

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Matthew Covington S2444

f27NC

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' 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.]

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State of Tennessee Carroll County} On this 10th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Matthew Covington a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged Seventy three years the 24th day of January next, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer at the age of 15 in the month of October 1775 in Anson County and served as a guard at Anson Court-house under command of Colonel Thomas Wade and Captain William Hunter Senior for the period of two months in the year 1776 about the month of April declarant states that he was drafted to march against the Cherokee Indians under command of [Lt.] Colonel David Love, Captain William Hoy¹ [sic, William Hoye], Major Davidson, Lieutenant Davidson; the troops were encamped at Marks ferry till the latter part of that month of May when we marched between Salisbury & Charlotte & crossed the Catawba River at the Island Ford marched across the head of the Broad River to Turkey Cove Fort stayed there about one month from there we marched up one prong of Broad River and joined General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Army at the Pleasant Garden. Anson County being the lowest down the country and consequently the furthest off General Rutherford proposed that if 100 volunteers would turn out from Anson County the balance might return home. Accordingly I turned out under the same officers I marched under from Anson from the Pleasant Garden we marched across the Blue Ridge thence crossed French Broad River and on to the Cherokee towns & burnt a considerable number of the towns and destroyed their corn &c these towns were on a prong of French Brevard called Tennessee after destroying these towns General Rutherford proposed for 1200 volunteers to go on to Hiwassee a distance of about 30 miles further to the Overhill or Valley towns I again volunteered. We killed a few Indians and burnt their towns the day after we marched for Hiwassee the South Carolina troops had a battle with and defeated the Indians. On our return from Hiwassee we passed through the battle Ground and back to our troops at Tennessee thence by the same route we were marched out back to Anson County about the last of October this tour was six months.²

The declarant states that from the time of his return from the Cherokee Nation till the

¹ The war Department interpreted this name as "Hay."

² Cherokee Expedition of 1776, August 1-November 1, 1776.

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

year 1780 nothing of importance transpired in his section of Country, after Charleston was taken by the British in May 1780 [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] the Tories became so troublesome in the Country where declarant lived that it was unsafe for any man who was a friend to his Country to stay at home. Sometime after Charleston was taken declarant had to leave his County on account of the Tories & went into Wake County that he there volunteered under Captain William Hunter Junior & joined Colonel Davie's [William Richardson Davie's] Regiment at the Waxhaw settlement in this Regiment he served three months while the British were in possession of Camden. This service was reconnoitering the Country between the Waxhaw & Camden the precise time when declarant entered the service is not recollected after being discharge from this service he declarant returned home to Anson County declarant then volunteered under Captain William Hunter Senior & was engaged two months driving cattle to General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army which were then encamped about six miles above Cheraw Hill. Declarant states that about this time Col. Culb [sic, Col. Abel Kolb of SC?]& Col. Wade were engaged removing their property into the interior of North Carolina for safety and were attacked and defeated by the Tories at Piney Bottom in Cumberland County.³ After this Captain Hunter's Company & others perhaps to the amount of 300 from North & South Carolina marched in pursuit of the Tories & crossed Drowning Creek at the widow Cathys at that place some of our party killed four Tories, made a route Drowning Creek & recrossed at Overstreet's ferry our business being entirely with the Tories our routes were in different directions as the emergency of the cases required & without intermission until the 21st July 1781. I was taken prisoner with three others Patrick Travis of Fayetteville, a Mr. Sprole [sic, Spruill?] of Cape Fear and John Rogers of Anson County taken by a party of Tories in Cumberland County we were taken to the Tory headquarters at the Raft Swamp stayed there a few days when Colonel Elrod [John Elrod] with about 30 men was dispatched with us to Wilmington who delivered us to Major Craig [James Craig] a British Major where we were kept till the British Evacuated Wilmington when we were removed to Charleston & there remained prisoners until about the middle of February 1782 a period of about seven months.

The declarant states that his service in scouting parties traversing the Country in pursuit of the Tories the time & periods of which he cannot precisely recollect together with the periods particularly mentioned will amount to more than two years.

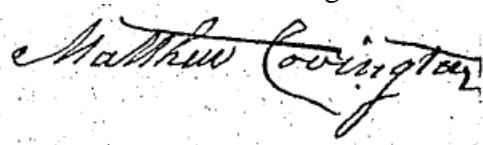
He declarant states that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the above service and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure by whom he can prove all of the above services but states that he can prove his service in the Cherokee nation by James Cole whose affidavit is annexed.

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 whatever.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk

S/ Matthew Covington

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Covington". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

A. I was born in the Easton Shore of Maryland Queen Anne's County in the year of our Lord

³ August 3, 1781. https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_piney_bottom_creek.html

1760

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

A. I have arrived at my age from my Grandfather who was Clerk in the congregation where I was born but it was sent for by some person in South Carolina for some purpose and was never returned.

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

A. I lived in Anson County State of North Carolina, where I continued until the year 1828 when I removed to Carroll County in the State of Tennessee where I now live

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

A. I was drafted to the Cherokee Nation, all the rest of my service I volunteered I never was a substitute

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

A. my service was entirely with the Militia consequently I was not acquainted with the regular officers. I was not acquainted with any Continental Regiment or militia Regiment but those already mentioned & the General Circumstances of my service is given in my declaration

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. After I returned from the Cherokee Nation I received pay for the tower [tour] and I suppose I had a discharge but don't recollect whether or not if I had I don't recollect who gave it or what became of it for any of the balance of my service I never received discharge or pay

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. Colonel John Clark, Thomas Crawford, William Lattimore, Merit Randle, Isaiah Sneed, James Cole, Thomas Hamilton &c

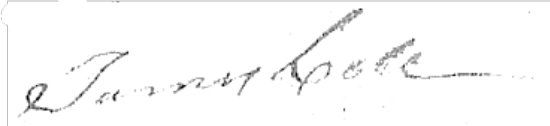
[Thomas A Young, a clergyman, and John Clark gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee Carroll County: [date obliterated] day of December 1832 appeared in open court James Cole of the County & State aforesaid before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting for said County and made oath in due form of law that he was well acquainted with Matthew Covington who subscribed & swore to the foregoing Declaration prior to & during the revolutionary war that he served with him in the Cherokee tower [tour] as stated in the foregoing declaration and that he has good reason to believe that all the statements made in the said declaration are true having a personal knowledge of the most of the Circumstances stated, that when the said Covington returned from Charleston where he has reason to believe he was confined as a prisoner as stated that he was in bad health & appeared that he had suffered greatly and was a considerable time before he was able to attend to business of any kind he further states that the said Matthew Covington was a true friend to his Country during her struggle for independence. Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day and year before written.

S/ Edwin Gwin, Clerk

S/ James Cole



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State of Tennessee Carroll County} June Term of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions

Be it remembered that on this day the 12th of June 1833, personally appeared in open Court Mathew Covington, who at the December Term 1832, filed the attached declaration for a pension, and who after being duly sworn says That from his old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot state precisely the periods of time which he did serve but to the best of his recollection he served the terms and times he now states

That in the month of October 1775 under Colonel Wade & Captain Hunter, he served two months as a guard at Anson Courthouse.

And in April 1776, he was drafted to [go] against the Cherokee Indians, under Colonel Love & Captain William Hoy, they were encamped at the Masks Ferry. They then marched across the Catawba River, they then joined General Rutherford & marched to French Broad & to the Cherokee towns some of which they burnt, in this tour he was engaged six months.

In the year 1780 in Wake County North Carolina he volunteered in Captain William Hunter's Company and Colonel Davie's Regiment at the Waxhaw Settlements when the British were in possession of Cambden [Camden], they were engaged in reconnoitering the country between the Waxhaws & Cambden. In that tour he served three months, upon his return home he volunteered under Captain William Hunter Senior to drive cattle to General Greene's Army which was encamped near the Cheraw Hills, in this he served two months, the date not recollected, and shortly after this time, he again volunteered to go against the Tories, and after making several excursions on Drowning Creek &c he was taken prisoner by the Tories on the 21st of July 1781 & carried to Wilmington & then to Charlestown where he was kept until he was exchanged about the middle of February 1782 being six months and 25 days a prisoner. In the excursions against the Tories before he will was taken prisoner he was engaged he thinks three months, at least. After his return home from Charlestown, his health was so much impaired he served no more during the war.

By way of recapitulation he would again state, his first tour as a guard at Anson Court house of two months.

His second tour against the Cherokee Indians six months.

His third tour, when stationed between Camden & Waxsaw, three months.

4th Driving cattle to General Greens Army two months

5th against the Tories three months.

6. A prisoner six months & 25 days making in all 22 months & 25 days for which he claims a pension.

S/ Matthew Covington

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$69.43 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 20 months & 25 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]