

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Knight R6031

f16NC

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 'indcipherable' 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.]

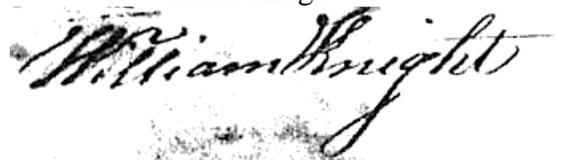
[p 6]

State of Mississippi Holmes County District:

Be it remembered that on this the 26th day of February in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open Court, being the Court of Probates for the County aforesaid, before me William L. Trimble Judge of said Court William Knight a resident of Holmes County in the State aforesaid aged seventy-four years, who being first sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832: (to wit) That about the 1st day of October 1778 he entered as a volunteer in the militia of Hillsboro District North Carolina as a Lieutenant and served for the Term of six months under Captain William Gill, Barnet Pulliam [Barnett Pulliam] being Ensign and James Brister being first Sergeant. That the company in which he was Lieutenant commanded by Captain Gill with several other companies one of which was commanded by Captain White a man by the name of Lawson being Lieutenant and \_\_\_ Haney Ensign (the commandants of the other Companies not recollected) marched from Hillsboro District, at which place he entered the service, and to Salisbury District under the command of Colonel Thornton Yancey at which place they joined the Salisbury Militia under the command of Brigadier General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and James Saunders being Colonel of the Hillsboro District, and Thornton Yancey being Lieutenant Colonel and George Moore being Major. That at the time of entering the service he resided in Granville County, Hillsborough District State of North Carolina. That after joining the troops under the command of General Rutherford they marched from Salisbury District passing into the State of South Carolina, crossing Big Pedee [River] and passing through the Town of Camden and from thence to the River Santee and across the same at McCade's Ferry (not being able to cross at Nelson's ferry on account of a high water) and from thence to Purrysburg, at which place they remained for some weeks and were marched to the Two Sisters Ferry on the Savannah River and that at Purrysburg Colonel Thornton Yancey returned to North Carolina, being a member of the General Assembly of this State, under the pretense of procuring an increase in the wages of the Militia: That the object of the troops being stationed at the Two Sisters Ferry, was to watch the movements of the British troops stationed at Ebenezer in Georgia, which was on the opposite side of the Savannah River to the Two Sisters Ferry, until the arrival of Major General Ash [sic, John Ashe]. That whilst the troops to which this applicant belonged lay at the Two Sisters Ferry, Major General Ashe with the balance of the North Carolina six months militia passed by them and marched up the Savannah River to or near Augusta Georgia, where he crossed the River and thence marched along the road leading from

Augusta to Savannah to Brier Creek at which place General Ashe was defeated by the British troops [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779].<sup>1</sup> That the troops to which he belonged had received orders to join General Ashe at Brier Creek and arrived at Mathews Bluff on the Savannah River on the same evening of General Ashe's defeat. That a portion of the troops to which he belonged had crossed the River when General Ashe came himself and ordered the troops under General Rutherford that had passed the River to recross and retreat. That from there they returned to their old encampment at the Two Sisters Ferry -- from thence to the White House on Black Swamp and from thence went home after being duly discharged. The applicant further states that whilst the troops to which he belonged lay at Purrysburg sometime in the spring of 1779 as well as he recollects Jasper & Newton went to Ebenezer in Georgia and on return from thence at Spa's Spring a few miles from Savannah they rescued a Mr. Jones & his wife & little boy and brought them into Purrysburg where the applicant saw them on their arrival. The Applicant further states that during the term of service performed as aforesaid he was not employed in any civil pursuit. That he obtained a commission as Lieutenant from Brigadier General Butler [John Butler] of Hillsboro District North Carolina and that he also received a discharge from his Captain William Gill, which he had received from the Commanding Officer, both of which were burned by accident in Granville County North Carolina. The Applicant further states that he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove in detail from his own personal knowledge the services of the applicant or any circumstance connected there with that would have a tendency to throw light on the transaction. That he was not engaged in any battle - - And that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State. The Applicant further states that he was born in Granville County State of North Carolina in the year 1758. He further states that there is a record of his age in a Bible in Sumner County Tennessee in possession of his daughter which he copied from his Father's Bible. He further states that he was living in Granville County North Carolina when called into service. That in 1804 he left North Carolina and went to the State of Tennessee, Sumner County where he lived about 16 years. Since which time he has resided in the State of Mississippi -- that he entered the service as a volunteer and that the officers with whom he served are stated in the foregoing part of the his declaration. That he received a commission as a Lieutenant as before stated, signed by Brigadier General Butler and that it was destroyed as before stated and that he also states the names of the following persons (to wit) Humphreys Scroggins, Archibald H. Green, Thomas C. Rayner who will testify as to his veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. Sworn to & subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Knight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Knight". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat stylized, typical of the late 18th or early 19th century.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court to the above named Applicant.

Q Where and in what year were you born? Answer. I was born in Granville County in the State of North Carolina in the year 1758

Q. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Answer. I have in Sumner County Tennessee.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

Q. Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live? Answer. When called into service I lived in Granville County North Carolina. I have lived since the Revolutionary War in the States of North Carolina, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Q. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute and if a substitute for whom? Answer. I volunteered.

Question. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served – such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your Services? Did you ever receive a Commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. For an answer to the foregoing questions, you are referred to the foregoing Declaration.

S/ William L. Trimble, Judge of Probates of Holmes County Mississippi

[Humphreys Scroggins, Archibald H. Green, Thomas C. Rayner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[In a letter dated August 22, 1836, from Wm Lane Trimble to the Secretary of War, the statement is made that the veteran "a short time since died."]