

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Longley (Longly) R6435

Mary Longley

f65VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/22/07 rev'd 10/23/13

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

[p 9]

State of Tennessee, McMinn County

On this 3rd day of June personally appeared in open Court, before the Justice of the County Court of said County, William Longley a resident of said County and state, aged about seventy-two years, who being first duly sworn according to the 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 named offices, and served as herein stated.

He entered the service as a drafted man, in the militia of the State of Virginia, in the month of October, 1780, as well as he could recollect, in Loudon [Loudoun] County in said State, where he then resided with his father, -- under the command of Major Armistead, whose Christian name is not recollected -- Captain Thomas Humphries, Lieutenant John Bartlett. There were about 700 troops from said County of whom declarant was one and he thinks they were called light infantry. These troops were marching from Loudon County to Williamsburg in Virginia where they were stationed in the barracks for several months, and from whence parties of our men were detached to hold the British forces under Arnold [Benedict Arnold] in check. After being stationed here one month, declarant does not recollect the precise time, the British forces landed at Burrill's [sic, Burrell's or Burwell's] ferry at the mouth of the James River, where about 200 of our men and declarant one of them, were stationed. We stood our ground and fired upon the enemy until our cartridges were exhausted, each man of us having fired near 30 rounds, when we were so far outnumbered that we had to retreat. We retreated to Williamsburg, 6 miles from the above named ferry and on reaching there all our troops retreated from town and the British marched in and occupied our barracks that night. We had retreated only a mile or two into the woods from there, after night set in we marched back to town and attacked the enemy, drove in their pickets, and fired on them until outnumbered and drove from the field. Next morning we were marched for Richmond and on the same day the enemy left Williamsburg, crossed James River at Jamestown, and marched up the country. Near the same time that we got to Richmond the enemy arrived at Manchester on the opposite side of the river, and commenced destroying property and burning large quantity of tobacco stored there [April 30, 1781]. We were stationed on Chuck's Hill. When the British appeared a part of our men were stationed on the bank of the river to prevent them crossing, and if any had attempted it they would have met with a warm reception as we were very hungry and greatly incensed at them. We had but one field piece, a six pounder and it was placed on the hill before mentioned and leveled against the enemy and its effect fell so well amongst them that they were quickly induced to leave off their depredations and

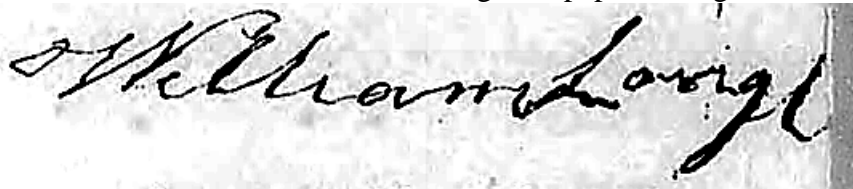
quit the place. The enemy left Manchester and pursued their course still further up the country and after some time turned their course and marched to Yorktown. Declarant & his comrades were stationed at Richmond as he thinks, about six weeks, when they were marched from there and joined the army under Gen'l Lafayette at Yorktown on the Gloucester side of the river. About this time or shortly after, the siege was formed, as the army under Washington shortly after arrived. Declarant was at this time constantly employed in working on the entrenchment and other works, that was going on. During this siege declarant was in several skirmishes with part of the enemy. On one occasion after night 500 of the Virginia troops, declarant one of them, with 500 of the French under the command of Lafayette were marched to make a track through the enemy's line on the Gloucester side, another detachment having made an attack on the other side. Declarant recollects getting so near the enemy works, that he put his hand upon them and looking up saw the tar barrels placed on the breastworks to be lighted in the event of an attack. The firing having ceased on the York side, we were countermarched the enemy having discovered us, and opened their guns upon us as they thought, but their balls went far above our heads. Declarant was one of the troops forming the hollow square into which the prisoners were marched when Cornwallis surrendered. The prisoners taken on the Gloucester side were marched to Winchester in Virginia, Declarant being one of their guards. These prisoners were guarded at Winchester three months, as declarant thinks when they were marched to Frederickstown [Fredericktown] in Maryland, where declarant was discharged in February as well as he recollects, 1782. Declarant cannot recollect the precise time he served, he will set it down at fifteen months, as he is confident he served that long. Declarant was born in the State of New Jersey in the year 1761 as he was informed by his parents -- has no record of his age nor has he seen one as well as he knows. He resided in Loudon County for a short time after this war, then in Shenandoah, Rockbridge, then in Washington, all in Virginia, whence he removed to Sevier County Tennessee in 1800 where he resided until he came to the County of McMinn Tennessee, where he now resides. He received a written discharge from the service at Shephardtoun [Shepherdstown], VA from Col Niswonger [John Niscwanger] but it is lost, and he knows not where it is. James D. Sewell, a clergyman, John Grisham, George Long, & Jackson Smith, are some of his present neighbors and can testify as to his veracity, & their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution.

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 and subscribed the 3rd day of June 1833

S/ A. R. Turk, Clerk

S/ William Longl[sic, paper damaged]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Longley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial 'W'.

We James D Sewall, a clergyman residing in the County and state aforesaid, and John Grisham residing as aforesaid, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Longley who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; and we believe him to be 72 years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier in the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the 3rd day of June 1833

S/ A R Turk, Clerk

S/ James L Sewell

S/ John Grisham

[p 28]

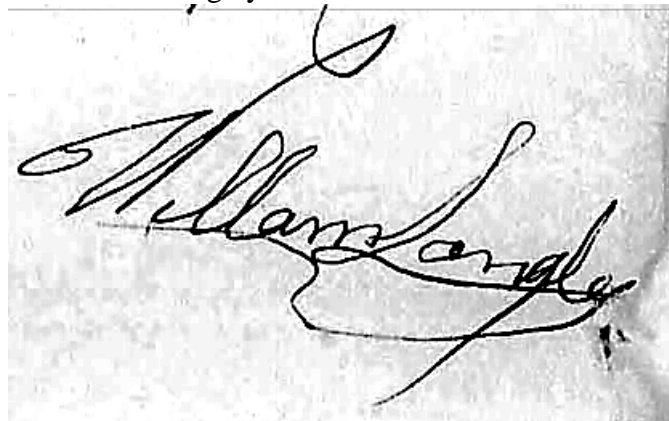
State of Tennessee McMinn County:

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for the County and State aforesaid William Longley, who being duly sworn deposed and saith in amendment of his declaration dated June 3rd 1833, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That for fifteen months I served as a private drafted militia man. I served under Colonels Eskridge [Charles Eskridge] and Summers [perhaps George Summers who is listed as having been a Captain in the Loudoun County militia], – Christian names not recollected. By other officers I stated in my declaration. I was in service from the time I entered the service until I was discharged. I have mentioned in my declaration the places where I served. I served with an embodied Corps, who were called into service by the laws of the land. I was in the field and Garrison during all the time, and during the time I was not employed in any Civil pursuit. – I make the following answers to the interrogatories propounded by the war Department. 1. Answered in my declaration. 2. Answered in declaration. – 3. Also answered in declaration. 4. Answered in declaration. – 5. I think Major Armstead mentioned in my declaration was a regular officer. I could mention [paper damaged and text missing] names of some of the General Officers, but all would remember them, whether in the Service or not. I cannot recollect the regiments either Continental or militia. The general circumstances of my service are detailed in my declaration: – 6. Answered in declaration. – I have no documentary evidence – nor do I know of any person by whom I can prove my services, at present. – 7. Answered in my declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 7th day of September 1833

S/ John Miller, JP

S/ William Longley

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name 'William Longley' is clearly legible, with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the word 'Longley'.

[p 4: On January 22, 1844 in Polk County Tennessee, Mary Longly [sic], 78, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of William Longley, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she cannot tell the precise day on which she married William Longley nor has she any witnesses to prove that fact; she believes that she was married to him on the first day of September 1784; that he died November 7th, 1841; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 16: On November 4, 1844 in Polk County Tennessee, John C Longly, 38, gave testimony that he is the son of William and Mary Longly both deceased; that he is their youngest child and the

administrator of the estate of his mother Mary; that his mother Mary died June 9th, 1844 leaving the following heirs: Jonathan, Joel, James, Mercy, Abigail, Sarah and John C Longly as her children; that his father died November 7, 1841 in Polk County Tennessee.

S/ John C. Longley

8114.
John C Longley Seal

[p 18: Power of attorney dated May 23rd, 1843 filed in Catoosa County Georgia by William T Patterson and his wife Abigail Patterson, formerly Abigail Longley, daughter of William Longley and Mary his wife

Wm. T. Patterson
Abigail his wife
Patterson

[p 23: On November 22, 1845 in Polk County Tennessee, Joel Longley gave testimony that he is the son of William and Mary Longley late of Polk County Tennessee; that he, the affiant, was born September 1, 1791; that he is the 2nd son of his parents; that Jonathan Longley is his eldest brother and that his parents always told him that Jonathan was 2 years and 2 months older than affiant.

Joel Longley

[p. 27: On September 27, 1854 in Catoosa County Georgia Mrs. Etha Burk, aged about 73, gave testimony that she is the sister of Mrs. Mary Longley, deceased widow of William Longley; that William and Mary were married in Loudoun County Virginia about the year 178_; that they lived together as man and wife until the death of William Langley in Polk County Tennessee sometime in the year 1841. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 53: On April 29, 1844 in Polk County Tennessee, Jonathan Longley gave testimony that he is the son of William and Mary Longley; that he was born in the year 1788 and is now 56 years of age.

Jonathan Longley Seal

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private for one year and 3 months in the Virginia service.]