

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Coffey S1655

Transcribed by Will Graves

f15NC

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1/16/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 25th 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 I do 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 [sic, probably Lt. Col. John Hearndon] 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.]

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State of Tennessee Hawkins County: this day being the 25th day of May 1833 came George Hayes¹ 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

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

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Spotsylvania County in Virginia in 1747

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

I have it with me.

3rd 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

4th 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

5th 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
[6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?--omitted]

7th 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

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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

¹ [George Hayes S1668](#)

age he states and believe him to have been a revolutionary soldier.

Given under our hands 25th May 1833

S/ Bennet Coffey

S/ Ransom Hayes

S/ William King

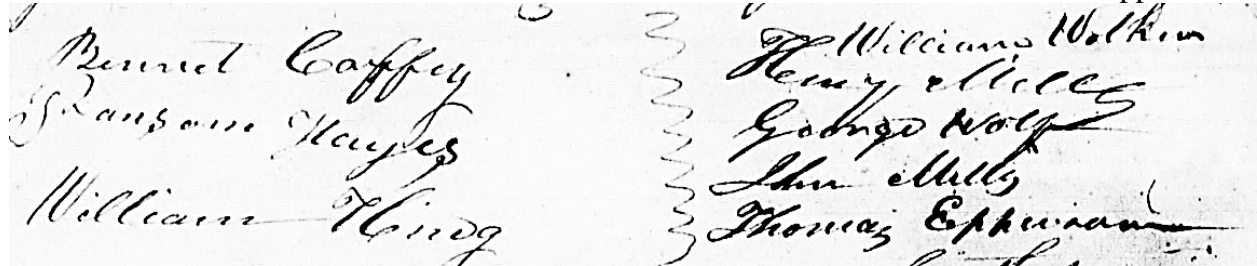
S/ William Walker

S/ Henry Mills

S/ George Wolf

S/ John Mills

S/ Thomas Epperson



A photograph of a document showing handwritten signatures in cursive. On the left, three signatures are visible: 'Bennet Coffey', 'Ransom Hayes', and 'William King'. On the right, four signatures are visible: 'William Walker', 'Henry Mills', 'George Wolf', and 'John Mills'. Below these, a signature for 'Thomas Epperson' is partially visible. The signatures are written in dark ink on a light-colored paper.

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State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

This day being the 7th of June 1833 personally appeared Benjamin Coffey of said County before me Lewis Mitchell an 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.]