

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Connelly W8188 Tempy Connelly f106NC
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves rev'd 12/1/10 & 7/2/24

[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.]

[p 5]

State of Kentucky, County of Floyd} SS Declaration

On this 15th day of August, 1833, personally appeared before me, James Davis, a Justice of the Peace now sitting, Henry Connelly, a resident of Floyd County, and State of Kentucky, aged Eighty 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 7th, 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated—That he entered the service and commanded one hundred men as state troops of North Carolina (called militia) as the Captain thereof on the 7th day of July 1777, for five years or during the war in the County of Guilford, North Carolina. His Col in the first instance was Col John Williams; then under Col Pacely [sic, John Peasley, also spelled "Paisley"]; then by Col John Taylor; and lastly, by Col Billy Washington [sic, Lt. Col. William Washington]. This applicant's company was a horse Company & was raised for the especial purpose of keeping down a daring Tory Colonel by the name of Fanning [David Fanning] who had made several daring attempts in the neighborhood of Sailsbury [sic, Salisbury] and Charlotte' during the first year of the service of this applicant, by the orders of his Col, the company traversed and marched to Rowan and Guilford in order to Keep Fanning [David Fanning] and his Confederates down, during this year, in the month of October, the Company encountered his scouts and routed them with some loss. The general rendezvous of the tories was in that region of the country called the haw Ford on the Haw River. These Counties and the adjacent neighborhood were assigned to the Applicant's charge by His Excellency the Governor of N. Carolina, in the month of June 1778. This this Applicant and his Company continued to do, dureing the year 1778 and that winter he and his Company rendezvoused at Sailsbury, the particulars of this year's service were only a few fights with the tories, the war was raging in the North whither that distinguished and active officer, Col. William Davidson [William Lee Davidson] had gone, and all [that] remained for the Constituted Authorities to do was to Keep down the tories which were so numerous in this region of N. Carolina during this year 1778, the men suffered much for clothes and every necessary, and our forage master frequently had to press forage for our perishing horses. Continental money was then one hundred dollars for one, for this applicant could not get a breakfast for \$100 in Continental Money during this year, by order of the Governor, this applicant's Company was placed under the direction of Col Davie [William Richardson Davie], who then commanded the North Carolina Cavallry, but he renewed the Old orders and my district still remained as they were under my former orders—early in March, 1779, the tories broke out with great fury at a place called the Haw fields wither this Applicant and his horse Company repaired and

dislodged them with the assistance of Col. Lythe [Archibald Lytle] from Rowan who commanded a Regt. [regiment] of militia, during this year the Tories were fast accumulating in Rowan, and this Applicant's horse Company was almost withdrawn from Guilford to that Section of North Carolina, the Whigs this year took a great many Tories, who were all put in Jail and Confined at Hillsboro [Hillsboro] and Sailsbury, in the month of November 1779, orders was received by Pacey from Col Davie, the commanding Col, to rendezvous at Sailsbury to start to the South to join Gen Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] at Savannah, but about this time news arrived that Gen Lincoln was overtaken at Charles town [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780],¹ and all was taken prisoners. Gen Davidson now raised several hundred men, and Col Sumner [Jethro Sumner] and Pervard [sic, probably a reference to Alexander Brevard], they had several skirmishes with the loyalist in which this applicant and his company actively participated at Colson's Mills.² -- About this time at a place in the western part of the state (N.C.) the Tories had collected to a great amount and we marched against them and at Colson's Mills, this was in the month of May 1780, as well as this Applicant recollects, he recollects well that it was just before or about the time of Gates' [Horatio Gates'] defeat at Camdon [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780],³ during this winter and the fall this Applicant's Company abandoned his district of "protection" and under Col Davie and Gen Davidson opposed the passage of Lord Cornwallis through North Carolina, at the time of approach of Cornwallis to Charlotte,⁴ under Col Davie the troops posted themselves to meet the enemy, on the enemy's approach the Companies Commanded by this Applicant received the first onset from Tarleton's [Banastre Tarleton's] Cavalry, and the firing became general on the left wing, the troops were commanded by Col Davie in person and for three times we succeeded in repulsing the enemy at length we had to yield to superior numbers, in this battle we had many men Killed severalle from under this Applicant in December, just before Christmas, Gen Nathanael Greene from the north took command of us all, this was in 1780, we all by his proclamation and the orders of our Governor was placed under his command and assembled at Charlotte, from there this applicant was placed under Col Washington [William Washington] and marched to S. Carolina to Augusta and Ninety Six, after marching in a Southern direction for several days news came, that Tarlton was after us, we was all now under Gen. Morgan [Daniel Morgan], and a terrible conflict ensued at the Cowpens [sic, Battle of the Cowpens, January 17, 1781]⁵ between Tarleton's men and the army under Gen Morgan, at the "Cow Pens" here the Americans was victorious and took a great many military stores Cannons baggage and Six or Seven hundred British and Tory Prisoners. This was in January 1781 it was cold weather, but inclined to be raining during this battle the company which belonged to this Applicant was placed under a Col Howard [John Eager Howard] on the extreme right of the division, And this Applicant commanded a Company in the center our Company when just about to catch up our horses which were hid about four hundred paces in the rear of the line of Battle fell upon us with great fury but we was fortunately relieved by Washington's legion that hastened to our assistance. After this engagement we all formed a junction with Gen. Greene, and retreated with him to Dan [River], and Crossed over into Virginia and remaining there but a short period, and marched back to Guilford Court house, and this Applicant actively participated in that

¹ Siege of Charleston <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/> & <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>

² https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_colsons_mill.html

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_charlotte.html & Anderson, William Lee, III, *Cornwallis in Charlotte: Advance, Battle, Occupation, and Retreat Followed by American Forces at Camp New Providence September-December 1780*. Charlotte, North Carolina, EleHistory Research, 2024.

⁵ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

memorable battle [March 15, 1781],⁶ and he had the great mortification to see his men in a panic fly at the approach of the enemy, and although this Applicant endeavored to rally them it was impossible and many even retreated to their homes, but this Applicant remained, and continued to fight until the Americans were thrown into disorder & Confusion and defeated, at this time or in a few days afterwards, this applicant being unwell and his company broken obtained a respite for a while, which was granted him—he remained at home and did not go with General Greene to Ninety Six, during this summer, he done all he could to get his company to assemble, their cry was "no pay" and our families required them at home, he then went from Guilford over into Virginia, and in September 1781 he raised a small volunteer Company for three months, to join Gen Washington at little York. Little York was however taken before this applicant arrived. He Knew a great many Continental officers, and Rugts [regiments], and Militia Officers, during his service—in the Month of October the term of service of the Company from Montgomery County, Virginia just mentioned, expiring, he gave them their discharges, and he himself returned to N. C., where he received the thanks of the Governor and a certificate stating his services. This applicant Knew Gen Smallwood [William Smallwood], Gen Davidson, Gen Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Gen Pickens [Andrew Pickens], Gen Sumner [Jethro Sumner], Gen [sic, Col.] Otho Williams, Col Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland], Colonel Lyttle, Col William Washington, Col Malmedy [Francois Lellorquis Marquis de Malmedy], Col Lee [Henry Lee, "Light Horse Harry"] (from Virginia), Gen Gadsdon [sic, Christopher Gadsden], Col Howard, who commanded the 3rd Maryland Regiment, Captain Holgin, Col Paceley, John Williams. The Baron Dekalb [Baron Johan DeKalb], Colonel Pervard and many other Continental and Militia Officers that I have forgotten. I have now no documentary evidence in my favor, having forwarded my commission about six years ago by General Alexander Lackey to the War Department who sent it on by mail it has never been returned to this Applicant he re'd [received] a letter from the Secretary of War informing him that as he was not a regular he could not be allowed. His commission was from the Governor of N. Carolina he has made search and inquiry for it for sometime, and he believes the same is lost or mislaid, he refers the War Department to Henry B. Mayo, Esq., The Honorable David K. Harris, to Col Francis A. Brown, to Col John Vanhoose, the Rev'd Henry Dixon, the Rev'd Cuthbert Stone, the Rev'd Samuel Hanna, the Rev'd Ezekiel Stone, & ^{Wallace Bailey,} to Andrew Rule, Esq., to John Rice, to Jacob Mayo, Esq., Clerk of the Floyd County Circuit Court. These can testify to his character for his veracity and their belief of this applicant's service as a soldier and officer of the Revolution.

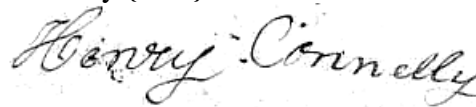
He hereby Relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

att [attest]

Henry Connelly {seal}



J. Davis

[Wallace Bailey, a clergyman, and John Rice gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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[Interrogatories propounded by the court pursuant to the War Department's regulations:]

⁶ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

Where, and what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Pennsylvania, Chester county, on the 2nd day of May 1751.

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

I have it in my bible recorded there by my father (in dutch). I have it now at my house.

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

I was living in Guilford County North Carolina where I have lived since my father moved from Chester, Pennsylvania up to the Revolution. I have lived three years in the County of Montgomery, in the State of Virginia, and the residue of the time I have lived in this County where I now live.

Q 4: How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom

Ans. I was a volunteer, under the Government of North Carolina by an invitation from the Governor, and was called State Troops or Militia. A part of the men under my command were drafted men for Eighteen months a Small portion was for six months, and about forty were volunteers for and during the War. I was called into service by a recruiting officer by the name of Holgin [could this be James Hogun?], I think a regular officer. I made up my company and reported to the Col and went forthwith into active service.

Q 5: 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.

Ans. I knew Genl Greene, I have seen Genl Gates at Hillsboro, Genl Smallwood, Genl Davidson, Genl Pickens, Genl Sumner, Genl Otho Williams, Col Billy Washington. Col Lee, Col Howard, the Baron Dekalb. I have seen in 1780, Captain Holgen, Col John Williams, Col Nat. Williams, who commanded the 9th Regiment N. Carolina Militia in 1778, Col Pacey, Col Bunyun [?], Capt Charles Briant, Colonel Pervard, Major, after called Col De Malmedy, and old Col Cleveland., Lieut Joseph Lewis, Major Chas Anderson, and William Bomar, Ensign. I was directed by Governor Burke [Thomas Burke] and Col Davie to keep down Fanning in Guilford and Rowan. This this applicant did with 100 men, a horse company. He served in 1777 in this capacity, likewise in 78 and until the fall of 79 he then joined Gen Davidson and was with him at the battle of Colson's Mills where he got wounded. This was in May or June 1780 he was at the battle of Hillsboro and had nineteen of his horsemen killed 11 killed on the field and seven died the next day of their wounds. I was in the battle of Cow Pens, under Col Washington in January 1781, and Tarleton was defeated and we took his baggage and several hundred prisoners. I retreated with my horse company with Gen Green to Dan [River] went over into Virginia, and remained with the Army till the Battle of Guilford. I was in that Battle, and my men all broke very near at first charge, in a panic and fled, and many went even home, when my roll was called at the Iron Works [Troublesome Iron Works] I had but a few men left, I was then taken in a few days afterwards sick and was permitted for my health to retire for [a] while from the service. This was in April 1781. Gen Greene went to S. Carolina and I went over into Montgomery County Virginia to see my relations and I here raised a three months volunteer company to march to little York. I marched them on to the Big Lick in Botetourt County in September and waited for orders, but before I rec'd them it was too late, and I gave my men their discharges and we all went home.

Question 6: Did you ever receive a Commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans. I did receive a Captain's Commission from Governor Burke of N. C it was I believe signed by him. I gave it about six years ago to Gen Lackey, who says he sent it to the War Department, he thinks. I have made search and cannot find it. It was never returned to me.

Quest. 7: 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 of your services as a soldier and officer of the Revolution.

Ans.: I refer to Gen Lackey, to Col Brown, Col T. W. Graham, to Austin Litteral, to Jacob Mayo, Esq., to Andrew Rule, to the Rev Ezekiel Stone, to Rev Walis Bailey
Sworn to before me.

S/ James Davis, J.P.F.C. {seal}

[p 91: On August 24, 1833 in Floyd County Kentucky, Jonathan Pytts [Pitts]⁷ gave testimony supporting the claim of Captain Henry Connally stating that he saw Connelly and his horse company in Rowan County in 1777 and 1778. Pytts states that he does not know whether or not Captain Connally was at the battle of Guilford because he, Pytts, was sent on an express to Burke County at that time. The affiant signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 74]

State of Kentucky Floyd County to wit }

Personally appeared before the Undersigned one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the Peace Phillip Williamson Sr of the County of Lawrence Kentucky, and made oath that he is Eighty four years of age, that previous to the commencement of the American Revolution, he resided in Wake County N. Carolina, that he shortly after the commencement of the revolution moved to Guilford and afterwards to Rowan County – that in the year 1777 in the fall season thereof Captain Henry Connally [sic] now of this County Floyd was constituted; and Commissioned a Captain in the N. Carolina Calvalry[Cavalry] I was then well acquainted with him and he was appointed to keep down one Fanning. I was frequently with him in the next year in Rowan this was in the summer of 1788 [sic, 1778]. He then commanded the Company of Calvalry af'd. I recollect to have saw him several times in Hilsboro [sic] where the Prisoners were Kept, – And I also recollect him and his Company was in the Service during the year following in 1779 for I well remember several tories his Company brought in, in the month of February 1780 I left Rowan, and Came over to Washington County in the State of Virginia, I remained there until May and I went back to N. Carolina, Captain Connally was then out with his horse Company under General Davidson against the tories, I do not now remember that I saw him anymore for some time, I about this time entered the service as a “three” months man and Joined Gen. Greene, when we was retreating I again saw Captain Connally commanding his Company in the service as a Captain, the infantry was compelled to assist the calvalry over the streams, he was in the battle of Guilford. I recollect that I saw him a day or two afterwards in the Army – I have known him for a long time since the Revolution – Captain Connally was a Captain the troops raised in North Carolina (not Continental) And further this deponent saith not

Phillip Williamson, X his mark

⁷ [Jonathan Pitts W26321](#)

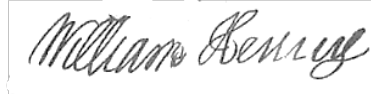
[Attested in Floyd County October 2, 1833]

[p 71]

The Deposition of William Haney⁸ aged seventy five years, that in 1781 he became acquainted with Captain Henry Connelly of the North Carolina light horse, he was then commanding as a Captain in the North Carolina Troops – when Gen Greene[‘s] Army retreated into Virginia and remained there he was with the Army, he was in the Battle of Guilford I well remember, I have known him many years since, the Revolution, and I know him well to be the same man.

Given from under my hand this 9th day of October 1833

William Hanrey



[p 85: In October 1833 in Floyd County Kentucky, Benedict Wadkins,⁹ 74, gave testimony in support of the application of Captain Henry Connelly as to his reputation as a revolutionary war officer. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

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State of Kentucky Floyd County }

On this 1st day of December 1833 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County, now sitting Henry Connelly resident in Floyd County and State of Kentucky aged Eighty one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following (Amended) declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit on the 7 July 1777 as a Captain of Cavalry in the County of Guilford North Carolina under Colonel Pacely and under Col Williams then under Col Taylor and lastly under Col. Washington his entrance & engagement was as a volunteer for five years or during the war. That he cannot specify any particular Tour, or tours for he served continually without ever being out of the service one single day until after the battle of Guilford C. H. in March 1781, that he served the whole time as stated in this declaration of the 15th of August 1833 to which he begs leave to refer Col. Edwards [J. L. Edwards, the Commissioner of Pensions] – That he claims full pay for he knows that he served the United States faithfully during the period mentioned, he received his commission from the Governor of North Carolina. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.—Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Connelly



[p 105: On September 30, 1851 in Johnson County Kentucky, Tempy Connelly, 71, filed for a widow's pension; stating that she is the widow of Henry Connelly a pensioner at the rate of \$150 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married Captain Connelly in 1833; that they lived

⁸ Probably the same man as [William Haney W11258](#)

⁹ [Benedict Wadkins W11709](#)

together as man and wife until his death on May 7, 1840; that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 17: On March 7th, 1853, in Johnson County, Kentucky, Tempy Connelly, 73, applied for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Henry Connelly, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him March 8th, 1832; that her husband died over 10 years ago and she remains his widow.]

[p 21: On June 13, 1855 in Johnson County Kentucky, Tempy Connelly, 74, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Henry Connelly, that she married him in Floyd County Kentucky she; that they were married by Ezekiel Stone a Baptist preacher; that her name prior to her marriage was Tempy Hitchcock; that her husband died May 7, 1838 at the head waters of [indecipherable word, looks like "tittle"]¹⁰ Point in Floyd County Kentucky. Her application was witnessed by John Hitchcock and Mahlah Hitchcock – their relationship if any to the widow is not stated. She signed this document with her mark.]

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Raleigh North Carolina Comptroller's Office November 10th, 1851

Sir

I have attentively examined the records of this office for evidence respecting the Revolutionary service as of Captain Henry Connelly, and I regret to say unsuccessfully. A portion of the records are undoubtedly lost. The capital was burned about twenty years ago and many of the papers of this office destroyed. In addition to this, I find a remark in the Journal of the Commissioners appointed on behalf of this State to state the account of North Carolina against the United States, that Colonel (afterwards General) W. R. Davie neglected to make a return of the Cavalry forces of this state under his command, and expressing strongly the difficulty which they experienced in making out the accounts of dragoons.

The abstract of the Declaration which you sent to me contains the best history of the Revolutionary Struggle from 1777 to 1781, in the middle counties of North Carolina which I have ever seen. There are not five men in the State who could have written so concise & correct a history. I could not have done it, and I have studied the subject for 10 years and enjoyed unusual opportunities for information. The names of officers, places and dates are all correct. Where did he get them from? For you must remember that the History of the Revolutionary War in North Carolina has not been written, (except Colonel Wheeler's history now in press). Is not the presumption then powerfully strong that his statements relative to his services are all correct?

I hope at some time to write a historical memoir of the. Embraced in the declaration, and will keep your letter to refer to.

Very respectfully Your Obedient Servant

S/ William J Clark, Comptroller

S. F. J. Trabue, Esqr.



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending May 7, 1840 for two-year service as a Captain in the North Carolina Cavalry. The Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing February third, 1853.]