

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Parsons R7981 Catharine Parsons VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Virginia Randolph County to wit

on this the thirteenth[?] day of December one thousand eight hundred and forty six, personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Randolph Catharine Parsons of Horseshoe settlement in the county of Randolph aged 84 years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of William Parsons who was a soldier of the revolution from the south Branch of the Potomac, Hardy County Virginia under Capt Adam Fisher and was a private in the service: That he entered the service of the United States some time in the year 17— and was in the service when Cornwallis surrendered [at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] and continued untill peace was made, but was engaged from the commencement of the war untill the final cessation of hostilities either as a soldier enlisted or as a member of a horse company, engaged in taking Tories. That this Declarant is under the impression her Husband received a discharge from the service and the same has been lost since his death. That she has no documentary evidence to adduce in support of her claim as her Husband neglected to apply for a pension in his lifetime, when proof of his surviving comrades could have been brought before the department and this declarant would here refer the department to the accompanying testimony of James Parsons as to his belief of his services in the army of the Revolution as aforesaid who were long acquainted with him and regarded him as a revolutionary soldier and to James Parsons who was present when this declarant was married to William Parsons.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Parsons on the 5th day of April 1785: that her husband the aforesaid William Parsons died on the 10th September 1829; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz at the time above stated: That there exist no record testimony of marriage.

Sworn to on the day and year aforesaid before me the undersigned justice of the Peace. Given under my hand.
Arnold Bonnifield JP

Also personally appeared James Parsons before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Randolph and made oath that he is the Brother of the above named William Parsons, spoken of in the proceeding Declaration: That he recolects distinctly of his Brother enlisting in the service of the United States, recolects hearing him tell upon his return from the war, all about the surrender of Cornwallis, the hardships they indured and many incidents connected with his service in the revolutionary war and knows from his own knowledge of his Brothers being engaged through the whole war, sometimes enlisted and at other times merely acting with a Company of Cavalry in taking spies, Tories &c and in protecting the defenceless at home. That he also recolects of being at his Brother William's wedding, who was married to Catharine Stoker on the 5th of April 1785, who has continued his Widow since his death on the 10th of September 1829 and the said Catharine Parsons who swore to the above Declaration is the widow of William Parsons deceased who is now a very old and frail old Lady. That her statements are entitled to full faith and credit.

Given under my hand the 3^d day of December 1846 Arnold Bonnifield JP

State of Virginia
County of Randolph

I James Parsons of said County and State aforesaid being first duely sworn make the following statement. I will be Seventy Nine years old on the 15th October this present month October 1851. I had a brother William Parsons who from my Fathers record was just 12 years older than myself that is he was born on the 15 day of October 1760 and I was born on the 15 day of October 1772 my Brother William

Parsons died some 20 years sine [since] I have heard him say that he was in the war with Great Britain viz the Revolutionary War I think under Captain Robert Cunningham and that he had served a tour under him probably against the indians I do not know when it was but think it was back. he told me that when he started from home that trip that he was a bout 16 years old. I think that was called Dunmores campain [sic: Lord Dunmore's War, which ended 19 Oct 1774]. he was also in the Service of the United States under Captain Adam Fisher Went from the South Branch and was at the taking of Cornwallis I can recollect of his leaving home this Tower and also the day that he returned home that the Inteligence had just reached of peace being made [sic] that there were a considerable gathering of People at my Fathers house when he got home waiting for his arrival. he was in this last sevice as a substitute for John Scott. I do further state that he was married to Catharine Stoker and that lived in this County a number of years and died leaving his said wife a widow and that she is still a widowe and has not been married since and that she is still living and that she is the same woman who was marrid to William Parsons.

Given under my hand this 7th day of october 1851 [signed] James Parsons
[before James W. Parsons, JP]

State of Virginia } Ss
Randolph County }

On this 11th day of October 1851 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in & for the county & state aforesaid Catharine Parsons a resident of the county & state aforesaid aged 90 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provission made by the act of congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows and the act of the 3^d of March 1843 granting pensions for one year and the act of June 17th 1844 extending the act of March March 3^d 1843 for the Term of four years to certain Widows. That she is the Widow of William Parsons who was a private in the war of the Revolution. That he served at two diferent periods The first Tour he went to the West in a company commanded by Capt Robert Cunningham – dont know who was the field officers but beleaves he was under Gen McIntosh [see endnote]. how long he was in service dont know. That he went from the County of Hampshire & state of Virginia – dont know whether he was drafted or volenteered – dont know battles he was in, when he left home or returned

The second Term of service he went in a company commanded by capt Adam Fisher dont know the name of the field offers nor how long he was in serve he went from the County of Hamshire aforesed he went as a substitute for John Scott was in the battle at York when Cornwallis was taken dont know when he went but reccollects that he did not return until peace was made.

she further declares that she was married to the said William Parsons on the 5th day of April 1785 That her husband the aforesaid William Parsons died on the 10th day of September 1829 That she was not marrid to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 Viz at the time above stated

sworn to and subscribed on the day & year above written That she has no documentary evidence in support of the claim Catherine herXmark Parsons

[Squire Bosworth, Justice of the Peace, certified that he had seen the above date of marriage in the family record of William Parsons.]

NOTES:

Gen. Lachlan McIntosh commanded the Western Department from 26 May 1778 until 5 March 1779.

The application was rejected for lack of proof that William Parsons served at least six months.