

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Cathey S16699

f75NC

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. 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.]

State of Missouri, County of Cooper

On this sixth day of May in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the County Court held within and for the County of Cooper aforesaid, now sitting, George Cathey of Boonville Township, County of Cooper and State of Missouri, aged Seventy seven years in January last, who being first 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 as a volunteer and in the Capacity of a private soldier from the County of Burke in the State of North Carolina in the fall season of the year 1776 or 1777, under the following named Officers, to wit: General Charles McDowell, Colonel Joseph McDowell, Captain Jonathan Camp and Lieutenant James Forgery [sic, James Forgarty? or Fogarty?], the others now not recollected; and was marched through Lincoln County and Rowan, Iredell, Wilkes and he thinks Raleigh [sic, Wake] Counties in the aforesaid State of North Carolina, and before General McDowell's Regiment to which we belonged arrived at the City of Raleigh, it united with the Regiment under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] from Macklenbury [sic, Mecklenburg] County, at a place called Beaver Creek in Raleigh [sic, Wake] County, where General Rutherford took command of both Regiments united as aforesaid and after arriving at the City of Raleigh and remaining there for four days, returned home and was discharged, without having been in any battle, after three months service. And this Claimant further declares that in the following spring season of the year after his discharge as aforesaid, he again entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer under the same Officers, except the said Lieutenant James Forgery who was as he believes promoted to the Captaincy of a Company, which vacancy was filled by this Claimant, to wit: George Cathey, thus entering the Service this second time in the Capacity of a Lieutenant and a volunteer as aforesaid; where the first movement made was by a volunteer company consisting [of] ninety five light horse men against the Cherokee Indians being dispatched by General McDowell under the command of Major William Whitson, Captain Daniel Smith and Lieutenant George Cathey, who marched to the Big Bear Town in the Cherokee Nation on the head [waters] of Tennessee River and took and destroyed the Same and on the next day took and destroyed another little Town, the name not now recollected, the Company then returned to the Regiment under General McDowell aforesaid; and in the ensuing fall Season of the year after the Spring aforesaid, this Claimant declares that he was promoted to the Captaincy of the Company to which he belonged, the said Captain Camp having left his Company, where they immediately marched under General McDowell into South Carolina to keep back the enemy who was then in South Carolina under General Farguson [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson] and expected in the State of North Carolina; from whence they were beat back by the enemy, and retreated and crossed the Mountains, till they arrived in Tennessee on the head [waters] of Holston River, where they were informed [sic, joined?] by Colonel Campbell [William Campbell], Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Colonel Sevier [John Sevier] with two or 300 men; they then recrossed the Mountains and

marched back into North Carolina under General McDowell till they arrived at Cathey's Creek in Rutherford County, where they were reinforced by a Regiment under Col. Williams [James Williams], who there took command of the whole forces and marched them to King's Mountain where they fought a severe battle[October 7, 1780]. And this Claimant further states that he was in no other battle except a small skirmish in S. Carolina at Wade Hampton's under Colonel Joseph McDowell, and a few other slight skirmishes with the Tories and Indians. And the Claimant further declares that he continued in the Service of the United States from the time he entered the second time aforesaid till the close of the Revolutionary War, always holding himself in readiness as a volunteer, but admits that he was at home frequently during the time, and he believes in actual service not much over two years altogether, but at least that long; three months as a private, six months as Lieutenant and fifteen months as Captain as aforesaid. This Claimant declares upon oath that he can't recollect the precise length of his actual service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned above, and for such service he claimed to a pension. This Claimant further declares that he had a written discharge from the first three months service which he has since lost – that he served as Lieutenant without any regular Commission from the government but that he was commissioned Captain, which commission he has since lost, and that he now has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, 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.

Questions by the Court:

1. Where & in what year were you born? Answer: I was born in Mecklenburg County N. Carolina in the year 1755.
2. Have you any record of you age?, if so where is it? Answer: My age was recorded in my father's Bible which is now in the state of Kentucky in the possession of my brother in law.
3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you since live? Since the revolutionary war? And where do you now live? Answer: I lived in Burke County N. Carolina when I entered the Service, I have since the Revolutionary war lived in Burke and Buncombe Counties N. Carolina and also in Cooper County Missouri where I now live.
4. How were you called into Service? Answer: I volunteered.
5. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it? Answer: I received a discharge after the first three months service as a Soldier, which was signed by General Charles McDowell, which I have since lost.
6. Did you ever receive a commission, if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it? Answer: I did receive a Commission signed by General Charles McDowell, but what has become of it [I] don't know, it is lost.
7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in the neighborhood, where you now live and who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior, your Services as a soldier of the Revolution. Answer: I can state no person who can testify to my services in the revolution but Jacob Wyon [?], Robert P. Clark, William Anderson, Major Moon, Jacob McFarland and many others can testify to my character for veracity & good behavior.

Subscribed and sworn to the day & year aforesaid in open court.

S/ George Cathey, X his mark

[James L. Wear, a clergyman, and John H. Hutchison gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[There are several slightly different versions of the following document in the file. Interested parties are encouraged to read them all.]

[p 31]

State of Missouri County of Cooper: SS: County Court February Term 1834

I George Cathey the above Claimant for a pension do hereby disclaim a pension as an officer of the Army of the Revolution, and inasmuch as I am unable to make proof of my Commission as required by law, and my "lamp of life being nearly extinguished," and "a half loaf being better than no bread", do hereby claim a pension as a private in the Army of the Revolution for the period specified in my above declaration in lieu of a Pension of an officer; inasmuch as I have made as much proof as the wall required, and being unable to make more; under the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

S/ George Cathey

[p 19]

Supplemental Statement of George Cathey an applicant for a pension for his revolutionary services from the United States.

After my three months service as a private, the statement of which has been acknowledged by the war department, to be duly set forth as the regulations require and to be consistent with the course of the militia service of North Carolina, I turned out as a volunteer under Captain Jonathan Camp who commanded a light horse company of 95 men – we went against the Cherokee Indians in the Big Bears Town where we had a battle with the Indians, in which we killed seven Indians and took three prisoners. On the next day we burnt the town, killed three Indians and took two prisoners. On the next day Captain Camp ordered us to go to Cowee and he led the way – from thence we went back to Cathey's fort, where we were kept station under Colonel Joseph McDowell. We were in actual service on this tour, about 10 days to the best of my recollection. This was in the year 1777, as well as I can recollect.

A short time afterwards Captain Camp then ordered us to march against the British and Tories at Silver Creek, about 16 miles from Cathey's fort. We there had a battle with the enemy and defeated them – we then returned to Cathey's fort having been absent on the expedition six or seven days. At this time there were about 150 men stationed in the fort. Not very long afterwards, perhaps in the spring of 1778, Colonel J. McDowell ordered us to march against the British and Tories at Ramsom's ford on the Catawba River – at which place we had a battle with and defeated the enemy. From thence we returned to Cathey's fort – which was on the head of Catawba River in North Carolina. Upon the expedition to Ramsom's Ford we were in actual service about 30 days. Our next campaign was in the South Carolina where we participated in the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] -- after having been in actual service about 60 days we returned to Cathey's fort. Thus far I was a volunteer soldier under Captain Camp. I served as a volunteer soldier under Captain Camp, one year and six months or thereabouts as near as I can recollect.

In the year 1780, holding a Captain's Commission I marched against Ferguson in South Carolina under Charles McDowell our General. Ferguson beat us back into North Carolina, and from thence we were forced to retreat over the Yellow Mountains into Tennessee, where we were reinforced by Colonels Campbell, Shelby and Sevier. We then marched again over the Yellow Mountain into North Carolina. In Rutherford County we were joined by Colonel Williams of Virginia [sic, South Carolina]. Here we were about 600 strong. From here I went with an express to General William Davidson [William Lee Davidson] in Mecklenburg County, and was not at the battle of King's Mountain. On my return I went back to Cathey's fort on the Catawba River having been in actual service on the expedition about 60 days. When I left Cathey's fort I marched against the British and Tories at Wade Hampton's in South Carolina. We drove them off and returned again to Cathey's fort, having been absent and in actual service on the expedition about 90 days. This was my last expedition. I have lost my commission as a Captain and do not know that I will ever be able to prove that I held such a commission. I was in actual service as a commissioned Captain three years, which expired in the year 1782, after peace was made.

S/ George Cathey

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Cathey". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.

State of Missouri County of Pettis: SS

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the County aforesaid George Cathey who is personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing statement as an applicant for a pension for his revolutionary services and who being duly sworn on his oath says that the foregoing statement is true to the best of his recollection and belief – Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd of October A.D. 1839

S/ Reuben A. McFarland, JP

S/ George Cathey

[p 24: Affidavit dated December 1, 1842 in which the affiant state that the veteran died December 14, 1840.]

[p 24: A separate affidavit in which the affiant states that the veteran died December 14, 1840, leaving the following children:

William born 1777

Nancy born 1780, married Joseph McFarland

Ann born 1783, married to William Moore

Sarah born 1785, married John McClure

George born January 17, 1787

James born March 16, 1790

John born January 4, 1792

Joseph born April 18, 1795

Rebecca born made 91798, married James McCormick

Abigail born July 20-18 hundred married George McFarland]

[Veteran was initially pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1840 4 service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina militia. Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$38.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836 and ending December 14th, 1840 for service of 11 months and 15 days in the North Carolina militia.]