

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Michael Swope R10366

f16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/31/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Monroe County: SS

On this 27th day of January 1834 personally appeared before me Joel Stodhill a Justice of the peace of and for the County of Monroe and State of Virginia aforesaid Michael Swope a resident of said County and state aged eighty years on the 29th day of September last 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 7, 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 as an Indian Spy in the spring of the year 1776: that at the time he entered the Service as a Spy he was enrolled and mustered in a company of Militia commanded by Captain John Henderson and raised in that part of the State of Virginia which is now Monroe on Wolf Creek about sixteen miles from where he now resides; that at the termination of the cold weather and when the first signs of approaching spring and the putting forth of vegetation appeared some signs of Indians having been seen, the people becoming much alarmed in the neighborhood betook themselves to Cook's Fort which was situated on Indian Creek about eight miles from where he now resides in about the same distance from where he then resided. The Settlers betook themselves to Cook's Fort on the 1st of May in that year and he entered on the duties of an Indian Spy on the same day – and continued in Service the first of November following when cold weather coming on in all signs of Indians disappearing – the Settlers left the Fort and returned to their habitations. He was discharged from service during the winter having continued in service six months. He again commenced his duties as a Spy on the 15th day of April 1777 and continued in service as such until the first of November following when he was discharged having served that summer six months and a half: that he again entered the service as an Indian Spy on the 15th day of April 1778 and continued in service until the first of November following making a tour of six months and a half: and again on the first day of May 1779 he entered the service as an Indian Spy and was discharged on the first day of November following having performed a tour of six months Service that summer making in the whole term of service as an Indian Spy which he served his Country – two years and one month. The nature of his Services as an Indian Spy in each of the aforesaid years was to leave Cook's Fort on Indian Creek descended said Creek to its mouth where it empties into New River and thence down New River to the mouth of Blue Stone, thence to Van-Bibbers Fort on Greenbrier River, and thence to Jarretts Fort on Wolf Creek, making a distance in going and returning of from thirty to thirty-five miles: that he was generally out from three to four days in each week, and sometimes longer if the danger or the intelligence from the Indians seemed to require it and some times when they saw signs of the Indians they would fly [sic, fly?] from Fort to Fort and give the alarm so that

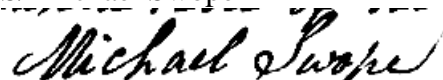
preparations might be made for defensive operations by the people that were fortified and that those who had ventured out to work their corn might betake themselves to the Fort before the Indians would attack them.

That he had for his companions, his two Brothers Joseph and John Swope who were both older than himself, who are both dead and James Givin who has also been dead for a number of years; that their manner of spying was for two to go together and to meet at some point designated.

That before he entered upon the duties of a Spy he took the Oath of Fidelity and Oath to perform the duties of a Spy – that during the time he was thus engaged as an Indian Spy he was not engaged in any civil pursuit. During the Summer of 1780 he was permitted to remain in quiet there being no alarm given in the Settlement of the approach of the Indians and no depredations were committed that year. That in the winter of the year 1781, he was drafted for a three months Tour to go as he was then told against the Indians on Cumberland River and on the 15th day of February of that year he together with about thirty others took up their march as they supposed for that place under the command of Captain John Henderson, Lieutenant John Wood and Ensign John Hall, their company was joined at Burnsides Fort by a company from the County of Greenbrier Commanded by Captain James Armstrong and another Company commanded by Captain Davidson, in the whole was under the command of Major Hamilton. That they marched on to Fort Chisel where they met with Major Quirk or Kirk a Continental Officer who assumed the command over Major Hamilton, and thence they marched on to Kentucky to Colonel Logan's Station where they remained until the three months draft expired when they were informed that the object of the draft was to go to Detroit and a number of the men becoming dissatisfied deserted the next day but he remained and went on to Baughman's Station and remained until most of the men left the Station when he was permitted to return home having served five months in said tour; that he never received any pay for said Services when acting as a Spy and but \$6 for his services while drafted.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension whatever or annuity of pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ Michael Swope



[Jacob Cook, a clergyman, and John Dunn, Jr., gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatory 1. Where and in what year were you born

Answer. I was born on Wolf Creek near Greenbrier River then called West Augusta now Monroe County in the year 1753 and I have heard it frequent said that I was the first white child ever born in what is now the limits of Monroe County.

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

Ans. I have a record of my age in a very old family Bible now in my possession

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

Ans. I was living on Wolf Creek when I was called into service and remained there until about the year 1790 when I moved to where I now live.

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. The manner of my going into service was first as a volunteer Spy and then I was drafted.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served Such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I can give no better account than what is disclosed in my declaration

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

Ans. I never received any discharge in writing

7. State the names of persons in your present neighborhood to whom you are known and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution

Ans. I am known to almost all the citizens now living in Monroe County and all who know me can testify as to my character for veracity & to undertake to name them would be an useless job. The Reverend Mr. Jacob Cook and ___ can testify to my character for veracity.

S/ Michael Swope

[f p. 12: on December 20, 1852 in Monroe County Virginia, John Swope filed a power of attorney in which he states he is an heir of Michael Swope. In the attestation of the power of attorney, is stated that John Swope is the "identical child " of the veteran.]