

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Rankin S7342

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/13/09 & 12/13/16

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5]

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County: Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions October Session  
1832

On the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions, now sitting, William Rankin, a resident of Lincoln County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy one years, 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 June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1777 to the best of my recollection, I volunteered under Captain Alexander [Robert Alexander] in what was then called Tryon County in the State of North Carolina, now Lincoln County, and marched with him against the Indians to that part of North Carolina, now called Rutherford County to a Fort in Montford's Cove, and served there & in covering the surrounding country, a three months tour, for which I volunteered. And in the year 1779 in the latter part of the year I again volunteered under Captain Alexander in what is now Lincoln County North Carolina, for five months & was marched to Camden in South Carolina where we were met with the other troops from Rowan & Mecklenburg Counties in North Carolina, and from Camden we were marched to the ten mile house from Charleston South Carolina & after remaining there some short time were marched to Purrysburg in South Carolina & there joined General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Army & after staying some time we were ordered to Charleston and again marched back to Purrysburg & there was discharged by Captain Alexander and this tour served about three months & a half. Again in 1780 I volunteered under Major Dickson [Joseph Dickson] also in Lincoln County and was marched into South Carolina against Colonel Floyd a Tory, not finding him, we were marched back to Lincoln County North Carolina & by that time the Tories were collecting in said County, we were marched to Mecklenburg County & joined General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Army & marched with him to Ramsour's Mill where the famous Tory battle was fought [Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780], the engagement was however over before we reached the ground the Tories having been defeated we were discharged having served about two months. Again & not long after the battle of Ramsour's Mill, I substituted for one Henry E. Locke for a three months tour and was placed in the company commanded by Captain William Armstrong in Lincoln aforesaid, and was marched to Park's Mill near Charlotte, North Carolina, & remained there about two weeks & was then marched to Charlotte & joined Captain Spring's [Richard Springs'] Company & marched & joined General Rutherford's Army near Phifer's and then made an attack upon the Tories in Mecklenburg or Anson County North Carolina at a place called

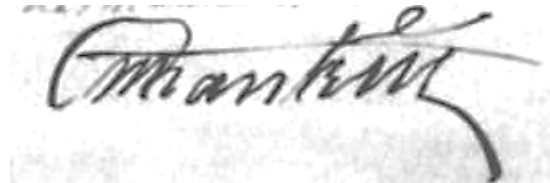
Coleson's [sic, Colson's—July 21, 1780]<sup>1</sup> where 70 or 80 Tories were taken prisoners by us. In that engagement General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] who afterwards killed at Cowan's Ford [February 1, 1781] was wounded, from there we were marched to Cheraw in South Carolina & soon joined General Gates [Horatio Gates]. I was still in Captain Armstrong's company, but cannot say who commanded as Colonel. I was in the battle of Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780],<sup>2</sup> & after the battle returned home having served a three months tour – while the British was stationed in Charlotte, North Carolina I served a month's tour under Major Dickson in Lincoln & Mecklenburg Counties after the Tories & British and under Captain Forney [Peter Forney], I served at different times three months in Lincoln & Rowan Counties, against the Tories & British & while in this service two Tories were killed in Lincoln County & another wounded and made his escape to the camp of the British & there died as informed. Before the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]<sup>3</sup> I volunteered for three months in Lincoln County under Captain James Little [James Lytle] & marched to Rocky Mount in South Carolina & from there to the Eutaw & about 7 miles before we got there we joined the Army & our company was put in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] a Frenchman. I was in that engagement & after the battle I was one of the guard over the prisoners & marched them about 7 miles, a parcel of them we left behind of their wounds; from thence to Camden South Carolina where some of the prisoners were left, with the balance of the prisoners we marched to Rowan County North Carolina, where I remained till my time expired and I was discharged by Colonel Locke & the prisoners were sent to Virginia.

I have no evidence to prove my services except the annexed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Rankin



Test: S/ Vardry McBee, Clerk  
of Said Court

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State of North Carolina, Lincoln County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of April Sessions 1833

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833 personally appeared in open court of the County of Lincoln County sitting William Rankin a resident of said County & State of North Carolina aged Seventy two years, last January, 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated: that in the year 1777, as I now believe, I volunteered under Captain Robert Alexander in then Tryon County, now Lincoln, North Carolina, and marched with him against the Cherokee Indians, in Western part of North Carolina now Rutherford County to a post in Montford's Cove & was employed in scouring the surrounding Country for three months. In the

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_colsons\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_colsons_mill.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_eutaw\\_springs.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html)

latter part of the year 1779 I again volunteered under Captain Robert Alexander in what is now Lincoln County for five months, was marched to Camden in South Carolina, where we met with troops from Rowan and Mecklenburg County North Carolina from thence to the 10 mile house near Charleston South Carolina after remaining there a short time, we were marched to Purrysburg South Carolina & there joined General Lincoln's Army, after a short stay there we were ordered to Charleston, and again marched back to Purrysburg & then discharged by Captain Alexander, having served in this tour three months & 14 days. Again in 1780 about the latter part of April or first of May he volunteered under Major Joseph Dixon [Joseph Dickson] also in Lincoln County, and was marched into South Carolina against Col. Floyd, a Tory, not finding him, we were marched back to Lincoln County North Carolina where the Tories were collecting in that County, we crossed over to Mecklenburg County & joined General Rutherford's Army, and marched with him to Ramsour's Mills Lincoln County where the famous Tory battle was fought; the engagement, however was over before we reached the ground & the Tories defeated; we were away having served six weeks-- very shortly after the battle of Ramsour's Mill I substituted for Henry E. Lake of this Lincoln County for a three months tour, and was commanded by Captain William Armstrong of said County, was marched Parks Mills near Charlotte Mecklenburg County North Carolina; where we remained a short time, was marched to Charlotte & joined Captain Springs company and joined General Rutherford's Army near Phifer's, in what is now Cabarrus County – and then had an engagement with the Tories at a place called Coleson's [sic, Colson's] in the [word torn out] Mecklenburg or Anson County N. C. where 70 or 80 Tories were taken prisoners by us, in that engagement General Davidson who afterwards fell at Cowan's Ford was wounded, from there we marched to Cheraw in South Carolina & joined General Gates continued with him until his defeat near Camden South Carolina in which battle I was and after which I returned home, having served the full term of three months. Whilst the British lay at Charlotte, North Carolina, I served a tour of one month under Major Joseph Dixon, in Lincoln & Mecklenburg Counties, after the Tories and British, and again volunteered and served under Captain Peter Forney at different times. Three months, in the County of Lincoln & Rowan, against the Tories & British in the year 1781 during this service, two Tories were killed, at Dutchman's Creek in Lincoln and another wounded, who made his escape. Before the battle of Eutaw in 1781, I volunteered again three months under Captain James Little, of Lincoln County & marched to Rocky Mount in South Carolina and thence to the Eutaw, and about 7 miles before we arrived, we joined the Army & our company was put in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Malmedy a French officer. I was in that engagement & after the battle, I was one of the guard over the prisoners, and marched with them to Camden South Carolina, thence to Rowan North Carolina where I remained until my term of service expired & was discharged by Colonel Locke when the prisoners were sent on to Virginia. He has no evidence other than that offered of General Forney & John Starret and James Hill, Adam Stroup 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.

Sworn to & subscribed day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Rankin

Witness: S/ Vardry McBee

Clerk of Said Court

[Hartwell Spain, a clergyman, and Vardry McBee gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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

A. In January 1761 the 10<sup>th</sup> day in the County of Rowan North Carolina

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

A. I have no record: my father & mother, told me the day of the month & year of my birth: states that my age was in a family Bible but has been lost.

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?

A. My father, when I was five or six years of age moved from Rowan County, to Tryon, now Lincoln County North Carolina, where I have lived before & since the revolution, & where I now reside.

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?

A. I volunteered every tour except the one, I substituted for Henry E. Locke, a three months tour.

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.

A. I was under Generals Lincoln, Greene, Gates and Rutherford & knew them by sight, also Colonel Malmedy and Colonel Locke I knew by sight & were with – any other circumstances as far as my memory serves are mentioned in the body [of] the declaration.

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?

A. I received a discharge from Colonel Locke only in writing and that is lost or mislaid: if I received any other, I do not now remember except a verbal discharge.

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.

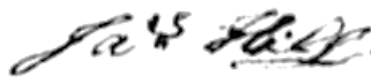
A. Genl. Peter Forney, Alexander Moore, Lawson Henderson, William J. Wilson, Andrew Hoyle, Jno Hoke, Hartwell Spain, with many others.

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James Hill<sup>4</sup> deposeth & saith that he was a Lieutenant in Captain William Armstrong's Company & that William Rankin was a private soldier in said company & that he served the three months tour in 1780 that said Rankin was with the Army at Gates defeat 17 August or thereabouts.

Sworn to in open Court.

S/ Jas Hill



Test: V. McBee, Clerk

Adam Stroup<sup>5</sup> also deposeth & saith that he is well acquainted with William Rankin & that he served with same company with said Rankin a three months tour & that he was in the battle at Gates defeat 17<sup>th</sup> of August 1780.

Sworn to in open court.

S/ Adam Stroup, X his mark

Test: S/ V. McBee, Clerk

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Personally appeared in open Court Peter Forney<sup>6</sup> and after being Sworn in due form of Law

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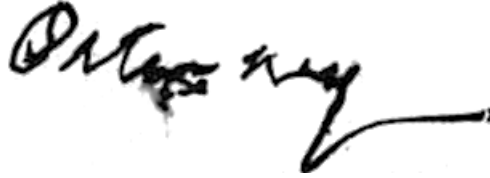
<sup>4</sup> [James Hill W3815](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Adam Stroup S7628](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Peter Forney W4955](#)

deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted with the service of William Rankin in the Revolutionary war that he served under him this Deponent at sundry times as his Captain in the County of Lincoln the whole of which service was performed in 1781 as well as this Deponent recollects that the said William Rankin still lives in Lincoln County and his Character unimpeachable (the term he served under the then he thinks was about three months).

S/ Peter Forney [illegible last name]

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Forney", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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State of North Carolina, Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me John Starret who deposeth & saith that William Rankin was a messmate of he is in a three months tour in the Revolutionary war in the year 1780. The deponent further states that he left him the evening before Gates defeat at Rugeley's Creek & has reason to believe that he the said William Rankin was in said battle under the command of Colonel William Armstrong. Sworn to & subscribed before me the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1832.

Test:

S/ John Starret, X his mark

S/ J. Forney, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$59.56 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 17 months in 26 days in the North Carolina militia.]