

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Coffey S1655  
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn15NC  
rev'd 11/24/2010

[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 Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 personally appeared before me Lewis Mitchell one of the acting Justices of the peace for the County of Hawkins State of Tennessee duly commissioned by the Governor and qualified according to law Benjamin Coffey a resident of the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee aged Eighty six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following declaration.

I entered the service of the United States in Birk [sic, Burke] County in the State of North Carolina in the year 1776 under the command of Captain Thomas Whitson on the first of April the commanding officer being Colonel Joseph McDowell. Marched to the frontier of said County in said State of North Carolina against the Cherokee Indians that was making inroads and doing mischief on the frontiers of said State. We built a fort on the frontiers of said County called by the name of Crider's fort on Lower Creek while I laid there I was employed in scouting on the frontier from place to place to keep the Indians in awe until the month of September in the same year I was discharged and returned home. I volunteered my services. I moved from Burke County into Wilkes County in said State on what day by two not now recollect and resided in said Wilkes County until the first of April in 1780. I then entered the service again as a volunteer under the command of Captain John Barton and the Regiment being commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland I was some time employed in marching to diverse places where it was understood Tories were embodied sometimes in Wilkes County and sometimes in Burke County until I received orders to march to King's Mountain against some Tories and British collected there under the command of Major Feargason [sic, Patrick Ferguson] – we marched on through Lincoln County in said State of North Carolina under the command of Colonel Benjamin Hearn and Colonel Benjamin Cleveland until we were joined by the forces of Colonel Campbell [William Campbell], Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby], Colonel Sevier [John Sevier] and Colonel Williams [James Williams]. There was an action took place and Ferguson killed and his men defeated. I was not in the battle in consequence of losing my horse the night before and having to join the footmen under Colonel Benjamin Hearn and the foot did not come up until the battle was over on the American side Colonel Williams was killed. I was then sent on to guard the prisoners to Moravian town in North Carolina during which march I was attacked with a pain in my ankles and was furloughed on the first of November in the same year I got home and I never was out any more. My terms of service making in aggregate of 12 months. I have no proof of my service further than I can prove by one George Hays who lived in the State and who now lives near and in this State of Tennessee Hawkins County of my Entering the service and my being gone but was not with me whose affidavit I herewith enclose.

I hereby relinquish every 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.

Attest: S/ Lewis Mitchell                      Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date before mentioned

S/ Benjamin Coffey, X his mark

[Thomas Crawley, a clergyman, and William Gidions gave the standard supporting affidavit.]  
[fn p. 6]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: this day being the 25th day of May 1833 came George Hayes<sup>1</sup> before me Lewis Mitchell one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County and made oath that Benjamin Coffey the applicant in the preceding declaration did enter the service of the United States in the way he states in his declaration and from all circumstances I do certify that I believe he served the time faithfully he states in his declaration. Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date above written.

S/ Lewis Mitchell

S/ George Hayes, X his mark

[fn p. 7]

Questions proposed to Benjamin Coffey an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832:

1<sup>st</sup>: When and in what year were you born?

I was born in Spotsylvania County in Virginia in 1747

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

I have it with me.

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

Once in Burke County in the State of North Carolina and once in Wilkes County in said State from whence I removed to the State of Tennessee Hawkins County where I now live

4<sup>th</sup> 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?

I volunteered

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Colonel Campbell, Colonel Sevier, Colonel Shelby, Colonel Cleveland, Colonel Williams

[6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?--omitted]

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

William Walker, George Wolf, Thomas Epperson, Ransom Hayes, John Mills

[fn p. 9]

We the undersigned do certify that Benjamin Coffey is a neighbor of ours we have been acquainted with him some years we certify he is a man of veracity we supposed him to be the age he states and believe him to have been a revolutionary soldier.

Given under our hands 25<sup>th</sup> May 1833

S/ Bennet Coffey

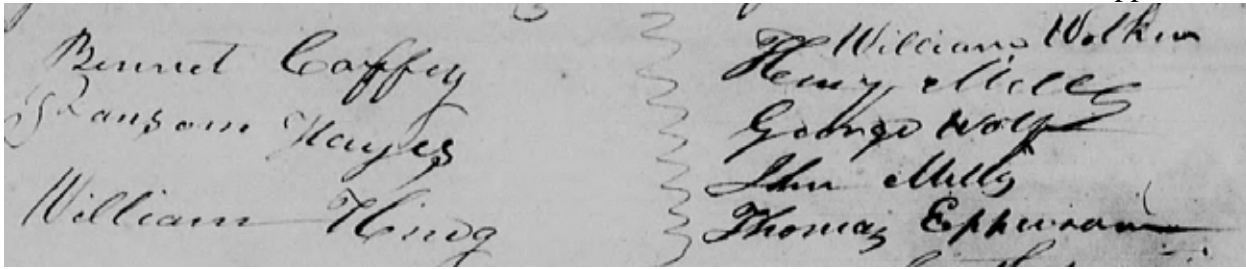
S/ William Walker

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<sup>1</sup> FPA S1668

S/ Ransom Hayes  
S/ William King

S/ Henry Mills  
S/ George Wolf  
S/ John Mills  
S/ Thomas Epperson



A photograph of a document showing handwritten signatures. On the left side, the names 'Benjamin Coffey', 'Ransom Hayes', and 'William King' are written in cursive. On the right side, the names 'Henry Mills', 'George Wolf', 'John Mills', and 'Thomas Epperson' are written in cursive. A vertical wavy line separates the two columns of signatures.

[fn p. 9]

State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

This day being the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1833 personally appeared Benjamin Coffey of said County before me Lewis Mitchell and acting Justice for said County and made Oath that he has no documentary evidence of his service and cannot produce any living witness to testify of his service. But to the best of his recollection he served under Captain Thomas Whitson as a private five months and under Captain John Barton seven months as a private and for such service I claim a pension. Sworn to the day and date above.

S/ Benjamin Coffey, X his mark

Attest:

S/ Lewis Mitchell

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]