

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Combs R2187 Sarah Ann Combs VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Illinois } S.S.

Edgar County }

Be it remembered that on the 20th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three personally appeared before me George Redmon a judge or justice and one of the judges of the County Commissioners Court in and for the said County of Edgar and State of Illinois (said Court being a Court of Record having a clerk and official seal and declared a court of Record by the law creating said Court) Sarah Ann Combs a resident of said county of Edgar aged ninety years in March last past who being by me first duly sworn upon her oath says; and makes the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836. that she is the widow of William Combs who was a private in the company commanded (according to her present recollection) by Captain William Washington of the Virginia Military or continental line, in the revolutionary war [see endnote]. She can not state with certainty the name or number of the Regiment to which he belonged, nor will she state certainly, that William Washington was his Captain; but she is positive in her recollection that his service was the greater part of the time, or all of the time under Capt. William Washington or Col. William Washington and under General George Washington. That this said William Combs resided in Stafford County in the State of Virginia at the time of enlisting and that the said William Combs as well as she now recollects enlisted for the term of five years, at least, or, for during the war, she thinks the latter. And that he entered the service, she thinks under his said enlistment in the said County of Stafford in the early part of the year 1776, she thinks in the month of May, and that his service was in the Troop called the Infantry as she then understood. that the said William Combs was in the service in the revolutionary war, under his said enlistment from the time above stated, continually, until the time of his death. She cannot state the battels or engagements he was in nor the country through which he marched in detail but she recollects that he was in the battle at, and burning of, "Brunts House" in the early part of the war in Stafford County in Virginia [probably Col. William Brent's house burned by Lord Dunmore, 16 Jul 1776; not a battle] and was in a number of other battles and engagements, which she cannot now name and that he was wounded or some way greatly injured while he was engaged with the troop in erecting or repairing some fort or breastwork, she is not positive which on the Potomac River in the year 1780 from which injury he never recovered. He was taken to an hospital from where he was injured where he remained until he died some time in the fall of 1780 as she was informed and believes. He never afterwards returned home. He was at home on furlough once or twice in the summer of 1777 a few days each time; and while at home she recollects to have heard him say his messmates at that time were John King Richard Simms [pension application S17083] and William Davis (whom she knew) and other but whom she does not recollect. She does not now know of any person living who served with her said husband, by whom she could prove his service from personal knowledge. She is informed and believes that all the persons are dead whom she knew to have had a personal knowledge of his service. If there are any yet living who knew of this service they are entirely unknown to this declarant

She further declares that she was married to the said William Combs on the fourth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy five before the commencement of the Revolutionary war in the County of Prince William in this State of Virginia by publication in the church by one Parson Scott. That her maiden name was Sarah Ann Million and that she never had but one child by her said husband who was called William Combs, Jr. who was born on the 11th

day of January in the year of our Lord 1777 which birth was seven or eight months as well as she now recollects, after her said husband entered the service. The said William Combs Jr. is now living in Russell county in the State of Virginia That her said husband the said William Combs as she is informed and believes died in the fall of the year 1780 as above stated, but on what day or in what month she cannot state never to her recollection having known. That she has remained a widow ever since the death of this said William Combs She further declares that she has not any family record of her age or marriage, or of the birth of her said son, nor does she know or believe that any record of her marriage exists and that if any such record was made in the church where she was married or by the said Parson Scott she is now ignorant of it and supposes it is not now in existence

She further declares she is not in possession of any documentary evidence of the said service of her said husband. That one William Wilson of Stafford County, Virginia attended to her business and drew some arrearages of pay due her said husband for his said service from the authorities of Virginia in the fall or winter of the year 1783. She believes the said William Wilson died many years ago in the State of Virginia. That since the death of her husband she has resided in Stafford County Virginia next in South Carolina, next in Russell County Virginia next in Montgomery County Kentucky and last in Edgar County Illinois where she now resides and has resided for the last six years, and yet remains the widow of the said William Combs, and has never since the death of this said William Combs intermarried with any other person, all of which will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed

Sarahann herXmark Combs

NOTES:

William Washington of Westmoreland County was a Captain in the 3rd Virginia Regiment of Foot and served as such mainly in the North. Later he was promoted to Colonel and commanded the 3rd Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons, mainly in the South.

On 29 March 1843 John Million, age 80 on the following May 10th, stated that his sister, Sarah Ann Combs, was born in Stafford County and lived there until her marriage to William Combs, a blacksmith, and that the parties were too poor to purchase a marriage license. He stated that Combs enlisted for the duration of the war, and "it was generally understood that he was killed or wounded at the battle of Brandywine" (11 Sep 1777).