

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Josias Sessions S18202

fn23SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/27/11

[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 South Carolina Horry District

On the 8th day of November in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court Josias Sessions, before me William D Martin one of the Circuit Judges of the said State and presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the district of Horry and State aforesaid, aged sixty-nine 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 was born November 14th 1764 in Craven County, now All Saints Parish in the district and State aforesaid. That whilst he was at school in the spring of the year 1777, being then but thirteen years old he was drafted to join the Company of Captain Daniel Murrell [Daniel Morrall], attached to the brigade of General Francis Marion, he was drafted to serve one month at a time, and in this way he served one year, making six months actual service under said draft. During this service the company to which he belonged was employed in guarding the sea coast on the Long Bay beach in All Saints Parish, from the depredations from the enemy's shipping, but nothing very material transpired during this term of service: That after the expiration of one year Captain Daniel Murrell's Company to which he belonged subject to the same draft was ordered to join the main Army under General Marion then encamped on the Santee River in Georgetown District: that the Army did not continue stationary at any place, but continued to march to different posts on the Santee, Pedee and Black Rivers: that he was frequently detached to join skirmishing parties and one morning whilst on an expedition of this sort his party had a severe conflict with a party of the enemy near Georgetown who were driving some cattle to the town: that his party succeeded in repulsing the enemy, & took the cattle from them: That Georgetown was at this time in the possession of the British¹ and he marched with the main Army and after the town was surrounded, the enemy were compelled to leave it, which they did I taking to their shipping²: That he served three months at this time and was then relieved and returned home: But that during the several short respite allowed him to be at home, he was almost constantly called out in skirmishing parties against the Tories, who very much infested the region of Country in which he lived: That he continued his service in this way attached to General Marion's brigade to the end of the war, sometimes serving with the main Army, and sometimes in detached Companies. He was in the Company of Captain Daniel Murrell in a

¹ The British did not take possession of Georgetown until sometime after the fall of Charleston in May 1780. That timing gives a more precise idea of the time the veteran actually entered the service rather than 1777 as he states.

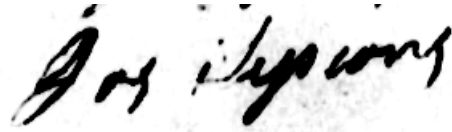
² The British evacuated Georgetown immediately following the assault their own by troops led by Francis Marion on May 28, 1781. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_georgetown_7.html and <http://gaz.irshelby.com/georgetown.htm>

severe battle with the Tories at a place called Bear bluff,³ in All Saints Parish, the Tories were commanded by Joshua Long, have to a very sharp conflict our company was under the necessity of capitulating, but that sooner than be taken he and eight others swam the Waccamaw River and effected their escape: That he afterwards served under Major Warden in various excursions after the Tories on the Waccamaw River in Georgetown district in which the Tories were generally routed and reduced to subjection. Whilst he was in the main Army he was principally in the company of Captain William Withers. He also knew and served with Major Benson, Colonel Peter Horry, Colonel Ervin, Major Martin & Major James and his companions in arms whom [he] knows [are] now living are John Green,⁴ James McRacken, Thomas King, Joseph King, Lofton Munnulyn⁵ & James Booth, and also Robert Lowrimore who herewith certifies to his services. He has no documentary evidence and from the lapse of time & imbecility of age & frailty of memory he cannot be more explicit: but he knows that he continued in the service from the time he was drafted under the command of Captain Murrell to the close of the war when the Army was disbanded making in all, including his service against the Tories a period of 5 years, and exclusive of this including the periods of his actual draft, a term of 2 years and 6 months. He resided 11 years from the time he was born in All Saints Parish, and ever since in Horry District. 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.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Wm D. Martin, Presiding Judge

S/ Jos Sessions



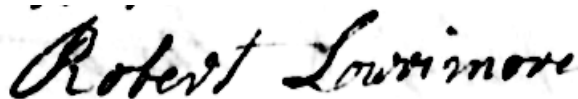
S/ Wm. D. Martin Presiding Judge

Robert Lowrimore⁶ appeared before me in open Court and being duly sworn according to law states that he knows Josias Sessions who both subscribed the following Declaration. That he has had read to him the foregoing Declaration and believes all the facts therein to be perfectly true. That he has a personal knowledge of the fact that he was a soldier of the Revolution that he was in service with the said Sessions though not the whole time but believes he served the whole time as stated by him. Deponent is positive the said Sessions served two year at least. He knows that he was a faithful & true soldier and has never heard his patriotism questioned, doubted or denied and that he is of the age he represents himself to be. Deponent as well as the said Sessions have resided in Horry District from their boyhood to the present time.

Sworn to before us in Open Court this 8 Nov 1833

S/ Wm. D. Martin Presiding Judge

S/ Robert Lowrimore



[Nicholas Prince, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.] The him and him

³ The action at Bear Bluff occurred on April 1, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/bearbluff.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_bear_bluff.html

⁴ This MAY be a reference to Major John Thompson Green who served under Marion. [John Thompson Green SC8](#)

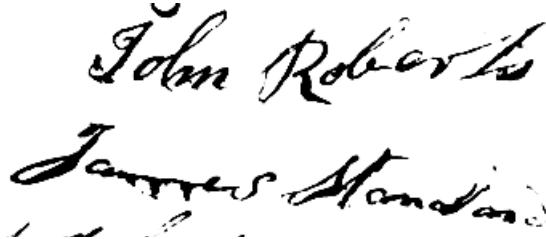
⁵ [Loftus \(Loftis\) R. Munnerlyn S18136](#)

⁶ Moss, *SC Patriots*, 585. It is interesting to note that Lowrimore did not file for a pension on his own behalf.

The Amended Declaration of the Josias Sessions, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 –
State of South Carolina Horry District: On this 5th day of November in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open court, Josiah Sessions before me Jonah J Evans one of the Circuit Judges of the said State and presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the district and State aforesaid, aged seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he was born as stated in his Declaration of the 8th of November 1832. That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades – that in April 1777 he volunteered as a private in the militia Service, in the place of his father who had been drafted, and joined the Company of Captain Daniel Morrell belonging to Marion's brigade, that he served a month at a time for one-year making six months actual service. That after one year he was drafted as a private, for three months and served in the main Army of General Francis Marion – that he was then relieved and went home – that after one month he was again ordered out & served three months – that on his return home he was immediately called out against the Tories, that he was then under the command of one Major Warden. That in 1780 he was again drafted as a private for three months, and served this tour in Georgetown in the company of Captain John Graham. That he served under the officers & performed the service as set forth in said Declaration of the 8th November 1834 and for which service he claims a pension.

S/ Josiah Sessions

John Roberts⁷ & James Stanaland⁸ appeared before me in open Court and being duly sworn according to law State that they know Josias Sessions who hath subscribed the foregoing Amended Declaration and believe all the facts therein stated, together with the facts stated in his Declaration of the 8th November 1833, all perfectly true: that they have a personal knowledge of the fact that he was a Soldier of the Revolution that day were in the service with the said Sessions though not the whole time, but believe he served the whole time as stated by him. Deponents are positive the said Sessions served at least two years, they know that he was a faithful & true Soldier, and have never heard his patriotism questioned, doubted or [indecipherable word], and that he is of the age he represents himself to be. Deponents as well as the said Sessions have resided in Horry District from their boyhood, to the present time – Sworn to before me in open Court this 5th November 1834

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "John Roberts" and the bottom signature reads "James Stanaland".

[fn p. 12: On April 4, 1834 in Horry District South Carolina, the veteran filed yet another amended declaration substantially identical to his first amended declaration. It is not clear to me

⁷ [John Roberts S18188](#)

⁸ [James Stanaland S18215](#)

why this declaration was required unless the previous one had somehow been misplaced.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 15 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]