

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jonathan Sams R9168

f16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/9/12

[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 Wood County: SS

On this 13th day of November 1833 personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for Wood County & State of Virginia Jonathan Sams a resident Citizen of the County & State aforesaid 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 the 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated that as well as he recollects that about the 1st [?] day of March 1782 at Fort Decker [?]¹ on the Virginia side of the River Ohio not far from opposite to the place where Steubenville Ohio now stands about sixty miles below Fort Pitt he volunteered his service as an Indian Spy – & was placed under the command of Sergeant Jones affiant thinks his officer's name was Robert Jones affiant was engaged as Indian Spy under Sergeant Jones about 2 months & spied the Country up the River Ohio and in the neighborhood of Fort Decker & in Company with his fellow spies crossed the River Ohio a few miles below Fort Decker in pursuit of a party of Indians who had stolen property – horses &c declarant says the spies routed the Indians & took from them plunder [indecipherable word] afterwards at [several indecipherable words] about 5 or 6 miles from the Ohio River in the Northwest Country the spies then returned to Fort Decker affiant was then discharged by Sergeant Jones about the 2nd of May 1782 having served 2 months. Affiant again volunteered immediately to march into the Indian Country in Colonel Crawford's [William Crawford's] Campaign under Captain John Beeson [?]² subaltern officers names not recollected by affiant the Company rendezvoused at Horns Tavern on the road from Redstone to Cut fish Camp was then marched to Fort Decker – crossed the Ohio River from the Mingo bottom we marched principally through a wilderness Country to the place where the Brave Colonel Crawford was defeated the battle [Crawford's Defeat or the Battle of Sandusky, June 4-5, 1782] was hard fought on both sides affiant was engaged in the battle & the memorable retreat many officers & man were killed & taken prisoners among the latter was Colonel Crawford affiant served in this tour two months again in March 1783 in Monongahela County & State of Virginia Declarant again volunteered as an Indian Spy & was placed under Captain John Evans Lieutenant Saul Jenkins & was engaged in spying & defending the Country to wit the

¹ Decker

² Capt John Beeson

waters of Monongahela River Pappau [?] Creek, doctored Creek, Buffalo Creek &c. Affiant served on this tour to the best of his recollection about 3 months & was discharged at Pappau Creek by his Captain John Evans after having served 3 months in Monongalia County Virginia he has no documentary evidence of his service he knows of no person now living to prove his service – By there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood & he is unwilling at this time & cannot attend Court conveniently he hereby relinquishes any claims whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension list of any State whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid
S/ Jonathan Sams

Jonathan Sams

Declarant answers to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department

1. I was born in 1762 in Barkley [Berkeley] County Virginia
 - 2nd my age is registered in my father's Bible
 - 3rd I was living in Monongahela County Virginia when called into service since I have lived in Virginia. I now live in Wood County Virginia.
 - 4th I was a volunteer Indian Spy a private soldier
 - 5th I knew Colonel Crawford and Colonel McClelland, Major Harrison &c being an Indian Spy I know but few officers or the No. of Regts. Having served on the frontiers
 - 6 my discharges is lost long ago
 7. I am known to Peter Anderson Esquire and David Lee old men of the neighborhood to whom I refer and being personally Acquainted with me a long time can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.
- Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jonathan Sams

[Peter Anderson and David Lee gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Jonathan Sams – Applicant

I the undersigned Jonathan Sams in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my age and services as a soldier in the War of the Revolution. I shall be 73 years old on the *9th of November next* [text in italics is extremely faint and a pure guess], during the war of the Revolution I lived in Pennsylvania on the Monongahela River – I served one month at Deckers Fort on the Ohio River. I can't tell in what year this was whether before or after 1783 I can't say – I enlisted for [text too faint to discern] months, under the officer whose name [I] can't recollect – a Lieutenant Jones commanded at the Fort.

My next service was at Crawford's defeat – I volunteered and marched from the neighborhood [of] *Beeson town*, rendezvoused on Buffalo Creek, about 60 men marched to the Ohio River, crossed & marched [indecipherable word or words] Sandusky, where we had an engagement with the Indians and were defeated – Colonel Crawford commanded. He had 460 odd man – we had 2 or 3 killed – 2 or 3 wounded – on our retreat after the Battle on the 3rd day, Colonel Crawford was taken prisoner & burnt by the Indians. I was gone on this expedition 2 months – about 2 years after Crawford's defeat I was one month on station – and about 6 or 7 years after Crawford's defeat I was 3 months on station and then [text too faint to discern]. William L Mitchell wrote my Declaration. I told him the same high served with. I was 6 miles

from the County seat of Wood – Mitchell took me 12 miles to [indecipherable word or words] to my Declaration. I sent it to Captain Benjamin Mitchell Esquire. I agreed to give [text too faint to discern. In witness of all which I have subscribed my name December 23, 1834

S/ Jonathan Sams, X his mark

N. B. Crawford's defeat was in 1782.