Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Ray W26355 Nancy fn67NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 12/14/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

Virginia

At a Court held for Russell County is 5th day of May 1818

Benjamin Ray who resides in the County of Russell in this State, wishing to become a pensioner pursuant to the provisions of an Act of the Congress of the United States passed on the 18th day of March 1818 entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war," personally appeared in Court and declared on oath that he entered the Services of the United States as a private soldier in the Revolutionary War in the Spring of the year 1775, in the 6th Regiment of the North Carolina line commanded by Thomas Clark & in Captain John Baptist Ashe's Company; and that the said Ray continued in the said service until the end of the war; and was discharged in Stafford County Virginia. And the said Ray further declared that he was in the battle at Brandywine and the battle at Germanton [sic, Germantown], the battle at Germantown commenced before day break in which engagement General Ash [sic, Francis Nash] was killed. The said Ray was also in the battle of Monmouth, but not present when the action commenced: he understood it commenced about sunrise with the horse [?], and he thinks it closed about two hours in the night. He was afterwards taken a prisoner at the siege of Charleston in South Carolina and remained a prisoner fourteen months and some days.

And from the knowledge which some of the members of the Court themselves have as well as from other satisfactory evidence the Court are unanimously of opinion and do hereby certify that the said Benjamin Ray is a person of credit as a witness; that it was generally understood in the neighborhood of the residence of the said Ray previous to the passage of the said Act of Congress that the said Ray had served as a soldier in the revolutionary War; and, that the said Ray is in such reduced circumstances in life as to need of assistance from his country for support. All which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War.

And, At a Court held for the said County of Russell the 6th day of July 1819. This day personally appeared in Court Benjamin Ray, who at a Court held for this County the 5th day of May 1818, made a declaration on oath for the purpose of obtaining the pension allowed by the Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818, and being interrogated on oath relative to the facts stated in said declaration, the Judge of the Court is of opinion that the same are true which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War.

[fn p. 16] District of Virginia

On this fourth day of September 1821 personally appeared in open Court being a court of record for the County of Russell in the State of Virginia Benjamin Ray aged sixty two years resident in the said County of Russell in said District who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows he enlisted under Captain Baptist Ashe or Nash in the sixth North Carolina Regiment for two years and a half and joined the Brigade at Wilmington, and shortly after reenlisted to serve during the War, and did serve all the time. He also made oath that he has received a certificate from the War Department that he is inscribed on the pension list roll of the Virginia agency No. 14,660 and that the original declaration of the above facts was made on the 5th day of May 1818: And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to wit

Two cows and calves one three year old heifer to heifer yearlings 13 gallon pot one half bushel of oven and lid one kittle with one leg broke out holds about three pecks one [illegible word, looks like "nonmedge"] and an old saddle one weeding hoe one pail & piggin one ax & an old spinning wheel. The whole not worth more than thirty Dollars and he owes upwards of three hundred Dollars.

S/ Benjamin Ray, X his mark

And the said declarant also made oath that he is a farmer has a wife about 50 years of age as one daughter named Lucy about 17 years of age himself and wife infirm and unable to do much labor his daughter capable of usual labor but perhaps may soon leave him.

Sworn to and subscribed before the Court of Russell County the fourth day of September 1821.

State of Virginia, Russell County

Be it known that before me Robert Boyd a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Benjamin Ray of Russell County Virginia, and made oath in due form of law, that he is the identical Benjamin Ray named in an original pension certificate, now illegally with killed by Harry [Smith?] of the said County of Russell, who undertook in the year 1819 to aid the said Ray in drawing his pension, and for that purpose the said pension certificate was then placed in his hands. The said Ray further declares that for several years the said Smith has refused to pay over to him his pension, and has also constantly refused although often requested and called upon to do so, to deliver up the said Pension Certificate, and still refuses to deliver the same. That he is entitled to a pension of eight dollars per month on account of services rendered to

the United States during the Revolutionary War; that he served in Captain McCree's Company of Regulars in the Sixth Regiment first, then in the first Regiment; that he now resides in Russell County, and has resided there for the space of nearly forty years past, and that previous thereto he resided in Surry County in the State of North Carolina.

S/ Benjamin Ray, X his mark

Sworn and subscribed this 31st day of July 1838 before me. S/ Robt Boyd, JP

[fn p. 10: on April 27th, 1854 in Russell County Virginia, Nancy Ray, 76 [last digit written over and unclear], filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Ray, a pensioner for his services in the revolution; that she married him January 31, 1830; that her husband died January 28, 1841 and that she remains his widow.]

[facts in file: Nancy Ray was Nancy Wilson or Nancy Sutherland prior to her marriage to the veteran; the veteran died in Russell County Virginia