

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Copeland S17889

fn32SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/14/09 & 6/3/11

[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.]

State of South Carolina Pickens District: On this fourth day of January in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared before us James [text missing, hidden by seal] Osborn, two justices of the quorum, William [text missing, hidden by seal] resident of the District & State aforesaid aged, as he says, about 80 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, and 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 officers and served as herein stated. That he entered the service in York District in the State of South Carolina, a volunteer, soon after the British landed in Savannah, and was attached to a company commanded by Lieut. Kirkindald [sic, Kirkendall?], under the command of Major Ross, for a 3 months tour. That he marched under the command of Major Ross from York District to Liberty Hill, and there joined General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], and was sent by General Williamson under the command of Major Ross to General Ash [sic, John Ashe] at the mouth of Brier Creek in the State of Georgia -- that he fought in the battle at the mouth of Brier Creek -- that after the battle at Brier Creek, he returned to General Williamson's Army, and served out his tour, and was discharged by General Williamson at Liberty Hill -- that soon after being discharged, he received a Capt.'s commission signed by Col. William Bratton; and shortly after, was ordered by Col. Bratton to raise a company of drafted man, which was done, and he was ordered with them to Orangeburg in South Carolina, and there stationed to guard the goal [jail] and prisoners, and was continued there for 3 months, and then discharged. That shortly after being discharged at Orangeburg, he was sent in command of another drafted company to Friday's Fort on the Congaree River, and remained there until General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] arrived, and the Fort was taken, and he and the men under him were discharged. That shortly after he was ordered by Col. Bratton in command of another drafted company to join General Greene's Army at Congaree River, and under the command of Col. Bratton was engaged for a length of time in scouting parties between Orangeburg and Charleston.

S/ James Dauthit, JQ

S/ Wm Copeland

S/ James Osborn , JQ



[fn p. 9]

In answer to the interrogatories proposed by the War department to be propounded by the Court this deponent further swears in answer to interrogatory 1st I was born in Ireland in the County

Down and think I was about 16 years of age when I came to America

2nd -- I have no record of my age it was entered in a Family Bible which I believe was burned or otherwise destroyed by the British in the revolutionary War.

3rd -- I was living in York District South Carolina I removed from York to Greenville District from thence to Pendleton district which has since been divided into Pickens and Anderson and left me in Pickens where I now live

4th -- I have answered that in my declaration before

5th -- I have answered that, likewise, in my declaration

6th I received a Capt.'s commission from Col. Bratton and after peace was made I returned it to Col. Bratton

7th I am well known by Major Thomas Henderson¹ a revolutionary soldier John Wilson² a revolutionary soldier Andrew Hughes³ a revolutionary soldier James Dauthit Esquire James Osborn Esquire and a number of others who I think would testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of January 1833.

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Wm Copeland

I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and do declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State --

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 18th day of January 1833

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Wm Copeland

[fn p. 3]

State of South Carolina Pickens District

Personally came Capt. William Copeland before me James Osborn one of the Justices of Quorum in and for the State & District aforesaid and being first duly sworn deposed and saith that since making out his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 -- he this deponent recollects that he served a 6 months Tour a private in what was called Mounted militia under the command of Capt. Baron by the orders of Col. Bratton -- that the Company to which he this deponent belonged done duty as Rangers that during the whole of his service both as a private and an officer he considered himself as belonging to what was then called Mounted militia excepting one three-months Tour that he commanded a company of foot and this deponent on his oath further saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service: but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades for 9 months I served as a private in what was then, I think, called Mounted militia and for 6 months I served as Capt. of Mounted militia and 3 months I served as Capt. of a foot Company of militia and for such service I claim a pension -- that besides the services he was a number of times out in scouting parties and was at one time sent by General Morgan to the Lord Cornwallis's Army, and was on that service several weeks.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of July 1833

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Wm Copeland

¹ [Thomas Henderson W10102](#)

² MAY be FPA S21581

³ FPA W25805

[fn p. 16]

South Carolina Pickens District: Personally came David Hamilton⁴ before me the Subscribing Justice and being duly sworn according to law on his oath saith that he was personally acquainted with Capt. William Copeland in the time of the American Revolution that he knew of the said Copeland bearing arms in defense of the United States against the British forces -- that the said Copeland was called Captain and that he had good reason to believe and does believe that he bore a Capt.'s commission and that this deponent was a soldier in company with him, the said Copeland, when General Greene marched to attack the British at Orangeburg. This deponent further saith that he thinks it probable that he was with the said Copeland at other times and places towards the close of the war but from his extreme age and forgetfulness he cannot exactly recollect.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of November 1832

S/ James Osborn JQ

S/ David Hamilton



State of South Carolina Pickens District: Personally came Major Thomas Henderson before me the subscribing Justice and made oath in due form of law that he is personally acquainted with Capt. William Copeland the present applicant for a pension. That he saw the said Copeland bearing arms in defense of the United States against the British forces in the time of the revolution but cannot recollect whether the said Copeland was an officer or private that his acquaintance with said Copeland during the revolutionary war was but slight -- and want of recollection prevents him from stating particulars.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of July 1833

S/ James Osborn JQ

S/ Thos. Henderson



[fn p. 24]

State of South Carolina Pickens District: Personally came James Houston⁵ Esquire before me James Osborn one of the Justices of Quorum in and for the State & District aforesaid and made oath in due form that he was acquainted with Capt. William Copeland in the time of the American Revolution that he knew that the said Copeland did command a Company attached to Col. Bratton's Regiment and this deponent served in General Sumter's Brigade to which Col. Bratton's Regiment was attached at the time of his acquaintance with the said Capt. Copeland. That he distinctly recollects of being with him at the Siege of Friday's Fort -- and at the Burned or Bigham [sic, Biggin] Church. That he does not know how many tours or how long the said Copeland did serve. That he has not seen the said Capt. Copeland for a number of years until this day, but that in conversation with him this day, he the said Copeland has brought a number of the transactions of the revolution to the recollection of this deponent that he had forgotten and that took place when they were both in the same Army -- and that this deponent is now satisfied and verily believes that the present applicant for a Pension is the identical Capt. William

⁴ FPA S17998

⁵ FPAS21288

Copeland that he knew you in the time of the American revolution and thinks that he is justly entitled to a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of July 1833

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ James Houston



[fn p. 26]

South Carolina Greenville District: Personally appeared Newman Wilson⁶ before me Josiah Kilgore one of the Justices of the Quorum for said State & district and made oath in due form that he was personally acquainted with Capt. William Copeland (the present applicant for a pension) in the time of the American Revolution, that he this deponent was a private soldier under the command of the said William Copeland and was attached to Col. Bratton's Regiment, was under the said Capt. William Copeland commanded at the taking of these forts at Orangeburg, Thompson's & Friday's, likewise at the battle of Huger's Bridge: that he served 2 tours under the said Capt. Copeland: that he was never solved the said Copeland's commission but knew that he was called Capt., that he commanded a company as such & that this deponent served under him, he thinks to the best of his knowledge about 2 years: that the said Copeland was considered a brave & efficient officer in defense of the United States; but from extreme age & want of recollection this deponent cannot recollect the time when said service was rendered. Sworn to before me this 5th July 1833.

S/ Newman Wilson, X his mark

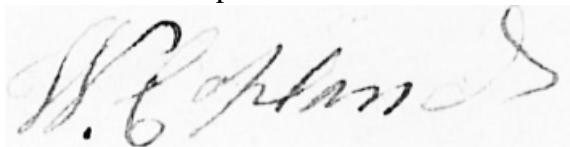
S/ Josiah Kilgore, JQ

State of South Carolina Pendleton District: Before me John Wilson one of the Justices of the Quorum for the district aforesaid personally came William Copland and being duly sworn and on oath saith that he this deponent did serve this Country as a private soldier in Col. William Bratton's Regiment of militia sometime and towards the latter end of the war he did serve as a Capt. in the said Regiment until the end of the war and that he did make return of the services by him done in defense of his Country in said war unto Capt. William Tate who was appointed as he understood by authority to take said Return with others and that he hath never since received any pay or discount either directly or indirectly for said services although often applied for and often petitioned the Legislature of this State for 2 allowing him some compensation for his services and all in vain for he can never obtained any satisfaction although he understands that his return appears upon the books of the treasury of this State

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of November 1809 before me

S/ John Willson, JQ

S/ W. Copland



Pay Bill-- The State to Capt. Wm Copeland
Feb^y 25th 1779 commenced a Tour of Duty for Briar Creek
and returned April 12th being 46 days... at 20/

= 46-0-0

⁶ FPA S22055

To a Horse lost at sometime Apprais'd to 240.0 £	240-0-0
To a Gun lost Apprais'd to 13£	13-0-0
March 10 th 1780 Commenced a Scouting tour which ended the 10th of April...40 Days at 20/	40-0-0
Jany 2 nd 1781 Commenced a scouting tour which ended January 31 st 30 days at 20/	30-0-0
N.B. The above Duty was done as a Private should be 369	269-0-0
April 10th 1781 commenced a tour for Friday's ferry which ended May 3 rd 24 days and 70/	84-0-0
June 15th 1781, Commenced a tour which ended July 12 th 28 days at 70/	98-0-0
February 25 th 1782 Commenced said tour which ended April 16th 1782 50 days at 70/	726-0-0
The above Duty was performed a Horse Man in Col. Bratton's Regiment General Sumter's Brigade	£89-0-6 3/8
	Sterling

These are to Certify that the above
Accounts is Just
Certified
by W. Bratton, Colo.

These are to Certify that the above
Accounts is Just
Certified
by W. Bratton Colo

Total amount \$726.
Sterling 103-14-3

60
10
20
197
03

[the following appears to be a partial pay bill of William Copeland's company—the document is not dated and is extremely faint—I have only tried to decipher the names but next to each name appears to be a listing of the days served and the pay due [or paid] to each man—all appear to be listed as being privates. The name in brackets is my attempt to decipher the man's name.]

Thoms brigis [Thomas Briggs or Bridges?]

Thos Tait [Thomas Tate]

John morgin [John Morgan]

John Ellis

Wm Jinkins [William Jenkins]

benjamine naile [Benjamin Neal or Neeley]

Samuel guin [Samuel Gwin or Gwinn or Quinn]

Charls morgain [Charles Morgan]

Thos brig [Thomas Briggs]

John Ellis

Dannl guin [Daniel Gwin, Gwinn or Quinn]
 Thos Collins [Thomas Collins]
 Wm Willson [William Wilson or William Willson]
 ? Jones
 Newman Willson

[two more names at the bottom of the page covered up by a fold in the paper]

Thom Craig	50	0	0
John Morgan	25	0	0
John Ellis	25	0	0
Wm Jenkins	25	0	0
<hr/>			
Dannl guin	150	0	0
Charles Morgan	24	0	0
Sho brig	24	0	0
John Ellis	24	0	0
Dannl guin	24	0	0
Sho Collins	24	0	0
Wm Willson	24	0	0
Sho Jones	24	0	0
<hr/>			
Newman Willson	24	0	0
Sho Jones	24	0	0

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$81.25 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 3 months & 12 days service as a Captain and 3 months and 26 days service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]