

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Sims S19464

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
Nicholas County } Ss.

On this eighteenth day of February 1834 personally appeared before me William Sims a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Nicholas in the State of Virginia, and as such a member of the County Court of Nicholas, which is a Court of Record, James Sims aged seventy nine years on the 8th day of October next, 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the month of June 1777 according to his recollection he was called into the service as a drafted militia man under Captain John Tutt for a tour of three months. He served as Orderly Sergeant in said Company. He resided then in Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County Virginia, and said Company was collected in said County. The company was marched toward Fredericksburg, and kept moving about through the Country around thereabout guarding it from the depredations of the British, Tories, and negroes, and after serving out his time he was discharged, but whether it was in writing or verbally he does not recollect.

On or about the 1st of October 1780 [sic] he was again called into the service as a drafted militia man, under according to best of his recollection Captain James Tutt, but whether that was really his name or not, he recollects him to have been a slim spare man. This was for another tour of three months. They were marched in the direction of York Town to aid in the Seige of that place, but before they reached that place Lord Cornwallis had surrendered [19 Oct 1781]. They assembled in the County of Culpepper Va. and were placed under the Superior Command of Col. [John] Slaughter, after serving out his time he was discharged but whether in writing or not he does not recollect. He served in this company as Orderly Sergeant. [See endnote.] He was born in Culpepper County Va on the 8th day of October 1754. He has a record of his age at home. He was living in Culpepper County Va when called into the service where he continued to live untill the year 1800 when he moved to the place of his present residence in Nicholas County, but which was then Kenhawa [sic: Kanawha] County Va. He was called into the service as a drafted Militia man. He has stated the names of the officers under whom he served, and the general circumstances of his service according to his recollection in the foregoing detail. He was discharged from the service at the end of both tours, but he does not know whether it was in writing or not, but if in writing he does not know what has become of it. He is known to Jonathan Windsor [pension application R11703] and Henry Tritt of his neighbourhood (there being no Clergyman who can be procured) who can testify to his character for veracity and their general belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He knows of no documentary evidence whereby to prove his services, and he 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 annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. James Sims.

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111). Singleton wrote on this report "Fraudulent - has drawn no money."]

James Sims Pensioner serv'd. 9 mo. receives \$30 p annum.

I the undersigned James Sims in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of war give the following narative of my services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution & statement of my age to Wit - I am in my 79th year of age. am a native of Culpepper county & lived in that county during the war of the Revolution. In my nineteenth or twentieth year of age (I cant tell in what year) I was drafted for 3 mo (three months) & marched from Culpepper county under Capt John Tutt (dont recollect the names of his subaltern officers) Capt. Tutts company was attached to a

Regt. commanded by Col. Jno. Slaughter which went from Culpepper. the Regt. marched to Norfolk. cant recollect the names of any of the towns through which we marched on going to Norfolk. we were discharged at Norfolk in time to get home before the three months expired. in less than one year after the preceeding term (I cant tell in what year) I was drafted again for 3 months and hired a substitute whose name was William Noll. gave him \$500 in continental money & a new rifle gun.

In the year in which Cornwallis was Captured at Yorktown I was drafted again for 3 mo (three months) Set out from Culpepper county under a Capt whose name I have forgotten. we were preparing to set out on the march for nearly one week, when the news of Cornwallis defeat was received & we were ordered to return home & done so having been in service this latter tour about one week - I was Sergeant. & thus ended my services - Saml. Price wrote my Declaration to whom I gave the same narative of my service that I now give. I agreed to give him \$20 If he brought in my money. In witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. Jany 10 1835

James hisXmark Sims [see endnote]

William Sims son of James says that his Father gave Price the same account of his service that he now gives -

Spencer Hill aged 73 says he has known Sims since he Hill was 10 yrs old. they were raised & lived in the same neighbourhood during the war of the Revo. never heard of his being in service as a soldier nor does he believe he ever was - that Sims has been all his life a boasting & loquacious man and a great egotist - & that he never pretended that he was in service until since the passage of the Pension Law. Hill has lived a neighbour to him all their lives —

Jno. McNutt [?] concurs in the statement given by Hill - they are both respectable men -

A Copy W. G Singleton Jany. 15, 1835

NOTE: An Orderly Sergeant was responsible for writing orders into the company's orderly book, so it is suspicious that Sims could not sign his name, unless he was physically unable.