

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Sweger (Swiger) S15998
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

PA

State of Virginia }
Harrison County } Ss.

On this 14th day of December in the year 1833 personally appeared before Charles Lewis an acting Justice of the County Court of Harrison John Swiger, a resident of Coons run in said County and state aforesaid aged seventy four years, who being first 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 – 1st That he was born in Louden [sic: Loudoun] County Virginia on the 25th day of April in the year 1759 that he afterwards mooved into the state of Pennsylvania, Fayette County, that he was drafted in the year seventy seven under Capt Jonathan Paradocks (or Paddox) who was a commissioned Captain stationed at Jacksons Fort Green Co. [sic: Greene County] that he served under him for three months as an Indian Spy, that he was in no engagement while under Paddox. That he was only drafted for one month at a time, that he got a discharge at the end of every month. That he then was drafted for one month at a time under Capt John Moore who succeeded Paddox as Capt at Jacksons fort which was where Waynesburg now stands, Green Co. that he served two months under More and got a discharge at the end of each month. That he was drafted in 78 for one month at a time under Capt Henry Mires [possibly Henry Myers or Henry Meyers], that he served one year under Capt Henry Mires who succeeded capt More as Capt at Jacksons Fort aforesaid. That he had no engagements during the whole service other than Indian scouts and scrimages That he was in close forting for seventeen months. That he has no documentary evidence of his service, and that he knows of no person in this country who can testify to his services.

That he followed no civil pursuit while in the service

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state or Territory.

Interrogatories propounded by the Justice to the applicant

1. Where and in what year were you born. Answer. I was born in Loudon County in the state of Virginia on the 25th of April in the year 1759. – 2^d Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it. Answer. No. 3^d Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live. Answer. I was living in Fayette County Pennsylvania when called into the service, after the Revolutionary war I moved into Harrison County Virginia where I have ever since lived and where I now live. 4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you enlist, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom. Answer. I was drafted. 5. State the names of some of the officers who were with troops where you served, such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your Service. Answer. There were no regular officers where I served nearer than Pittsburg and there I was not acquainted with, there were no state militia other than those stationed at Jacksons fort and Jarretts fort which was on Whitely [sic: Whiteley] Creek Green County Pa these forts were 10 or 12 miles apart, and all the people that were in the Country were forted in them for the mutual defence of the Country against the Indians &c – 6. 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 got a discharge from the service but have since lost it. 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as an Indian Spie and soldier of the Revolution. Answer I am known to Israel Shinn, Judge Duncan and John Allen who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my revolutionary services. Sworn to and subscribed this 14th day of December in the year 1833.

John hisXmark Sweger

[Sweger's application was returned for amendment probably because drafted militia tours were seldom for more than a few months each.]

The State of Virginia }
Harrison County } Ss.

On this 23^d day of January 1834 personally appeared before John B. Lawe an Acting Justice of the Court of Harrison John Sweger a resident of Coons run in said County and State aforesaid aged 74 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 7, 1832.

1 That he was born in Loudon County Virginia on the 25th of April 1759. That his Father mooved into the state of Pennsylvania in his 18th year, that he lived in the State of Pennsylvania when called into service, that since the Revolutionary war he has mooved into this County and that he has lived here ever since. That he was drafted on the first of March 1777 and served for 3 months as an Indian Spie and scouter under Capt Jonathan Paddox, who was a Captain Commissioned by Competent authority and stationed at Jacksons fort in Green County Pa, that he was only drafted for but one month at a time under Paddox, that he months he served under Paddox were March, April and May. That he was drafted for one month at a time under Capt John Moore who was commissioned Capt and who succeeded Capt Paddox as Capt at Jacksons fort aforesaid (where Waynesburg now stands) that the months he served under Moore were June and July in the 1777. That he was drafted on the 1st of March 1778 under Capt. Henry Mires who was a commissioned Capt and who succeeded More as Capt at Jackson fort aforesaid, that he was drafted but for one month at a time, that he served under Capt Mires six months as follows, March, April, May, June, July, August. That he was drafted on the 1st March 1779 under Capt Mires aforesaid that he was drafted for one month at a time, that he served under Mires for and during the months of March, April, May, June, July and August, that his total service 17 months That he was in no engagement other than Indian scrimages, during his time of service. That he knows of no person in this country who can testify to his services, that he was not employed in any civil pursuit during his time of service. That he got verbal discharges at the end of each month he served by his respective officers and at the expiration of his services, he got a written discharge but has since lost it, as he did not expect that it would ever be of any use to him. That he has no record of his age. That there were no officers with troops where he served (other than those he has stated) nearer than Pittsburg, excepting Jarretts fort which was 10 or 12 miles from Jacksons fort. That he is acquainted with John J. Allen member of Congress from this place and Judge Duncan who can testify as to his character &c. that his whole time of service was employed in spieing and guarding the fort. Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

John hisXmark Sweger

[Certified by John J. Waldo and Abel Whitman.]

[On 5 Feb 1834 Sweger was issued a certificate for a pension of \$56.66 for 17 months service. A letter from the Pension Office dated 13 March 1835 states that Sweger was dropped from the pension roll on account of the following report by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report "Fraud."]

John Swiger – Pen, not on the abstract –

on the 21st November 1834 Mr. Swiger gave the following narative of his Revolutionary Services &c. – he lived in the State of Pennsylvania during the whole of the Revolutionary war, is now in his 76th or 77th year of age. – the first service he done, he went for one month as a substitute in the place of Henry Vandermont (who was drafted) under Capt. Jonathan Padden, he went from Fayette county to Green county and was stationed at Garretts Fort Jackson Fort & Minns Fort – at these several forts he was detained six weeks waiting for a reenforcement – when he was discharged and went home, – he dont know in what year the above service was done, but he recollects being at Winchester Virginia when

Corwallis' Prissoners were marched to that place, and he recollects his Father died the June after he was at Winchester and saw the prissoners there. – the above service, he thinks, was done the Summer after but he is not possitive – he also done one months service in the fall of the same year, – in the next succeeding summer he done two months service against the Indians – and so on in the succeeding summers, until he done eight months services in all. – he further states that he was and is still under the impression that that all the service he done was after the close of the Revolutionary War [see endnote], and he so told Mr. Shinn who got his pension for him – he also told Shinn that he had done 7 or 8 months services after the close of the Revolutionary War – but did not recollect in what years he had done the service. – Shinn replied that he was entitled to a Pension – he made no contract with Shinn. he got the Pension and brought him the money – he told Shinn to pay himself – Shinn handed him \$70 [out of the first payment of \$169.98]. how much he kept he cant say. nor does he know what Pension he draws. – he will not have the money he has drawn. “he dont want any unlawful money.” “has lived in peace all his life and wishes to die so” – he has bound out the money untill Christmas – will collect it and pay it back – this statement was given to Nathan Goff. W. G Singleton

War Dept./ Pension Office/ Dec. 15, 1835

Sir [Lewis Cass, Secretary of War], It would seem from the accompanying papers sent to this Office by the Solicitor of the Treasury, that the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, Mr. Singleton, has collected of the following named persons, certain sums upon which he has charged a commission of 5 percent, viz:

	\$18360	\$17872	\$15998	\$9600
Amount received from	Philip Cox	Wm. Carder	John Sweger	Moses Husstead
	\$239.47	77.50	73.42	289.74
Deduct 5 percent commission	<u>12.97</u> [sic]	<u>3.87</u>	<u>3.67</u>	<u>14.48</u>
Amount deposited in the	\$226.50	73.63	69.75	275.26
Union Bank of Mary'd.				

The money thus collected arose from sums overpaid to Pensioners, and the service performed by Mr. Singleton constituted a part of the duty which devolved upon him as agent for this Dept. in investigating certain fraudulent claims under the pension law of June 7, 1832. I do not think that the commission, though amounting to a very inconsiderable sum, should be allowed, because there is no law authorizing such an allowance, and because the pay of \$8 per diem was supposed to be a sufficient compensation for all his service as agent. I have no knowledge of the allowance of any such commission, for of any charge of the kind having before been made. I have the honor &c.

GC [George Crump, Acting Pension Commissioner]

NOTE: Like many people, Sweger and Singleton appear to have believed the Revolutionary War ended with the capture of Cornwallis on 19 Oct 1781. For purposes of administering the pension act of 1832, however, the war continued until the formal signing of the Treaty of Paris on 3 Sep 1783. According to Seger's account to Singleton, he served 4½ months during the Revolutionary War, which still does not satisfy the minimum of six months for a pension.