

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Sparks R9959

Lucy

f34VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/22/12

[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 County of Owen: Sct.

On this 7th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Owen County Court now sitting Henry Sparks a resident of the said County and State aged 79 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 is to say he mustered into the service of the United States in the revolutionary war in the month of April as well as he now remembers in the year 1778 as a private soldier and drafted militia man under Captain James Clark – upon a six months Tour – that he rendezvoused with his Company at the Courthouse in Madison County Virginia – in which County he resided at the time he entered the service as aforesaid – that there was another company rendezvoused at the same time and place under Captain Richard Yancy [Richard Yancey] – that the two companies came under the command of Colonel James Barbour and were marched by him from their place of rendezvous and joined the Brigade under the command of General Edward Stevens of Culpeper County Virginia and the whole of the force then marched into North Carolina in the vicinity of the Cheraw Hills – that they remained in North Carolina until the expiration of their Tour of six months as aforesaid – that during said time the diseases of that climate made appearance in the Army and killed a great many of the soldiers – that there was not much over one half of the two companies that went from Madison County of which this declarant's was one were alive at the termination of their said Tour to return home – that at the expiration of his said Tour of six months having fully and faithfully served the same he was discharged verbally and returned to his residence in Madison County where he lived when he mustered into the service as aforesaid.

He further states and declares that he on the __day of March 1780 according to his best recollection he again mustered into the service of the United States in the war of the revolution as a private soldier being a drafted militia man upon a tour of three months under the command of Captain Edward Terrill – that he rendezvoused upon this Tour at a Ford on the Rapidan River. That there was a full Regiment of militia rendezvoused at the same time and place including this declarant's Company and Colonel James Barbour took the command of them – that from their said place of rendezvous they were marched toward the Chesapeake Bay in order to meet and repel some British Troops who were landing from vessels in Virginia and after they had marched some distance on their route they received intelligence that the British had re-embarked and left the coast and they returned to Madison County and were kept in readiness during the whole period of their said Tour to March at a moment's warning to any point where their services might be required but they were not afterwards marched from the said County till the expiration of their

period of service and when he is in next tour of duty had expired, he this declarant was again verbally discharged and returned to his time in the said County of Madison where he resided when called into service upon this last Tour.

He further states and declares that from the great lapse of time his old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear directly and positively as to the dates or particular length of time when he served but from his best recollection he served not less than nine months as a private militia soldier in the revolution viz.: six months under Captain James Clark and 3 months under Captain Edward Terrill at the times above stated. He further states that he has no documentary evidence whatever of his said services and that he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his said service.

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 in the Union.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Sparks

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Sparks". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered below the typed name.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court to the above applicant

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Culpeper and State of Virginia on the 16th day of June 1753 according to the best information which I have on the subject.

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

Answer. I have a record of my age at home in my Bible –

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 in the County of Madison & State of Virginia when I entered the service upon each of my Tours and continued in Madison County till 1795 when I moved to the County of Franklin Kentucky and from thence I moved in 1800 to the place where I now live and have continued thereon ever since.

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

Answer. I was a drafted militia man upon each tour of duty which I performed.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I do not recollect that there were any regular troops with General Stevens. I recollect to have seen upon that tour General Stevens, Colonel Barbour, Captain Clarke under whom I served we marched upon that tour into North Carolina and there served till the expiration of the Tour and then returned at the crossing of a River the name of which I have forgotten at a Ford called the broad Ford (upon the return of the troops) Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] was in pursuit and came up just as the troops had effected a passage across the River – upon this tour great mortality prevailed in the Army from disease. Upon the second tour I served only in the single militia Regiment of which Colonel Barbour had the command. I recollect Captains ___ of that Regiment besides my own Captain.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I never did receive a discharge in writing from the service.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I will name Thomas V. Bruce, Henry Smither & John Bourn as persons of my neighborhood to whom I am not.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Sparks

[Thomas V. Bruce, a clergyman, and John Bourn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9: On May 29, 1839 in Owen County Kentucky, Mrs. Lucy Sparks, 78, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Henry Sparks, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married her husband sometime in the year 1776 in the County of Culpeper state of Virginia; that her husband died August 14, 1836; that she was born in Virginia in 1760 or 1761 she has no record of her age; she signed her application with her mark.]

[p 11: On May 29, 1839 in Owen County Kentucky Alexander Sparks gave a supporting affidavit stating that Henry Sparks died August 14, 1836 and that Lucy Sparks is his widow. He signed his name A. J. Sparks [could be A. I. Sparks. His relationship to the veteran is not stated]

[p 8: family record:

Elizabeth Sparks was Born September 23 Day 1777

James Sparks was born December 11th Day 1779

Anthony Sparks was born January 7th Day 1781

William Sparks was born February 5th Day 1785

Tho^{ms} Sparks was born August 11th Day 1787 [probably, Thomas Sparks]

Mary Sparks was born December 14th Day 1790

Reubin Sparks was born September 30th Day 1792 [very faint could be 1793]

[Facts in file: In 1836 one John Clark aged 72 gave testimony in Christian County Kentucky that he witnessed the marriage of Henry Sparks and Lucy Sparks and that after their marriage Lucy went to his (John Clark's) father's house and remained there until her husband returned from his service in the revolutionary war. His relationship if any to Lucy is not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia.]