] in the Waxhaws, who shortly

afterwards moved to Fishing Creek; when he joined Sumter he attached himself to Captain Robert Thompson's Company again with Joseph Howe [as] his Colonel as he thinks; shortly afterwards Sumter marched them to Hanging Rock where they defeated a party of Tories under Brian [sic, Samuel Bryan] and also whilst engaged with the Tories a party of British attached them and they had a warm engagement; that Sumter took, as he thinks, 43 prisoners; that his Captain Thompson left the army after that battle and Lieutenant Cunningham took the command of his company; that shortly after that he was in Sumter's defeat at Fishing Creek; that he was standing guard at the time and his brother-in-law Matthew Patton was dangerously wounded; that he was also in the battle in Williams [sic, Williamson's] plantation where Huck a Tory was defeated and killed; his Colonel was Andrew Neill [sic, Andrew Neel] in that engagement who was afterwards killed at Rocky Mount; that he was also in the battle of King's Mountain; that he was under his brother Capt John Cunningham; that he was in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina with some relations when he heard that there was likely to be a battle between the mountaineers and Ferguson; that himself and another man by the name of Robert Cunningham crossed the Country in the direction of the mountains and joined Williams' [James Williams'] army at the Cowpens where he resumed his place in his company; that about 10 o'clock at night they left the Cowpens for the mountains and on the next evening met with the enemy; that he fought on the right wing under Williams; that the battle lasted until sunset or after; that Williams was killed in said battle. That the next service he was called on to perform except scouting was during the winter of 1780 and 1781 when his wagon was pressed and sent to Newbern [sic, New Bern] North Carolina after military stores, and he was sent with it; that as they were returning from New Bern when within 13 miles of the Yadkin [River], he left the wagons and started for home and when he reached the Yadkin [River] he found Cornwallis and his army on the opposite side about to cross; he immediately turned about and gave the alarm to the wagons and they retreated towards Virginia and they all would have been captured if Morgan had not interposed between them and the British. He remained with the wagons sometime in Virginia at Henry Old Court House. They finally deposited their stores at Henry New Court house and returned home with their wagons and on their way heard the cannons firing at the battle of Guilford; that he returned home and performed no other service. That he did not volunteer for any particular time but that from the time of first entering the service until his return from New Bern with the wagons embracing a period of about two years and three months he was constantly in some way or other engaged in the service without ever remaining at home more than then two or three weeks at a time. That he never received any formal discharge. He does not recollect the names of any regular officers with whom he served. He was with Ashe as short a time as not to learn these facts. He recollects that there were some regulars in Sumter's army at the time of his defeat; for he saw them when the British charged and routed them but he does not recollect the number of their regiment or the names of their officers. That he had no documentary evidence by which he can prove his service and he knows of no person by whom he can positively prove his service and except John and Moses McQuirter¹ [?] who lives in Lawrence County, Alabama and William McCarter² who lives in York County,

¹ I think it highly likely that the person referred to by this veteran as John McQuirter is [John McWhorter S32400](#)

² [William McCarter W4736](#)

South Carolina and that affiant is old and infirm and unable to procure their evidence. As to his character for veracity and the reputation of the neighborhood that he was a soldier of the revolution, he has only been in this County a few months since 1824 but he can refer to the Rev. Humphrey C. Ferguson, Thomas Couch, the Rev. George Newton, Col. Andrew Ervin, John Davidson and also Col Samuel Davidson of Buncombe County, North Carolina and Col Robert Love of Haywood County North Carolina. He is not sure that in stating the events of the revolutionary war he has been entirely correct in chronology in consequence of the failure of [his] memory.

He hereby relinquished 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 and subscribed in open court 13th of August 1832.

S/ George Cunningham, X his mark

S/ Jas. McKissick, Clerk

[Humphrey C Ferguson, a clergyman, and Thomas Couch gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 52]

An amendment to the declaration of George Cunningham made at August Term 1832 of Bedford County Court in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

State of Tennessee Bedford County:

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace for said County George Cunningham Senior who subscribed and was qualified to the declaration above alluded to; who after being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods below and in the following grades, (to wit) that he served in the year 1779 a private Soldier and volunteer mounted gunmen not less than 10 months – and that he served as a private Soldier and volunteer mounted gunmen in the year 1780 not less than 11 months; and that he served on his last tour [tour] as a pressed Waggoner not less than 3 months making in the whole a term of actual service of not less than 2 years for which he claims a pension. Sworn to and subscribed before made this 29th of April 1833.

S/ James Brittain, JP

S/ George Cunningham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Cunningham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ George Cunningham".

[fn p. 8: On July 24, 1834 in Haywood County North Carolina, George Cunningham filed for a transfer of his pension benefit from the Tennessee agency to the North Carolina agency in order to live with his sons and daughters in the counties of Haywood and Macon in North Carolina.]

[fn p. 23: In Macon County North Carolina on December 6, 1851, Mary Cunningham, 77 filed for a Widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of George

Cunningham; that her maiden name was Mary McCarty; that her husband died August 3rd, 1837; that she married her husband in Buncombe County North Carolina in 1797.]

[fn p. 25: copy of the marriage bond issued to James Dixon and George Cunningham in Buncombe County North Carolina on July 22, 1797 to secure the marriage of George Cunningham to Mary McCarter daughter of Abraham McCarter.]

[fn p. 4: Claim dated December 16, 1852 filed in Macon County North Carolina by William A. Bryson, 54, in his capacity as administrator of the estate of Mary Cunningham; claimant states that Mary Cunningham was the widow of George Cunningham deceased; that George Cunningham died on August 3, 1837 leaving a wife, Mary his widow; that she died February 1 1852; that she had filed a claim for a widow's pension but had never received it; that he, affiant, married the daughter of Mary Cunningham, Magdeline.]

[facts in file: the veteran and his widow had the following children named in the file: Magdalen, born November 10, 1799 and married William H. Bryson; Catherine more, born June 4, 1802; Elizabeth Cunningham; Sally Cunningham born August 19, 1808 and unnamed sons and daughters living in Haywood and Macon County as of 1834.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 21 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia and Continental line.]