

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jacob Sass S21956

f24NC[sic, SC]

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

3/26/10: rev'd 12/5/23

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 4]

South Carolina City of Charleston

On this 30th day of July 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before me Thomas Lee district Judge for South Carolina now sitting Jacob Sass a resident of the City and State of Eighty two years of age passed 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 7th of June 1832.

That he is the only Surviving Soldier of the Revolution who was a member of a Company called the German Fusileers [German Fusiliers] established in the Year 1775 and now in existence in the City of Charleston in the State aforesaid. That he was second Lieutenant of said Company at the defense of Charleston in 1779, when it was blockaded by the British Troops under the command of General Provost [Augustine Prevost]. That he was then promoted to the office of first Lieutenant. That upon the retreat of the Enemy they occupied the adjacent Islands to the South; the regular Continental Army under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] being then at Black Swamp in the interior of South Carolina and distant from Charleston 60 or 70 miles, the Charleston militia among whom was your Petitioner were put under Martial Law -- thus doing duty as Continental Troops and strict military duty which they continued to do until the month of September following. That in the same month when the French fleet appeared off the coast and the enemy returned to Savannah he was marched to the Siege<sup>1</sup> of that place and was at his Post in the lines of Savannah when attacked by the British. That in the month afterwards he was ordered to Charleston and in the March following when Charleston was besieged by General Clinton [Sir Henry Clinton] he was again called into actual Service and upon the City being reduced [Charleston fell to the British on May 12, 1780]<sup>2</sup> was made a Prisoner of War in the month of May clearly shewing that he was for nearly 12 months employed in guarding the City from the Enemy without and domestic insurrection -- within.

That the field Officers (as far as he can recollect) were Colonel Charles Pinckney [Charles Cotesworth Pinckney] of the Charleston Militia. That the Fusiliers Company to which he was attached -- was commissioned by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] that Alex Gillon [Alexander Gillon] was Capt. Michael Kaltessen [sic, Michael Kalteissen] 1st Lieut. Peter

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<sup>1</sup> Siege of Savannah September 16-October 9, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

<sup>2</sup> Siege of Charleston <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>  
& <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>

Bocquet 2nd Lieut. & Gideon Dupont 3rd Lieut. –

That he was in the engagement at Beaufort<sup>3</sup> under Capt. Livingston [William Livingston] Lieut.s Strobel [Daniel Strobel] and Bocquet.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a Pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the A pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid  
S/ Thomas Lee, District Judge South Carolina

S/ Jacob Sass



[John Backman, a clergyman, Henry Horlbeck, Paul S. H. Lee & John Horlbeck gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Personally appeared before me James Jervey a justice of the Quorum and District Clerk of the United States of America for the aforesaid District, Jacob Sass, who being duly sworn deposes that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades -- viz.: for Five months as second Lieutenant in a Volunteer Corps. For Nine months as first Lieutenant in the same Corps and for such service he claims a pension.

Sworn to before me this 6th of August 1833

S/ Jacob Sass

S/ James Jervey, QU & Dist. Clerk

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Charleston So. Ca. August 6, 1833

Dear Sir:

I received all my papers by mail, I do not know what more is wanting than I have already stated and sent on. How can it be said that I have not specified the service which I performed and the different grades? I have sworn that I marched from Charleston to Savannah and was there during the siege of that place, I have also sworn that I served under Genl. Marion [Francis Marion] for four months. That I defended Charleston when it was besieged and was taken a prisoner when it surrendered. How is it possible that I can after a lapse of fifty years state with precision the length of service & different grades in which I served more than I have done? As regards documentary evidence of my Commission I have sworn that they cannot be found (for they were left in a fire that burned me out some years ago). You say that I have not answered satisfactorily the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th & 7th Interrogatories<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> February 3, 1779 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_port\\_royal\\_island\\_2.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_port_royal_island_2.html)

<sup>4</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where

1st. I have sworn to my age which I thought would have been sufficient for the first & second Interrogatory but I can state that I was born in Hesse Capel in Germany in 1750 and my record has shared the same fate as my Commissions.

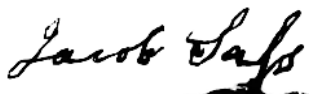
4th. I have answered as well as my memory will allow.

6th. I have already sworn that I was Commissioned my memory fails me to say who signed it and I have already stated what has become of them. As for the

7th. No Testimony more satisfactory can be produced than is set forth in my declaration.

I have shown Judge Lee the Original Book containing the proceedings of the Fusilier Company of July 1775 to March 1779 by which it appears that I was regularly Commissioned an Officer of that Company. I am Sir Your Obedient Servant

S/ Jacob Sass



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So. Carolina

City of Charleston

April 26 1833

Jacob Sass this day appeared before me Thomas Lee district Judge for South Carolina and deposeth that when he was called into service he was residing in the City of Charleston and that he has continued to reside there until this time -- that he was a Volunteer a member of the German Fusiliers of Charleston. That if he ever did receive a discharge it is no longer to be found he states in reply to the 7th interrogatory that he is known he believes to every respectable man in Charleston and that if necessary he can get hundreds who will cheerfully testify to his veracity and belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

He joined the German Fusiliers on the 11th February 1775 and continued a member of it during the whole revolution. He received a Commission as second Lieut. in 1777 from the then Governor Rutledge which has been lost his Commission as first Lieut. is also lost. He does not remember who was the Governor from whom he received it -- he was at the Siege of Savannah for about five weeks, at the Battle of Beaufort for about a fortnight and under Genl. Marion for four months from the 15th of August to 18 December 1781. He confidently says that from the time of his entering the Fusilier Company to the close of the Revolution he considered himself in service.

Sworn to before me this 27 April 1833

S/ Jacob Sass

S/ Thomas Lee

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do you now live?

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

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

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

Supplemental Affidavit in the affair of Jacob Sass; Application for a Pension --

The seven interrogatories specified in the instructions received from the War department having been propounded to this deponent, he answers.

To the first -- That he was born at Hesse Capel in Germany in the year 1750, and emigrated to the South Carolina in 1773.

To the Second: That he had a record of his age which is lost with his Commission and other papers when he was burnt out soon after the Revolution.

To the Third -- That he has lived permanently in Charleston ever since his arrival, except when out-of-town under General Marion.

To the Forth & Fifth -- That upon the first movement made in this State towards the Revolution he was one of those who formed the German Fusiliers, a volunteer company that continued embodied all the War and continues still: That he was then first Sergeant and drilled them to the use of arms; that on the first vacancy he was elected Second Lieutenant and gradually promoted to the command. That their Captains in succession were Gillon, Livingston, Sheppard [sic, Charles Sheppard] and Strobel [Daniel Strobel]. That in the spring 1776 he marched with the company to Savannah under orders from the Governor and was in service at least six weeks. That at the time of the Battle of Fort Moultrie<sup>5</sup> he was in actual service at least six weeks. That when Prevost came against the lines he was in actual service at least one month, that he then followed his retreat and fought him at the Battle of Beaufort, which occupied at the least another month; this was under command of General Moultrie: He next march to Savannah and was at the Battle and attacked of that place in 1779 under General Lincoln, his Captain, Captain Shepherd who was killed; and was engaged in this service at least three months.

His next service was at the siege of Charleston in which he was in actual service of at least three months and was made prisoner when the town fell.

And his last service was under Genl. Marion whom he joined as soon as he was permitted and remained with him until Charleston was evacuated which was at the least four months. Besides which he was a prisoner of War and the subject of exchange as such for about two years to wit from the fall of Charleston until he joined Marion.

To the sixth -- he answers. That he was first commissioned by the Governor of the State, a Lieutenant in 1776, -- from which he was promoted after the Battle of Savannah to a first Lieutenancy and continued so until the close of the War, to which he adds that from the year 1775 to 1780 in inclusive he always considered himself ready to be called upon to perform military service and was continually prepared and ready to march and served as a Soldier.

To the Seventh. That he is known to every citizen of Charleston and, refers particularly to the Governor and the judges of the Circuit Court of the United States for this District, and further that by reason of his advanced age is not in his power to be more particular having kept no memorandum nor having any record to refer to.

Sworn to before us in open Court this 27th of September 1833

S/ Thomas Lee, District Judge South Carolina

S/ Jacob Sass

[p 23: Power of attorney dated November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1851 by Jacob K. Sass with regard to the claim of services of Jacob Sass, a revolutionary pensioner, who died 12th of February 1836. Relationship, if any, of Jacob K. Sass to Jacob Sass is not stated.

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<sup>5</sup> June 28, 1776 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_ft\\_moultrie\\_1.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_ft_moultrie_1.html)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, possibly reading "W. H. H. H.", is written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a vertical line that ends in a small square bracket at the bottom.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$198.25 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a Lieutenant for 14 months and 24 days.]

[Transcriber's Note: There is no record of this veteran having filed a claim among the South Carolina Audited Accounts although there is a missing folder for AA6770 where, if such a claim had been made, it should have appeared. Unfortunately, there are many missing files among the South Carolina Audited Accounts.]