

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Nathaniel Scales S18201

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia }
Cabell County } Towit

On this 24th day of February 1834 personally appeared in Open Court before the County Court of said county now sitting Nathaniel Scales a resident of the county of Cabell & State of Virginia [now West Virginia] aged seventy five years and nine months who being 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 he entered the service of the United States in June 1777 [sic: see note below] he thinks about the 10th day as a private soldier in the company commanded by Capt. John Leak & Lieutenant John Davis in the regiment commanded by Col. James Martin, that they marched from Solsbury [sic: Salisbury] North Carolina under the command of General [Griffith] Rutherford against the Chickasaw nation of Indians [sic: see note below], that in that campaign the army under general Rutherford destroyed thirteen indian towns besides destroying their corn & carrying off their Horses, this applicant thinks that this campaign lasted six months, this applicant will here state that he has always been under the impression that he enlisted for 12 months as a private soldier because he got ten dollars when he entered the service, he enlisted at the Rocky Springs North Carolina, this applicant further states that after they had subdued the indians [one or two lines illegible at bottom and top of pages] thinks he got a discharge but does not recollect who signed it. but he well recollects that Col. Martin returned home with them. & he also recollects that Capt Leak ordered all those who had enlisted to be in constant readiness for active service, should they be called on.

The other Colonels who served in this campaign were Col. Peasley, Col. Grimes & Col. Alexander & the adjudent of that army was Robert Martin brother of our Colonel.

This applicant fur states that in March 1780 he again entered into the service of the United States as a private soldier in the company commanded by Capt. Alexander Hunter as a volunteer, he served in the state of North Carolina against the tories a three months tour.

This applicant further states that he again entered into the service of the United States as a private soldier as a malitia man in the month of February 1781 to act as one of the guard over the prisoners taken by General [Daniel] Morgan at the battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], that he marched with said prisoners from Henry County Virginia to Staunton & while on our way to Staunton an express came in for part of the troops to return & to go on towards Guilford Court House North Carolina to meet the enemy and before we got there the battle of Guilford was over [Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781], this applicant states that he served in this last tour six weeks.

This applicant further states that he afterwards volunteered in the same year 1781 the last of April to go in pursuit and on the hunt of some tories that was laying in the woods & that he acted also in this service as a private soldier; that during the time of their hunts after tories they succeeded in taking four & bringing them in & giving them up to Capt. Haman Crite [sic: Critz]. for this service after the tories this applicant received a discharge for during the war but who gave the discharge this applicant does not remember.

Interrogatories propounded by the court in compliance with the requisition of the war department.

Ques When and in what year were you born.

Answer. I was born near the mouth of Smith's river in pittsylvania county virginia [apparently in present Henry County VA, upstream from where Smith River joins the Dan River in Rockingham County NC] the 13th day of April 1758

2d. Have you any register of your age & if so where is it.

Answer. I do not recollect whether I have a register of my own age in my bible but I know that

my father's bible states that I was born on the date last above stated.

3d. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in Rockingham County North Carolina when first called into service, I married in 1779 then moved to Patrick County Virginia & lived there until 1804 at which latter date I moved to that part of Kanawha County the which now forms Cabell County & have lived in Cabell County Virginia ever since it was formed into a county.

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

Answer. I think I first enlisted for twelve months, the second tour I served was as a volunteer, the third time as a militia man being drafted, & the fourth time as a volunteer against the Tories.

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

Answer, In my first service General Rutherford commanded and Colonels James Martin, Col. Peasley, Col. Grims, Col. Alexander, Capt. Leak, Capt. Galispie, Capt. Elms; this applicant will here state that he does not recollect whether the above officers were in the continental service or whether they were the officers of the state corps of North Carolina or whether they were militia officers, but they were the officers that commanded in Rutherford's campaign against the Indians. & he hereby refers the war department to General Jackson Pres. of the United States [sic: President Andrew Jackson] who can give them the necessary information about that campaign.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge & if so by whom was it given.

Answer I did receive a discharge but forgot who gave it nor do I now recollect what has become of them

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

Answer. Richard Brown, Thomas Buffington, James Hildishy, James Buffington, Henry Hampton sen'r, Col. Jess Toney, James McCormick, John Samuels, Fred'k G L Buckring, Soliman Thornburg Esq'r. Gen'l. Elisha McComas. [signed] Nathl Scales

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

This old Gentleman is now on a visit to some of his relations residing in Eastern Virginia - I understand from Gentleman of Integrity that Mr. Scales is a man of Intelligence and of great respectability - Mr. Samuels says that he has known Mr. Scales for 22 yrs. that he has had frequent conversation with him (both before and since the passage of the Pension Law of 1832) touching his service in the war of the Revolution and that he is perfectly satisfied that Mr. Scales is fully entitled to more than has been allowed him - Mr. Samuels is a man of Integrity.

W. G. Singleton August 29, 1835

NOTE: Scales's first tour was probably in 1776 against the Cherokees rather than in 1777 against the Chickasaws. After British-provoked Cherokee raids in the summer of 1776, Gen. Griffith Rutherford led 2400 men into Tennessee where they destroyed 36 Cherokee towns.