

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Massengill¹ W25681 Elizabeth Massengill² f67NC

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 '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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 6]

State of Tennessee Sullivan County

On this 24th day of January 1834 personally appeared before William Rockhold A Justice of the peace for said County Henry Massengill at his own house, a resident of the State & County aforesaid Aged 76 years or thereabouts who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statements and declarations in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 that he volunteered in the service of the United States he thinks in the year 1777 as well as he recollects in the month of May under Capt. Wommack [sic, Jacob Womack] for one year and was employed principally in building the Fort called Wommack's Fort [Womack's Fort] in Sullivan County Tennessee [then North Carolina] and in guarding said Fort and much of said time acted as a spy part of said time was under Lieut. Topp [Roger Topp], afterwards Capt. Topp that during said term of service he served two tours under Col. Sevier [John Sevier] and both trips was as far down the country as French Broad River at that time inhabited by the Cherokee Indians, was in several small engagements but none of great Importance and was principally engaged after the building of Womack Fort as an Indian spy between said Fort and a Fort at Sycamore Shoals on Watauga [River] and from thence to the Fort on Nolichucky River until the expiration of the said year at which time his services was again solicited and he further says he volunteered under Capt. Roger Topp for six months and was employed as Indian spy and express bearer for more than nine months and was verbally discharged from both tours of duty first by Capt. Womack and the second by Capt. Topp and about said time Capt. Dunn [Lewis Dunn] came over from the State of Georgia for help to defend the frontiers of Georgia and the Carolinas from the attacks made on them by the Cherokee & Creek Indians & sometimes by the Tories deponent says he volunteered in company with a certain [? looks like "Jourdan"] Roach [Jordan Roach?] under said Dunn for six months to be employed as spies &c and did march immediately under said Dunn to the head waters of the Catawba River and was actively engaged under Capt. Dunn for the space of from nine to ten months in said term of service deponent says he was in one engagement against a party of Tories he thinks at a place called Ramsour's Mills in said engagement they took an officer among said party by the name of Dunlapp [sic, James Dunlap]³ and marched him to a place called Gilberts

¹ Variant names: Henry Massengell, Henry Masengill; J. D. Lewis has indexed this veteran under the name "Massengale, Henry 'Hal'" at http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_privates_m.html

² BLWt26430-160-55

³ Veteran is describing the engagement known as Beatti's Mill which occurred on March 21, 1781.

Town [sic, Gilberttown] and at said place Dunlap was shot for some of his cruelties committed in the said War⁴ deponent says that he does not know of being under any field officers in said last mentioned tour of duty except Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and his company was considered as part of Cleveland's Regiment and says he was again verbally discharged by Capt. Dunn and further says these services was rendered during the revolutionary war and that he served not less than two years & three months but thinks it was more likely it was two years & nine months but he does positively say in all he served two years & three months, and does declare his name is not on any pension Roll of any agency of any State or Territory and does hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year last above mentioned.

S/ Henry Massengill, X his mark

[Josiah Greenway & James Webb gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

William Rockhold one of the Justices of the peace of the court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Sullivan County do hereby certify that I have attended to this examination out the term time at the house of Henry Massengill because he the said Massengill is from long affliction unable to attend at the courthouse and I have put the following questions and have received the following answers

1st Where and in what year were you born?

A: In Virginia, County not recollected, parents died when young from the history received in the year 1758.

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

A: I have none neither do I know of any

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

A: I lived when called into service and Sullivan County after which in Washington & now and Sullivan & have ever since the revolutionary war lived in these 2 counties Tennessee

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

A: Volunteered for all the service that I have stated to have rendered

5th 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.

A: I was under Capt. Womack, Capt. Topp & Capt. Dunn and was called Col. Cleveland's Regiment

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

A: never that I recollect of received any discharge other than them verbally

7th 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

A: I am acquainted with the four young witnesses and almost every person in my

<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/beattiesmill.htm> & http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beattis_bridge.html

⁴ The circumstances of the capture and killing of Capt. James Dunlap are a matter of some controversy. See <http://www.overmountainvictory.org/Gtown.htm> for a detailed review of theories and facts relating to Dunlap and his demise. Search for "The Hated Major James Dunlap." [site viewed 7/5/16]

neighborhood and know of none that doubts my veracity

And I do certify that the foregoing questions was put by me and the answers received and posed as they were given and that I do believe the applicant's statements to be substantially correct and that he is 76 years of age. I further certify that the witnesses he is men to be relied on and that I believe there statements as set forth in their affidavit and I further certify that there is not any regular ordained minister of the gospel in this neighborhood and whose attendance good with convenience be procured. Given under my hand & seal this 24th day of January 1834
S/ Wm Rockhold, JP

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State of Tennessee Sullivan County

On this 15th day of April 1834 personally appeared before me William Rockhold a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Henry Massengill at his own house and upon his oath Deposed to the following facts and circumstances which he offers as a supplement to his Declaration to obtain a pension made the 24th of January 1834

Deponent says that he is very Infirm and in consequence of a stroke of the palsy Received some 5 or 6 years back he has no doubt has very much Impaired his memory and that it is possible in his narrative in his declaration he committed errors on account of his loss of memory but on hearing it read again he is satisfied that it is substantially true as to his term of service, and says that he may have been mistaken when he said in his declaration that he volunteered for one year but is positive that the militia was ordered out he thinks by Colonel Cristy [probably William Christian of Virginia] or Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and that in some Companies stood their draft and some others procured young men to volunteer and he volunteered from his company and was put under Captain Wommack, that some of the troops was ordered out against the Cherokee Indians who was then at war with the Continental Army and that he was kept back with many others under Captain Wommack to build the Fort he speaks of for the protection of the women & children and to guard them he does most positively declare that it was distinctly and well understood that the then call for the militia was by the government and he further recollects his reasons for volunteering were because he knew he would be drafted and in consequence of volunteering it was thought the prospect would be better for him to be one of the Indian Spies and therefore be more on horseback as he was particularly fond of riding in place of walking. Deponent does most positive say that he knows of no living witness whereby he can prove his services and that he has been as he thinks diligent for his retired situation. Deponent says the fact may be true he is in era as to the time he entered the service but is not able to correct it as his first statement is yet put on his mind as correct, Deponent says that Captain Topp was an active officer in the then Indian war and he has reasons to believe he was a regular authorized officer and that all the service he rendered under Captain Topp was by order of the constituted authority and he does not wish to be understood that he entered the service as expressed bearer but if in the course of his service he was ordered to bear expresses by his superiors of the movements of the enemy who was scouting women and children he does finally hope if he obliged promptly and risked his own life that it is not to operate to his prejudice. Deponent does say that all the service that he rendered in the revolutionary war was under Colonels Shelby, Lewis & Cleveland though Shelby & Cleveland was little present as he was on scouting parties and at forts and on Spies, further Deponent does say to the best of his recollection he served in the Continental Army not less than 2 years & 3 months but does think it was longer.

Sworn & subscribed before me the day first above written.

S/ Wm Rockhold, JP

S/ Henry Massengill, X his mark

[p 11: On July 29, 1854, Elizabeth Massengill, 64, of Sullivan County, Tennessee filed for a widow's pension stating that she was the widow of Henry Massengill, a revolutionary pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum; that he died in Sullivan County Tennessee on September 20th 1837; that she remains his widow; that she married him in Sullivan County on August 4, 1814; that they were married by Solomon Smith Esquire; that her name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth Emmert. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p59: On April 27, 1866 in Washington County Tennessee, GD Masengill and J. T. Masengill gave testimony in support of the application of the widow for the reinstatement of her pension benefit following the American Civil War. Their relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.

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Witnesses. | *G. D. Masengill*
|
| *J. T. Masengill*
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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was initially pensioned at the same amount subsequently increased to \$96 per annum on July 27, 1868.]