

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Sympson (Simpson) S15669

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Kentucky Green County Sct.

On this 17th day of March 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Green County court now sitting William Sympson a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 67 years on the 25th day of October 1833 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 1830.

He states that he entered the service of the United States in Sullivan County State of North Carolina in the latter part of October in the year 1781. That he entered the service in the militia commanded by Colonel Arthur Campbell and served in Captain John Loony's Company, that the term of his service was for three months and that he entered into service and served as a substitute in the room and stead of his father Henry Sympson who to the best of his recollection had been drafted to serve in the militia under the officers above named for the term of 3 months, that after he had entered into service as above stated he marched against the Cherokee Indians from Sullivan County 40 or 50 miles and made a short stay there until the whole of Colonel Campbell's troops were collected, from there he marched with the Troops on the South West side of the French Broad River & there joined Colonel [name written through and illegible]¹ commonly called Sevier and his troops from thence across the main Tennessee River into the Cherokee Towns, at the time the Army crossed the Tennessee River Colonel Campbell & Colonel [same name written through and again illegible] called Sevier marched up the River & Colonel Campbell under whom said Sympson served marched down the River passing through the Indian Country and killing some of the enemy daily, but finding no large number of Indians embodied, the two divisions of the Army met again at an Indian Town called Tellico and made a stand there several weeks; detachments from the Army reconnoitering the Country daily & killing the enemy, part of the Army then left Tellico marched through the Indian Country visited some of their towns and then returned to Tellico; the term of said Sympson's service was for three months which time he served and was then set at liberty at Tellico, but had no written discharge.

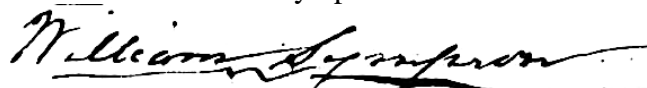
That in the latter part of October in the year 1782 he again entered the service in Sullivan County North Carolina for a tour of 3 months under the command of Captain Moses Cavit [Moses Cavett] in the militia commanded by Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby], that he marched under the commanders aforesaid against the British & Tories, through North Carolina across the Allegheny mountains and thence into South Carolina, crossed the Santee River and joined General Marion's [Francis Marion's] Army, from there they marched through different parts of the Country but was in no engagement of note, he was however at the taking of a Fortification near Moncks Corner in which there were 93 men & 3 women whom they may prisoners & burnt the Fortification, he entered this tour for 3 months but he served three months & a half and was discharged verbally in the big swamps of Santee River at General Marion's headquarters.

In the year 1783 he entered the service again in the County of Sullivan and State of Tennessee the state boundaries having been changed so as to include Sullivan County in the State of Tennessee [sic, NC, the state of Tennessee was not established until 1796], that he entered the service as an Indian spy in the month of July and served as an Indian spy one month, this service was rendered in the Country West of Beans Station, that he served out the term of one month as an Indian spy under the orders of Colonel Thomas Hutchins but had no written discharge, that he served this tour as a Substitute for John Clendennen.

That he entered the service again in Sullivan County Tennessee in September 1783 under the command of Captain Thomas Vincent in the militia commanded by General Joseph Martin, that he was drafted for three months and rendezvoused near where Knoxville now stands in Tennessee, from thence he marched through the Indian country to the lookout mountain's, and there a battle took place with the Indians & he fought in said battle Captain Vincent was wounded and rendered unfit for service during that expedition, he served out the tour of three months but had no written discharge.

The said Sympson further states that he has a record of his age and according to that record he was born on the 25th day of October in the year 1766, that he was born in the State of Pennsylvania, & when called into service he lived in Sullivan County State of North Carolina & in the State of Tennessee, that he moved to Kentucky in the year 1795 and in the fall of 1796 he moved to Green County Kentucky where he has resided ever since – That during 2 of the tours above named he served as a Substitute once for his father and once for a Mr. Clendennen – he was drafted the other tours, & served as a private soldier each time. That he served in the militia & had no personal acquaintance with any of the regular officers, he has no documentary evidence of his services, he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written – and knows of no person by whom he can prove any part of his said service except Thomas white & Margret White whose affidavits are hereto annexed.

S/ William Sympson



[p 9]

State of Kentucky Monroe County, to wit

Be it known that on this 17th day of October 1833 Thomas White of said County came before me Allen Gee a Justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law that he was 78 years of age on the 25th day of December last agreeable to the best recollection he has of his age and that he was well acquainted with William Sympson of Green

County Kentucky who is about to apply to the government of the United States for a pension he states that he lived in the State of North Carolina near the long islands of Holston River which has since been the State of Tennessee Sullivan County and lived a neighbor to William Sympson at the time he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary war. He states that William Sympson and himself volunteered and entered the service of the United States in the Militia under Captain Cavit [Moses Cavett] sometime in the fall of the year but cannot recollect year nor month he states they marched to South Carolina where they joined General Francis Marion near the Swamps of Santee and served two months he states that when he left the Army to return home he left William Sympson in the Service he was not present when Sympson was discharged he returned home and some time afterwards Sympson returned he does not know at what time he was discharged nor the precise time he served he knows however that he served two months. He states that Colonel Blacher [sic, possibly a reference to Lt. Col. Anthony Bledsoe²] and Genl. [?] Shelby commanded the troops from North Carolina in which himself and William Sympson served. He states that sometime after the service of himself and Sympson as above stated had been rendered they again volunteered in the militia under Captain Vincent and went a trip against the Indians in the Hiwassee country he does not recollect how long they served nor does he recollect the year or month he states that said Sympson and himself served the time out for which they volunteered and returned home in company together he states that they were living neighbors and at the same place at the time the that they served against the Indians they were when they served in South Carolina. Sworn to and subscribed before [me] the date above.

S/ Allen Gee, JP

S/ Thomas White, X his mark

[p 12: On October 17, 1833 in Monroe County Kentucky, Margret White gave testimony in before Allen Gee, JP, that she is 64 years old as of the 3rd of January last; that she is the sister of William Sympson of Green County Kentucky; that she knows of his service in the revolution when he went on the trip to Hiwassee against the Indians and afterwards of a trip to South Carolina.]

[p 14: Johnson Grayham, a clergyman and James Scott gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

² Bledsoe is known to have served in 1781 under Col. Isaac Shelby in the Sullivan County, NC militia and was possibly with Shelby when he took troops into SC to serve under Francis Marion in 1781.