

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Nicholas Combs R2186

fn47NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. 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. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Perry

Be it remembered that on the 14th day of Nov. 1845, before the undersigned David K. Butler a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid came Nicholas Combs a resident citizen of this county. Aged 85 or 86 years of age, who being first duly sworn as required by law upon his oath made and subscribed to the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress approved the 15th of May 1828 ~~7th June 1832~~ and the several acts of Congress papers granting pensions to persons who served in the land and Naval forces of the United States for and during the Revolutionary War & entitled “An Act for the relief of Certain surviving Officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution.” That he enlisted in the County of Surry, North Carolina in the Company commanded by Capt. Wm T. Lewis in the line of this State of North Carolina or on Continental establishment in the Regiment commanded by Col. Martin Armstrong. He does not recollect the date of his enlistment, but it was a little upwards of ten months or was eleven months before the close of the war, before he was discharged while in service under his enlistment he heard of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York in Virginia and shortly after he was discharged in North Carolina (the county he has forgotten) for and during this war by his Capt. Wm. Tervill Lewis aforesaid and Col. Armstrong aforesaid. The discharge he had until about 11 or 12 years past and is now lost or mislaid so that he cannot get it. He states this reason why he has not applied sooner is that he has from the first pension act in 1818 or 19 until lately determined not to ask the bounty of the government but he is now grown old and helpless, unable to attend to his business that he feels it a duty he owes to himself and aged wife to avail himself of the bounty of the government. He states that he has not rec'd any pension or annuity for his services as a revolutionary soldier from any state or the U. States. His memory has greatly failed him and he cannot name the various officers where he served in camp, but he recollects part of the time he was marched in different parts of N. Carolina and S. Carolina. When General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] commanded in the south. He knows of no person in this state by whom he can prove his service in Camp, but refers to the affidavits hereto annexed, to prove his service. He refers to his neighbors as to his character, to wit, Gen. Elijah Combs, Gen. Austin Godsey, Jesse Combs, Clerk of the Perry Circuit Court and the Hon. C. John P. Martin member of Congress from this district. He is so old and infirm that he is unable to attend court without great pain. S/ Nicholas Combs, X his mark

Sworn and subscribed to before me this day and year upon written

S/ D.K. Butler JP

[Jer. C. Combs [Jeremiah C. Combs] , son of applicant, gives an affidavit that he has heard his father speak of service under Wm. T. Lewis, Capt. and Martin Armstrong (as he now believes) Col.]

[fn p. 10]

State of Kentucky, Perry County

On this 17th day of December 1855 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace Nicholas Combs Senior, who being first Sworn according to Law, states upon his oath that he is now a resident of said County and has been ever since the County was formed, and that several years ago he made application for the benefit of the act of Congress of the 15th of May 1828 for his services rendered in the Revolutionary war. That his claim was rejected as he understood from the fact that there was a statement of inconsistency embraced in his first declaration. He states he now desires to correct that error whether his claim is allowed or not. He is informed that his first declaration states "that he enlisted in the N. C. Line, and was discharged at the end of the war having served 10 or 11 months, during which he heard of the capture of Cornwallis." He states that he enlisted for and during the war and served 10 or 11 months, and during that time he heard of the capture of Cornwallis, and at the end of this time he was discharged. When Cornwallis was captured at Yorktown there was no press for men, and he being in very bad health, and entirely unfit for service he was discharged, as it was most likely that the war would not assume so dreadful an aspect, and the most probable conclusion was that it was over, and that he received a written discharge in the following words to wit,

Discharged for and during the war. He states that [illegible word interlined] was horseman discharged before June 1783 for reasons already of assigned. Long service, ill health &c that the horseman in general would not discharged until sometime in 1783, but there was exceptions as before stated, some made [illegible word] complaints so much so that it almost amounted to a necessity. That his brother, John Combs was a pensioner under the Act 18th March 1818 from this County, and so was Charles Ellis, Anthony Hall and John Kelly and that his brother William Combs was also a pensioner from Kentucky.

The reason he did not take proof while there was persons living who would prove his service, was simply that the letter of the Commissioner of Pensions when his case was first presented (and afterwards to) was so cutting that he felt deeply mortified and aggrieved for he thought it was entirely gratuitous and uncalled for, while at the same time he was not informed what course to pursue, if so he never received the instructions and that he felt by having his original discharge no further proof could be required than the production of it. He asserts that all the men that ever had anything to do with his claim always instructed him, that being in possession of his discharge, and the production of it, accompanied with a declaration was all that was required and all that the law required. That no resident lawyer has lived in this County or Pension Agent, until within the last two or three years, and that J. P. Martin in the year of 1846 Congressman from Floyd County Kentucky undertook to ascertain something about his case but he never found out correctly what was done by him in the case. He asserts positively and in his last moments that if such an inconsistency occurs in his first statements, he declares it was the fault of the Agent who prepared the papers – that made a mistake, and not him, and that if his discharge can be found, or is on file it will show what he asserts. He further asks that his case under the provisions of the 15th of May 1828 be transferred to the list of cases under the provision of the act of 7th June 1832 if thought advisable, and if so transferred, he hereby releases all interest under the provision of the act of the 15th of May 1828, but relies entirely upon the act of the 7th June 1832. That he could while his brothers John and William were living have proved his service, and also by others, but he thinks they are all dead, especially his acquaintances, and associate soldiers. He relies upon the proof already on file and especially his discharge which was filed with James Love, then Congressman. He further states, that if his discharge is not on file he can prove its contents and the existence of it at one time and that he is wholly unable to attend to in open court as he is to infirm being smartly 90 years of age.

S/ Nicholas Combs, Sen., X his mark

In the presence of
S/ Nicholas Combs, Jr.

S/ A. C. Godsey

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 17th day of December 1855, and I further certify that said Combs is the same man who applied several years ago for a pension and that he is in good standing, and reliable when on oath, or otherwise, and that he is too infirm to attend court.

S/ Hezekiah Combs, JPPC

State of Kentucky, Perry County

I Jesse Combs Clerk of the County Court of said County do hereby certify that Hezekiah Combs Esq. before whom the foregoing affidavit was made and who has hereunto signed his name was at the time of so doing a Justice of the peace, in and for the County and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn, and all his official acts as such are entitled to full faith and credit, and I further certify that the above Nicholas Combs Senior is the same person who applied for a pension from this County under the provisions of the act of the 15th May 1828, and that I often saw his original discharge and if called upon could near about state its contents.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my official seal this 17th day of December 1855.

S/ Jesse Combs, Clerk of the Perry County Court

Perry County, State of Kentucky

On this 10th day of April 1856 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of peace of Perry County and State aforesaid John Hacker aged __ [blank in original] years and made oath in due form of Law that he is now 87 years of age and a resident in this County and State of Kentucky for the space of 30 or 40 years and I have known Nicholas Combs of this County ever since I was a boy that said Combs several years ago applied for a pension for Services rendered in the Revolutionary war from the State of North Carolina from this County when I was a well grown boy I was taken and placed in the old block House (afterwards called Shelby's Fort) between where Jonesborough now stands & Salisbury, it was sometimes called Squabble State that Fort or place of defense was the main place where all the soldiers of the Western part of the State mustered into Service and from it they made their departure.

I recollect perfectly well that the said Nicholas Combs who is now a resident of this County either before the battle of King's Mountain or a short time afterwards was Mustered into the Service at this Fort under the command of Colonel Armstrong and that he belonged to the company of Captain John Lewis I recollected when he returned back to the neighborhood as his family was then in part in the Fort and part was not I think it was understood he was discharged for disability as he said although he joined the Company for and during the war and that capture of Yorktown had brought peace to the country .William and John Combs was pensioners of the Revolutionary war and I know them all well.

I cannot state how long he was away from the neighborhood in which he belonged or how long he was in the service. He left in Captain Lewis company no mistake

I was at that time big enough to wield a Gun I think I was 11 or 12 years of age I have also Saw the said Combs' discharge and many years ago it was in his possession.

I have no interest in the claim whatsoever nor I am not a kin to him.

S/ John Hacker, X his mark

State of Kentucky, Perry County

On this 18th day of July 1856 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace John Hacker¹ and made oath according to Law and after being duly qualified: I have already given

¹ This MAY be the same man as FPA 21027 [there is no letter designation assigned to this file]—whose claim under the 1832 was rejected because the services he described in his application related to the Indian Wars which occurred after the Revolution. Hacker lived in Perry County, KY at the time he filed his claim.

affidavit in behalf of Nicholas Combs of this County who was an applicant for a pension under the Act 1828 and now under the Act of 7th June 1832. I state that I was a large boy during the year 1780 and was large enough to wield a Gun and did so in the defense of the old Block House on the extreme Head of the Holston River not far from where Jonesborough now stands about those times the whole or any places from the Cowpens on the Pacolet River to Jonesborough was forts or places of defense. I was during my time and before we erected at the Fort acquainted with the Combs family and was well acquainted with the applicant. The Battle of King's Mountain was fought in October 1780[.] Before this battle things had been gloomy and indeed they were so for many had joined Ferguson, others were flying out and a great many neutral and after this Battle it was not so much trouble to raise men as before[.] Ferguson was called a Tyrant of blood and carnage and some of the best citizens was slaughtered & butchered by him. The joy on the news of victory over him at King's Mountain could not then express my Joy. Recruiting officers were in every direction[.] Combs entered as a recruit to serve during the war in the company of Captain Lewis and in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Martin Armstrong. He was a private soldier. This company was made ready at our Fort[.] It was afterwards called Selby or Shelby-- Combs left this Fort I think for the service for General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and left in said company to my own knowledge. He left this place in November after the Battle of King's Mountain and I saw him no more until we heard of the capture of Yorktown. I know the fact that he returned a short time after this battle from the circumstances of this Battle. I then saw his discharge signed as well as I now recollect by Lewis and Armstrong[.] When he first came home or to the Fort the old Block House or Selby was according to my best opinion in the County of Wilkes or Surry he was enlisted as well as I now recollect for the Virginia[?] service under Greene. He stated he had him discharged for disability and his discharge stated "Honorably Discharged for and during the War[?]" The capture of Yorktown was if I have kept the date correct in the month of September 1781[.] We heard at the Fort a short time after the battle of King's Mountain that a man by the name of Andre [Major John Andre] had him taken as a spy at a place called Torrytown [sic, Tarrytown] it was told us by the returning Soldiers. This post or Block House was in Squabble State. It was called Squabble State because there was a difficulty between Virginia & North Carolina about the division line boundary Dixon run for N. C. and Henderson for Virginia[.] This Territory laid towards Salisbury from Jonesborough. There is a thousand other circumstances that I could mention not connected with Combs' Service. General Sevier and Colonel or General Selby [sic, John Shelby] promised us boys in the absence of the soldiers that if we would be brave we should have pay & presents. I received some pay & presents but if my name was enrolled I don't know it. There is no inducement on earth for me to state an untruth. I have no Interest in this Claim whatever nor am I not a Kin to the Combs family or the applicant in no way whatever.

I recollect these events, or those that happened during the Periods I have mentioned distinctly and as to Combs I have known him all my life. I don't pretend to say that I knew he served as he stated in his declaration but I give the circumstances of his entering the service correctly & his return as certain as time exists.

S/ John Hacker

Sworn to & subscribed or made the date above written. I further certify that the affiant is a man of truth and credible.

S/ Hezekiah Combs, J.P.P.C.