

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Cunningham S8264

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Harrison County }

On the 18th Day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before John Reynolds Benj. Stout Wm A Rodgers and James Fleming the Court of Harrison County now sitting Wm Cunningham aged sixty nine years who being first duly sworn 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 was born and raised in the County of Shanandoah Virginia [sic: Shenandoah County, formed from Frederick County in 1772] That some time in May 1780 he entered the service as a substitute for his Father John Cunningham in a Company of Militia Commanded by John Richardson. Marched to Chesters Gap on the Blue Ridge [6 mi SE of Front Royal] thence to Fredericksburg where he joined the Regt but Does not recollect the name of the Commandant from thence to Hobbs hole [on Rappahannock River in Essex County] and was discharged having served two months. in the spring of 1781 he again performed a tour as a substitute for his Father in a Company Commanded by Capt Charles Riggins Marched to Stauntown [sic: Staunton] Joined the Regt. Commanded by Col. John Netherton marched from thence to Fredericksburg was employed as a waiting man for the aforesaid Capt was discharged having served two months in the month of August 1781 he was drafted in a company commanded by Capt Martin All or Nalls marched to little York was present at the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. was detailed to guard the prisoners to Winchester but was take sick and discharged at Fredericksburg having served two months After his recovery he entered as a substitute for His uncle Thomas Cunningham and continued to guard the prisoners at the Barracks near Winchester one month he obtained written discharges for the several tours which were placed in the hands of his mother who is now Dead and the discharges lost. he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the above services and knows of no living witness by whom he can prove the facts except Walter Cunningham [pension application S9263] whose affidavit is herewith annexed he herewith relinquishes every claim 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 In the year 1794 he removed to Harrison County from there to Wood County, where he now resides he is acquainted John Harris Esq. Benj. Webb Esq. and various others of his neighbours to whom reference may be had

William his)(mark Cunningham

State of Virginia

Harrison County

This day personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County & state afforesaid William Cunningham & made oath in due form of law that he resided in the County of Harrison upwards of 15 years that he is Generally acquainted throughout said County, that he now resides in the county of Wood but near the Harrison line about 40 miles from the County Seat of said Wood County, that he is old and infirm and cannot with convenience travel to Wood county court House. he further states that his age is recorded in a Family Bible now in his possession by which it appears that he was born July 23^d, 1764 This 15th Dec. 1832

William his)(mark Cunningham

William Cunningham Served 7 mo. draws \$23.33.

I the undersigned William Cunningham in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following declaration of my age and revolutionary Service to Wit. — I was born July 23 1764. — In the year 1780 (as I well recollect) my father was drafted for two months. I took his place & marched from Shenandoah County under John Richardson below Fredericksburg the destination was for "Hobs Hole" but we did not reach that place, there was but the one company marched from Shenandoah. I think we joined other companies before the

term expired. but of this I will not be certain. I recollect of no Colonel or Major being with us. I was under 16 yrs. old when I performed this tour. I served out the two months & returned to Shenandoah.

In the next succeeding spring my father was drafted again for two months. I took his place. I marched from Shenandoah under Capt. Charles Biggin [sic] to Frederickbrg & served out the tour at that place - there was but the one company in this tour. Col. John Netherton went with the company from Shenandoah but on getting to Frederickbrg no command was assigned him & he returned home.

In the next fall 1781 I was drafted for two months & marched from same county under Capt. Martin Aul to Yorktown Va was there at the Surrender of Cornwallis. I think Col. Dark [sic: William Darke] was my Colonel, but of this I am not positive. Genl [Anthony] Wayne inspected us when we were paraded - After this tour expired I substituted in the place of Thos Cunningham my uncle and served at the Winchester Barracks guarding the prisoners for one month & thus ended my services. Col. Jo. Johnson of Harrison got my pension - he charged me \$15. I gave him the statement in substance I now give — In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name.

Dec'r. 11, 1834

William his)(mark Cunningham

A true Copy: W. G Singleton [see note below]

NOTE:

On 9 Jan 1840 in Wood County now WV, William Cunningham deposed as follows in support of the pension application (W4166) of Phebe Cunningham, widow of Thomas Cunningham: "William Cunningham aged seventy five years on the 23^d day of July last past who being sworn deposed and saith that after the surrender of CornWallis in the Revolutionary War he was personally known to Thomas Cunningham being drafted for the term of two months to guard the prisoners at the Barracks at Winchester and at the expiration of one month returned home on furlough hired said deponent to serve the remaining part of his time And that he went with said Cunningham to Winchester and was received as his substitute and served out his time."

On 8 May 1855 in Ritchie County now WV, William Cunningham, said to be 91, applied for bounty land, stating that he had served eight months in 1781.

Walter Cunningham deposed that he had been a neighbor of William Cunningham at the time of his service.

W. G. Singleton investigated a large number of fraudulent pension applications from Lewis and Harrison counties now in WV. See the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111) for details.