

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Skeen R9630

Sarah Skeen

f12NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/17/11 rev'd 10/8/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Virginia, to wit: At a Court of Quarterly Sessions continued and held for Russell County, at the Courthouse, on Wednesday the 9th day of August 1848

On this 9th Day of August, 1848, the declaration of Sarah Skeen applicant for a pension, certified to have been taken before James Dickenson a Justice of the Peace for this County, the said Dickenson's certificate thereof: the deposition of Jonathan Skeen and Susannah Harding in relation thereto, taken before Harvey Gray a Justice of the Peace of said County, and said Gray's certificate thereof; – the deposition of Dilly Bloomer, taken before George Cowan a Justice of the peace for said County in relation thereto, and as certified by said Cowan; and the certificate of the Clerk of Caswell County, North Carolina signed A. Slade, that no marriage bond of Peter Skeen and Sarah Sergeant was on file in his office, – were presented and read in open Court for the approval of the Court, and in the words and figures following, to wit:

"Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 4th day of July 1836: State of Virginia, Russell County to wit: On this 20th day of January 1847, personally appeared before the subscriber, James Dickenson, a Justice of the Peace for the County and State aforesaid, Sarah Skeen, aged eighty-five, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed the 4th day of July 1836: – That her maiden name was Sarah Sergeant, that on the 15th day of October in the year 1779 she intermarried with one Peter Skeen; that they were married in Caswell County, North Carolina; that she and her husband remained in that County six years after their marriage, and then removed to South Carolina and remained and lived there about thirteen years, and then moved to this County of Russell and State of Virginia where they remained. That her said husband died at his own residence in this County on the 10th day of March 1826. She further states that her husband was a private in the war of the revolution and as such served three, if not four tours, in the North Carolina line. His first was for six months under Colonel Murphy or Colonel William Moore: he was under both these men, but it is impossible for this applicant to say which Colonel he was first under. Her said husband served also 23 months tours afterwards and applicant thinks in those tours he was also under one of the above named colonels and he also went a tour of some 5 or 6 weeks down on Cragg's Creek below Hillsboro: applicant cannot say now what Captain he was under; she may have heard him say, but she cannot now remember, nor can she now name what General he served. She has heard him say that he was in the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779], and he was also in the Battle in which General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was killed [Davidson was killed at the Battle of Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781], and she thinks she has heard him speak of other battles

which he cannot now mention. The first tour above mentioned was in the year 1780, the 2nd in the year 81, the 3rd in the year 1782. Applicant says she has remained a widow ever since her said husband's death, and is now poor and needy. She further says she is quite feeble and unable to get to the Courthouse a distance of 15 miles bad roads. Sworn and subscribed on the day and year above written, before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace as aforesaid

S/ Sarah Skeen

S/ James Dickenson, JP"

"Virginia, Russell County, to wit: – Be it known, that on this 21st day of January 1847, Jonathan Skeen appeared before Harvey Gray the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, and being duly according to law deposed and saith, that he is eighty-two years old, and that he is the brother of Peter Skeen, the husband of the applicant; that he had two brothers in the Revolutionary War from Caswell County North Carolina, Peter and James: that as he now remembers they served three tours each, and witness says that his father Jonathan also substituted one Josiah Shoemaker for one tour for his brother Peter. Witness further says that as to Peter's Services, he served in the first place one tour of six months, and afterwards to more tours of three months each. The first tour was in 1779 under Colonel Moore or Colonel Saunders, and the second and third, were in 1780 & 1781 as witness now remembers. In witness cannot now say under what Colonel the second and third tours were under, unless it was under the above named colonels. Witness says, that in one of the tours Peter was a mounted horseman, and he and many others lost their horses – they were taken from them by the British. Witness was not in the war himself, but he has understood that Peter was in the battle of Stono [March 3, 1779] as they called it, in the battle of Mulberry Fields, in the battle of Tarrant's lane¹ and others. Witness says, Peter was 12 or 14 years older than himself; that Peter was lawfully married on the 15th of October 1779 to the present applicant Sarah Skeen (then Sarah Sergeant) in the County of Caswell North Carolina by Esquire Douglass – remained there some 5 or 6 years, then went to South Carolina and remained there some 12 or 13 years, and then removed to the County of Russell & State of Virginia, where he remained till his death in 1826. After Peter's death he left the present applicant Sarah Skeen his widow, who has remained a widow ever since.

S/ Jonathan Skeen

[p 7: Susannah Harden, 84, testified that she is the sister of Peter Skeen; that she recalls her brothers Peter and James were in the war of the revolution; both went several tours; that she was present on October 15, 1779 when her brother Peter married Sarah Sergeant; that they were married by Esquire Douglass of Caswell County; that her brother James died before her brother Peter.]

[p 8: Dilly Bloomer, 80, testified that she was a native of Caswell County North Carolina; that she resided in the same neighborhood with Peter Skeen; that she was intimately acquainted with Sarah Sergeant from their infancy; that Sarah was the daughter of Stephen Sergeant; that she, Dilly, was the daughter of Benjamin South.]

[p 11: On June 8, 1848 in Caswell County North Carolina, Abisha Slade, clerk of the court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for Caswell County gave testimony that there is no marriage bond in

¹ Tarrant's Lane or Tarrant's Tavern February 1, 1781.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html

his office for the marriage of Peter Skeen to Sarah Sargent.]