

WILLIAM ROSS

[Excerpted from *Historic Greene County and Its People*, page 300]

William Ross was born in Fermanough County, Ireland, circa 1735. He was the son of John Ross, who brought his family to America, landing in Delaware. They lived for about five years in Maryland and then moved to Botetourt County, Virginia. The brothers and sisters who came were Edward, John, Mary, Nancy Ann, and Elizabeth. Both William and his brother Edward served in the Revolutionary War. Edward Ross lived in the Jonesborough area near Providence Presbyterian Church. William Ross was memorialized by the Nolichucky Chapter of the DAR with a special service and a marker on his grave in Mt. Bethel Cemetery.

Family tradition says that Jane Alison was born at sea in 1739. She and William were married in Virginia 29 December 1770, and then moved to Greene County, where they purchased land near Greeneville. Eight children were born to this union: John married Rebecca Carter Hardin; Jane married Joseph Bullen; Elizabeth (Betsy) married Thomas Batt; James married Ann Ball; Grace (Grissy) married John S. Reed; Nancy married Benjamin Duncan; William II married Margaret Gass; Mary (Polly) married John Graham.

The family members were affiliated with the Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church. All were large landowners, and altogether they owned the land from the railroad in Greeneville to the home of William II on the Kingsport Highway. For this reason in the early days this highway was called Ross Road.

January 28, 1938

Mrs. J. A. O'Keefe
Oak Grove Ave.
Greeneville, Tenn.

Madam:

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim R. 9039, it appears that William Ross was born in Ireland, County Fermanagh (date not stated) and came to this country, when he was between twelve and fifteen years of age and landed at New Castle, Delaware.

While residing in Botetourt County, Virginia, he volunteered in 1778 and served at different times under Captains Roberson and May and Colonel Skelor, drove his own team and wagon hauling for the army, he was at the battles of Reedy Fork and Guilford and served until after the surrender of Cornwallis, amounting to between two and three years.

He applied for pension, September 4, 1832 in Greene County, Tennessee, aged eighty-eight years, but the claim was not allowed, as the service rendered was not in an embodied military corps, as required by the pension law.

Respectfully,

WINFIELD SCOTT
Commissioner.

The declaration of William Pop Supplemental
to his former declaration in Order to Obtain
Pension under the Act of Congress passed
June 1832

Personally appeared before me
Hugh Maloney — an acting Justice of
the peace for Greene County in the State of
Tennessee William Pop the declarant and
made oath that the service rendered and
stated in his former declaration was all
rendered in the military service of the
United States and the services rendered by
himself and his team was rendered in
forwarding the objects of that part of the
Army to which he belonged and traveling
for the Army and that before he went
into the service with his team each
time he was notified his team was
about to be pressed and he was determi-
ned if his team was taken into service
he would go with it and volunteered taking
his team with him and served the campaign
s of which he has given an account in
his former declaration and at the places
and under the circumstances he has therein
stated

He further states that he was born in
Ireland in the County Fermanagh joining
the County Tyrone and ^{came} to the United States
when he was between twelve and fifteen
years of age and was landed at Newcastle
Delaware and lived five years after

And the said Court do hereby declare their
Opinion of the investigation of the matter and
after putting the questions prescribed by
the War Department that the above
named Applicant was a revolutionary
soldier and served as he states and
it further appears to the Court that
John S. Reed^{Esq} and Thomas Temple who
have signed the foregoing certificate
are residents of Greene County and are
intitled to credit and are credible persons

J. Corry Judge of the
Circuit Court of the District

I Valentine Sevier Clerk of the
Circuit Court of Greene County in
the State of Tennessee do hereby certify
the foregoing contains the Original
proceedings in the matter of the Appli-
cation of William Ross for a pension

In Testimony whereof I have
herewith set my hand.

Seal office this 5th day of
September 1833

V. Sevier, Clerk
By W. Payne

State of Virginia Greene County,

On this 11th day of September 1832 personally
appeared in open court before the Honorable
Samuel Daniel Judge of the Circuit Court
in and for the State of Virginia holding Court
for said County, William Wood aged eight
eight years who being first duly sworn
doth on his oath make the following declara-
tion in order to obtain the benefit of
the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832
that he entered the service of United States
under the following Articles of War and
served as hereafter stated to wit
that he entered the service in the year
1798 in Potomac County Virginia
under Colo Skelton Capt Roberson Lieut McDan-
niel as a volunteer and went to the Mora-
ventours in North Carolina now called
Salem and returned and left the residue
of the troops at Salem he being permitted
to return but have long he was out on
that trip he cannot now state during
that trip he drove his own Waggon Team
after he returned from Salem as before
stated he again entered the service
as a volunteer with his waggon and
team under Capt May who was then
Chief of the Court in Potomac County
under the command of Colo Skelton and
on the March of Met the first troops
he went out with returning and in
that Campaign was in the battles
of the Reddy fork and Gilford and
served the whole of that Campaign and
believes he was out considerably more
than a year on that tour and
after that service he volunteered with his waggon and
Team under Capt May and was forthwith marched to the
State of Virginia and kept in the service in Virginia

throughout the Spring and Summer under the command of Genl. La Fayette until the siege of York Town and continued in service until after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis - during which time he was engaged hauling for the army and during the Siege of that place in hauling Bomb Shells.

He states that he served in all more than two years and he believes nearly three years and he never received anything for his team or himself.

He further states that after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis he went to Winchester with his Wagon and Team hauling prisoners.

He states that he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, and there is not in his neighborhood a Quaker, to testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or bounty, except the present and declares his intent is not on the pension role of the Congress of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid
W. Thomas, Clerk
By M. J. [Signature] W. Thomas, Clerk

We Thomas Scrymgeour and John J. Reed residing in Green County hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Mr. [Signature] who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration and that we believe him to be 88 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid
[Signature] W. Thomas, Clerk

Greenville Tenn
April 21st 1858

Sir,
There are some agents about Washington who
have been sending out letters through this country
stating that certain ^{persons} entitled to pensions &c.
I write this letter for the purpose of ascertaining
from the Commissioner of pensions whether or no
there is an application of Wm Pass on file in
the pension office for a pension on account
of revolutionary Services and if so what
proof is necessary to perfect the claim - Mr
Pass is now dead: but the heirs desire to make
out the claim if ^{it} can be done without being
cut up by some of those Sharks about the
city - The heirs are of opinion the papers were
filed by the late Hon John Blair who
represented this Cons district at the time
some time in 18 33-34-35 &c - Given early
attention to this will much oblige the heirs
and your humble servant.

Andrew Johnson

9029

P. O. *Wm Ross*

Service: _____

REJECTED

Enlisted: _____, 18

Discharged: _____, 18

Application filed: _____, 18
The printed list of 1852 shows reasons for rejection

Alleges: _____
"Served as a volunteer"

Re-enlisted: *with wagon and team*

Attorney: _____

P. O. _____

_____ Recognized. _____ Contract.

_____ Cert. of Dis. Searched for _____, 18

1875 Jan 28 filed to Mrs. J. C. D. Keefe and

Will of William Ross

To All Whom it May Concern

Know ye, that I, William Ross Sr. of the county of Greene & State of Tennessee, being far advanced in life & in a declining state of health, and being desirous to settle all my worldly concerns, do make and constitute this my Last Will and Testament,

First, I desire that after my death my Body be buried in a decent Manner

Secondly, I desire that all my Just debts be faithfully paid

Thirdly, I give and bequeath to my son James Ross all the land in the Tract or Tracts whereon I now live forever in fee Simple, Also I give to my said son James a Negro woman named Seb, a Negro boy named Boze, and a Negro Boy named Robb and a Negro boy named Tom, Also I give to my loved son James all my household furniture and farm utensils, all my Stock of Horses, Cattle hogs & Sheep, Waggon & Gun

Fourthly I give and bequeath to my daughter Nancy Duncan a Negro Girl Named Lavina

Fifthly I give and bequeath to my son William Ross a Negro Boy named Jess and a Negro woman named Dice & her youngest child that she now has named Mary - & a Negro Man named Jack -

Sixthly To my daughter Jane Bullen I give a Negro girl named Mary who is now in her possession - Also the Sum of one hundred Dollars -

Sevently To my Son John Ross I give the Sum of Ten dollars, having heretofore given him what I intended

Eighth To my Son in law John S Reid I give the Sum of Ten dollars, having heretofore given to him & my daughter Grace, who is now dead all that I intended
Ninthly To My Son in law John Grame (Graham?) I give the Sum of Ten dollars, having heretofore given to him & my daughter Polly who he married all that I intended
Tenthly To my Son in law Thomas Batt I give the Sum of Ten dollars, having heretofore given him all that I intended –
Eleventh To my grandson James Batt I give and bequeath the tract of land whereon Thomas Batt lately lived, In consideration of which the land James must pay unto my grand daughters Jane & Malinda & Elizabeth Batt the Sum of Fifty dollars each
Twelfth To my grand daughter Jane Moore I give the Sum of Forty dollars –
It is also my will and desire and I hereby direct that my Son James give to my present Wife a comfortable Support so long as she may chose to Stay with him on the place, but if it is her choice to leave it, he is released from that obligation.
The afore mentioned Legacies to Jane Bullen, John Ross, John S Reid, John Grimes, John Graham, Thomas Batt, & Jane Moore I desire to be paid out of the Money that is due to me, and the remainder of any to be equally divided between my Sons William Ross & James Ross –
Finally I appoint my Sons William & James Ross my Executors to carry this my Will into Execution, Witness my hand & Seal July 19th 1831
William Ross (Seal)Signed, Sealed,
Published & Declared By William Ross Sr the above named Testament, as and for his last will& Testator, in the presence of us, who At his request in his presence, and in the presence of each other have Subscribed our names there to
David Rice Robert Rankin

Postscript

Two of William Senior's sons served in Colonel Allison's East TN Militia during the War of 1812: Son, William Junior, Ensign, (1790-1865) is also buried at Mount Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery. His farm in Greene County, Maden Hall, remains in the family and holds the designation as a Tennessee Century Farm. The farm complete with house, barn and outbuildings is on the National Register of Historic Places. Son, James, Corporal, whose burial place is not known.



William Ross
Mount Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery