

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jonathan Seamands S1588

f27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/23/12

[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 Tennessee County of Jefferson: SS

On this 9th day of March 1833 personally appeared before me Jacob Gear one of the acting justices of the peace for the County aforesaid Jonathan Seamands a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-six years who being 1st 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 day 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein Stated – That he enlisted as a minute man under Captain Francis Taylor William Taylor 1st Lieutenant Benjamin Porter 2nd Lieutenant Herndon [perhaps John or Zachariah Herndon] Ensign first name not recollected and the next day after he joined the Company at Orange Court House from thence he marched to New Kent Court House and there was transferred and fell under Captain Fountain Subalterns not recollected thence we marched to long bridge and joined the Army there commanded by General Woodford, there we staid 3 weeks and was then discharged he thinks he was in the service 6 weeks he does not recollect on what day of the month nor year he entered the service nor what day he was discharged, but he received a written discharge from Captain Fountain [perhaps Captain John or William Fontaine] but has lost or mislaid it and all the rest of his discharges that he can't find them – In September 1778 [could be 1776] he enlisted under Captain Francis Taylor Lieutenant William Taylor Benjamin Porter the same mentioned above for the term of two years in the County of Orange from thence he marched to Williamsburg and joined the Army there commanded by General Woodford mentioned above from there he marched to the mouth of Queens Creek, where there was about six thousand men stationed, and there stayed a short time and was ordered to Guinns Island [Gwynn's Island], Stayed there about 2 or 3 weeks then marched up to College Camp and remained at the three last mentioned places back and forwards till the Camp Fever got amongst them and then the Regiment was broken up which Regiment he thinks was commanded by Colonel Temple and those that were able were furloughed and went home he was amongst that number and before he had recovered his health he was ordered to march to Dumfries to the inoculated for the Small Pox [smallpox] and on the way he found himself unable to proceed further and hired a Substitute in his place and returned home after being in the service fourteen months as well as he now recollects – After he returned he removed to the County of Albemarle State of Virginia and not withstanding he had a substitute in the regular service he was drafted and called into service under Captain John Miller Lieutenant Henry Birk [probably Henry Burke] Ensign Ralph Rogers he rendezvoused at a little town called Charlottesville – and from there marched to pointed fork and there was commanded by Major Boyce from thence marched to Petersburg and on our way fell in with a foraging party of the British and had a little Skirmish in

which one of our men was wounded and two of the enemy killed and three taken prisoners after staying some time in Petersburg we marched to Richmond and after remaining there some time we marched back to pointed fork and was there discharged by Captain Miller after remaining in service two months and thirteen days and after he returned home he remained till spring and then was ordered out to build Barracks for Burgoyne's Troops and then served two months at hard labor building what was afterwards called the Albemarle Barracks then went home and remained there until winter and then was drafted again under the service on New Year's day thence marched to Potomac in order to guard Burgoyne's troops to the Albemarle Barracks and met Burgoyne's troops then prisoners at home and guarded the Prisoners to the Albemarle Barracks commanded by James Cosce [?] Captain, Major Burton Lieutenant under Major Thomas Barbour and then was discharged, on the first day of next March after remaining two months in the service. After remaining some time at home he was drafted and fell under Captain Richard Webb Lieutenant William Smith and marched down to Richmond and joined the Brigade under Brigadier General Muhlenberg and remained about Richmond and was frequently in scouting parties sometimes drove the enemy and sometimes were driven by them this was the base for some time and then we started from Richmond under Captain Pennywilt [?] a regular Captain and scouting parties and in an old field met with a party of the enemy and had a skirmish in which he received a bayonet through the inside of his thigh and was wounded and the Americans drove the British from the field and then returned to Richmond and marched to Bottoms Bridge below Richmond and there camped for the night and then marched back to Richmond and camped for the night and on the next morning was drawn up in battle array for nothing, separated the enemy from us but James River some cannons were fired at the enemy across the River but nothing done and then we left Richmond, and marched 4 or 5 days to meet General Wayne where we met at Brock's Bridge and from Brock's bridge we marched to Petersburg and there was stationed for a while and then received orders to march to James Town, which we did, we arrived there about 1 o'clock in the afternoon and marched to the top of a high hill I then belonged to a Rifle Regiment commanded by Colonel Blackwell which Regiment was ordered in front to meet the enemy who were marching to meet us all at once we were commanded to advance from the center to the flanks and give place to General Wayne's Brigade which we did a brisk firing ensued many were killed and many wounded the battle continued till darkness separated the combatants a retreat was ordered and we marched three miles and camped for the night 1 or 2 hours before day we were called to arms and marched back to the battleground our enemy were gone we next marched to goods Bridge in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis and his men the Bridge being partly burnt and partly taken up, the pursuit here ended thence we marched to York Town 16 or 18 days before the Surrender of Cornwallis and remained there some few days and then were ordered up to West Point to cross the River which we did and went down to paradise old fields we laid a few days there and one day was ordered to take off and clean and grease our gun locks while at it the British came upon us in a mighty hurry took place but we drew them drove them down to their entrenchments at Gloucester and there I was discharged and went home after being in service 2 months and 10 days on our way home we heard of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] after I got home there was a declaration put out that if any man would Cooper two months he would be exempted from a tower [tour] of duty I turned in and made flour barrels two months steady and boarded myself and further saith that he has no documentary Evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. State

the name of persons to whom you are acquainted and that can testify to your veracity. Answer Ephraim More, and Thomas Gibbs

S/ Jonathan Seamands, X his mark

[Ephraim Moore and Thomas Gibbs gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories

1st where and in what year were you born Ansr. In Caroline County State of Virginia on the Rappahannock River in the year of our Lord 1757 according to the best information I can get on the subject. 2nd have you any record of your age and if so where is it Ansr. No I have no record of my age 3rd where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live Ansr. When I was called into the Service I was living in Orange County Virginia and continued in that County until I returned from my fourteen months service as a regular Soldier and then removed into Albemarle County Virginia and continued in these two counties back and forward until the date 1804 [?] and then removed back into Orange County Virginia and continued there about one year and then removed back again to Albemarle County Virginia and then continued until the date 1806 and from there I removed to Jefferson County East Tennessee where I now live 4th How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for home Ansr. I enlisted as it was then turned as a private man and afterwards enlisted for the term of 2 years but did not serve but 14 months and afterwards was drafted several times 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 Ansr. I cannot tell whether the officers that I now recollect were Regular Officers or not as it was then enough for me to know whom to obey but I remember General Woodford, Colonel Temple, Major Boyce Major Barbour, General Muhlenberg and Colonel Blackwell and General Wayne and when I was at York Town I saw General Washington and the French General Lafayette I remember the 2nd Virginia Regiment and for general Circumstances I refer to my travels in my declaration 5th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it Ansr. I received several discharges one for every term of service I served From the before mentioned captains under whom I served They were all lost or destroyed so that I cannot get them for I never took any care of them as I never expected them to be of any use to me. 6th did you ever receive any Commission Anrs. Know I served as a private 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood and who can testify as to your Character for Veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution Ansr. It from Moore and Thomas Gibbs

With regard to two months tower of duty at the Albemarle barracks the Applicant served under Captain Ambrose Madison and Colonel Taylor and he lived in and into the service at that time in the County of Albemarle State of Virginia –

In reference to one of the points to which the Applicant is called relative to the support of the 14 months service as a regular Soldier he says in addition to what has been already said that he has nor does he know of any person living that he could prove this Service by but thinks it most likely that his name has been spelled on the roll Simmons in the place of Seamands as Simmons is the name that he has usually answer to but in truth his name is Seamands when he entered the under Captain Taylor he received \$4 bounty money. As to the different times when he entered the service and at times when he was discharged he can say no more than he has said he was an imperfect scholar and kept no record of either and is very frail in memory and feeble and health.

S/ Jonathan Seamands, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months & 5 days in the Virginia service.]