

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Sleet R9658

Rachel

f31VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/5/12

[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 Kentucky Mercer County: SS

On this 14th day of August 1833 personally appeared before me Nelson Mays – a Justice of the Peace and one of the Judges of the Mercer County Court, James Sleet a resident of the County of Mercer and State of Kentucky aged eighty-one 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the year 1777 as well as he can recollect he entered the Army under Captain Thomas Barbour of Orange County Virginia and marched to Bottoms Bridge and served a Tour of three months and was discharged he does not recollect the name of the Colonel that commanded nor the number of the Regiment. Again in the same year he entered the Army under Captain James Hawkins and marched to the lower part of the State of Virginia, he recollects Colonel Matthews commanded the Regiment. This was a Tour of six months and he was a regular sergeant during the whole Tour, and was honorably discharged he cannot recollect the place where the Army was stationed. Again in the year 1779 or 80, he acted as Wagon Master and was backwards and forwards from the Albemarle Barracks towards Hampton & Norfolk in the lower part of the State of Virginia. He served in this capacity fully nine months. He was honorably discharged and being greatly fatigued he returned home to rest. In the year 1780 or '81, he was drafted again and entered the Army under Captain Charles Bruce and marched from Richmond and assisted in protecting the Citizens from the depredations which were daily commanded by Colonel Tarleton's and Simcoe's Regiments of Horse. This was a tour of three months during which he acted as duty sergeant and was honorably discharged and returned home, and in the spring of the year 1781 – as well as he can recollect news came that Lord Corn Wallace [Cornwallis] was marching from the Carolinas towards Virginia and he was drafted for a tour of six months in Orange County and joined the main Army in Captain George Waugh's Company under the command of General Washington and marched for Little York & Williamsburg where Lord Cornwallis was encamped we immediately commenced the siege and our company except those detailed to work on the entrenchments was attached to Colonel Mercer's Regiment, during which time we had several skirmishes with the enemy, and after the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] our Company under the command of Captain Waugh was detailed to assist in guarding the Prisoners to the Albemarle Barracks, the surrender of Lord Cornwallis close the war of the Revolution, during this tour of 6 months, he acted as Captain Waugh's orderly sergeant.

He further states that he knows of no person living in this Country by whom he can prove his services he received regular discharges for all his tours, but upon his removal from the State

of Virginia to this Country they were lost or mislaid. He is fully convinced that he served a much longer time and he sets forth in his declaration, but having been severely afflicted with the dead palsy for about seven years, and has been unable to walk a step without assistance for that length of time, his recollections of occurrences during his services in the War of the Revolution is fatally impaired as well as his strength, but he solemnly declares that he served fully the time set forth in his foregoing declaration and upwards. He further states that owing to his severe affliction he is unable to attend Court to make Oath to his foregoing declaration – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.

S/ N. Mays, JP M. C.

S/James Sleet, X his mark

[Jesse Head, a clergyman, Thomas McCartin and Edward Willis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 9: On November 5th [?] 1838, Rachel Sleet a resident of Washington County, 97 years of age, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of James Sleet, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in the month of October or November 1789; that she has no knowledge of any family record of her marriage; that her husband died July 26, 1834. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 10: On November 5, 1838 in Washington County Kentucky, Patsy Coyle gave testimony that she is the daughter of James Sleet and the step daughter of Rachel Sleet; that she well recollects the marriage of Rachel to her father in the fall of 1789; and that her father died July 26, 1834. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[f p. 13: On November 13, 1838 in Owen County Kentucky, Sally Thorton, 58, gave testimony that she is the daughter of James Sleet and the stepdaughter of Rachel Sleet, his widow; that she knows their marriage took place in the fall of the year 1789; that she was not at the wedding; that his father and stepmother returned the day after their wedding and her father introduced her stepmother to all his children.

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[f p. 8: Certificate dated November 26, 1839 by the clerk of the Culpeper County Virginia court certifying that records in his office show that James Sleet and Rachel White were married December 6, 1791 by William Mason a Minister of the gospel.]

[f p. 16: Affidavit given in October court 1840 in Mercer County Kentucky by Reuben Coyle & Joel J. Nickler that Rachel Sleet departed this life December 25, 1838 in the County of Washington Kentucky survived only by Patsy Coyle, wife of James Coyle.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & sergeant in the Virginia service; one year as a sergeant and 6 months as a private.]