

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of William Searcy (Searey) R9342 Sarah fn31NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 2/3/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

[fn p. 8]

State of North Carolina, Chatham County

On this 13th day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared before me Abraham Lane one of the Justices of the peace of the County and State aforesaid William Searcy a resident citizen of the County of Chatham and state aforesaid, aged seventy-eight years 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 7th, 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 a volunteer in the month of February in the year 1777 in Captain John Williams' Company of Light Horse from Granville County who were at the time he joined them at Chatham Court House together with the Militia of Granville under Colonel Taylor. The Militia of Orange County who together with some Continental Soldiers were under the immediate command of Colonel James Thaxton [James Thackston] of the Continental Line and who was a resident citizen of the said County of Orange, all of whom together with the Militia of Chatham County and in the command of Colonel Ramsey who afterwards joined us marched against a party of Royalist Tories embodied under their leader General McDonald who was then said to be on their March to Wilmington in this state: we marched to Fayetteville (then called Cross Creek) .The Royalists on their way to Wilmington at Moore's Bridge having been met and defeated by the American forces under the command of Governor Caswell and we being in their rear were enabled to pick off a number of the retreating party all of whom were disarmed and made prisoners immediately after this event the Militia from the several Counties as aforesaid were discharged. On my arrival home which was then on Deep River in Guilford County, I was ordered by the Colonel of my County to raise a company of Rangers for the purpose of suppressing the operation of the Tory party who were continually plundering and pillaging through this section of country and often butchering the then peaceful inhabitants. The company I soon raised and was appointed to the Command of the same the duties incumbent on such an appointment and at such a time was arduous and obtained with the most consummate danger and required the most active diligence, which I continued to perform in the Capacity of Captain until some time in August of the same year when I received an express from Colonel Martin the then Colonel of my County as aforesaid accompanied it with my Commission signed by Governor Caswell to March against the Cherokee Indians who were then committing depredations on the Western frontier of this state. I immediately obeyed the call, and now being fully clothed with Authority as Captain of my little band of volunteers we set out on this expedition. I marched to Salisbury to join the Main Army under

General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], but did not join that officer before they reached a place in the mountains where he crossed called Rutherford's Gap a few days after I joined the Army I was ordered back by General Rutherford to still discharge the same duties in my neighborhood, against the Tories: that I had formally done, and such was the consummate danger, I was hourly placed in that I continually on all occasions had to wear my weapons of War; in this situation I continued to live performing the duties as Captain as aforesaid until the spring of 1780 at which time I received information from Colonel John Colier [sic, John Collier] of Randolph County (a County taken off of the County of Guilford) in which I lived that I had been drafted together with the soldiers under my command to go against the British in South Carolina. I was ordered to join my Regiment under the command of Colonel Ramsey at General Caswell's Camp who was then stationed at or near Fayetteville. I accordingly done so, not many days after, we marched to Spruill's Ferry on Cape Fear [River] from thence to the upper edge of Cumberland County on Seals Creek then to Bull's old Fields near Randolph Court House then we marched to Moore's Store in Rowan County on the Yadkin River. At which place General Caswell received in express to join the Main Army under the Command of General Gates [Horatio Gates]. We recrossed the Yadkin and on our way to the Cheraw Hill in South Carolina was joined by General Rutherford's Troops near the Mask's Ferry on Pedee and at Cheraw Hill before our Army joined General Gates I was taken sick and was not able to perform duty. I was there left in command of the sick, of 25 men to take charge of some British prisoners I was ordered to guard them to Stantown [sic, Stanton] on Stanton River in Virginia but after a few days Journey found myself unable further to proceed with them I committed them to the charge of Captain John Arnold with directions to conduct them to Hillsborough. After many days I reached home in a very low stage of the fever which I had been attacked with while at Cheraw Hill. Finding myself here surrounded with Tories, who were every day threatening to take me prisoner to the British, my friends took me in to Granville County for safety until my health should be renewed, which after about two months, I was so far recovered as to be able to perform duty and set out immediately for my residence on Deep River for the purpose of collecting what men I could to act against the Tories. On my return I was confined with the small pox for a month or more and about the first of February in the year 1781 was forced to leave my home by the Tory party who had in that quarter become very strong and look for safety else where, at Chatham Courthouse fell in with a party of militia which had been hastily collected by General Ramsey who had previously been promoted from the grade of Colonel, to march against the British who after the defeat of general Gates were rapidly advancing into our state. After a few days stay at this place we made a circuitous route to Granville Court House and there joined General Eaton. We then marched with the whole Army upwards of 2000 in all to Hillsborough. We then took a circuitous route to Guilford Court House where we formed a Junction with General Greene's Army, and on the next morning the 15th of March 1781 took an active part in the memorable battle fought at that place by the two contending Armies. The next day after this event the militia under the command of General Ramsey were discharged at a place called the Troublesome Iron Works in Guilford County. On my way to Granville County, I was taken prisoner by a party of Loyalist commanded by a British officer and paroled and never afterwards joined the Army, having served as Captain in all about three years in the revolutionary War.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any state whatsoever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Searcy

State of North Carolina, Chatham County

On this day personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, William Searcy, who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age

and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: for two years and Eleven months I served as a Captain: for two months I served as a common soldier in the Dragoons and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day January 1832.

S/ William Searcy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Searcy". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some loops and flourishes.

State of North Carolina, Chatham County

In conformity to an act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, William Searcy a citizen of said County was duly sworn and subscribed to the annexed declaration for the purpose of obtaining a pension whereupon I Abraham Lane a justice of said County propounded the following interrogatories 1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: On the 27th of May he 1754 in Granville County North Carolina

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have it now at home

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: I was living on Deep River at a place called Searcy Ford, then Guilford County. I have uniformly lived at and near the same place; and am now living in Chatham County within 2 ½ miles of the place where I was living in the revolutionary War commenced.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: I entered the service a volunteer

5th 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.

Answer: I was well acquainted with Colonel James Thaxton [James Thackston] with Captain Jesse Steed, Colonel Mebane and others. The names or numbers of the regiments I do not now recollect. The general circumstances of my service are embodied in my declaration.

6th Did you ever receive a commission; and if so by whom was it assigned; and what has become of it?

Answer: I did receive a Captain's Commission signed by Governor Caswell and in March 1781 my House was plundered by the Tories under the command of a notorious leader Fannon [sic, David Fanning] at which time the whole of my personal effects was destroyed or taken by them together with my commission.

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

Answer: I am well known in my neighborhood by all the respectable part of society, viz. Nicholas Nall, James Gaines, James Johnston, Reverend Enoch Spinks and many others some of home all well acquainted with my service as a soldier of the revolutionary We war and all will testify to my character as being a man of truth and veracity.

S/ William Searcy

[Enoch Spinks, a clergyman, and resident of Randolph County, and James Johnston gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 15]

State of North Carolina Randolph County

I Nicholas Nall¹ of the County of Moore and State aforesaid do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with William Searcy who made the declaration hereunto annexed for the purpose of obtaining a pension in conformity to an act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832. That I will served with him in part of his servitude in the revolutionary War, that we then lived within ten miles of each other, I am knowing to a ~~great part~~ of the incidents set forth in his declaration, as performed by himself and others, that we frequently acted in concert with each other, which afforded a good opportunity of knowing what was done by him. That these facts stated by him which did not come under my notice I believe to be true.

And I do further certify that the said William Searcy is a man of truth and veracity, and is generally believed and reputed a soldier of the revolution in the neighborhood where he lives.

Sworn to and subscribed before me John K Armistead one of the Justices of the peace of the County and state aforesaid this 11th of August 1832.

S/ John K Armistead, JP

S/ Nicholas Nall



[fn p. 4: On July 10, 1845 in Chatham County North Carolina, Sarah Searcy, 84, applied for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of the late William Searcy; that she was married to him on March 30th, 1779 in Guilford County North Carolina; that her husband died October 20, 1841; and in support of her claim she submits the Bible record in the handwriting of her husband.]

[fn p. 3: family record:

Sarah Searey [sic] wife of William was born September the 11th 1760

Mary Searey was born January the 15th 1780

Peter Searey was born February the 6th 1782

Elisabeth Searey was born February the 5th 1784

Cary Searey was born November the 19th 1787

Aaron Searey was born May the 7th 1790

Sarah Searey was born March the 12th, 1793

¹ [Nicholas Nall R7552](#)