

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Matthew Sparks S31385

fn33NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Carroll County

On this 14th day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the worshipful Henry Wright, Wilson Lightfoot, and Saml. Ingram, Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, now setting, Matthew Sparks, a resident of said County and State, aged about seventy four years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, states:

That he was born in Rowan County, near Salisbury in the State of North Carolina, on the 20th day of January, A.D. 1759, and there lived with his father until he was between fourteen and sixteen years old when he removed with the other members of the family to New River in Wilkes County in the State aforesaid, and there this Declarant resided until three or four years after the close of the Revolutionary War at which time this Declarant removed to Wilkes County in the State of Georgia, after residing in this latter place about two years, this declarant removed to the frontier part of the State last mentioned in what, as well as this Declarant now recollects, was then Franklin County. Here this Declarant, with his father and other settlers, erected a fort which was then and probably still is called Sparks Fort. In this neighborhood this Declarant's father was killed by the Indians. After residing at this place two or three years, this Declarant removed to Greenville District in the State of South Carolina, where he resided seven or eight years, when he removed to Jackson County in the State of Georgia. Here this Deponent resided 6 or 7 years, when here moved to Livingston County in the State of Kentucky about the year 1807 or 1808, where he resided for about 2 years; from thence again removed into the Territory of Illinois, and the County of St. Clair, about the year 1810. He here settled on Silver Creek, within 8 or 10 miles of the town of Belleville and remained about 5 years. He then removed down on a Creek called Muddy, in said Territory, where he resided 2 years. About the year 1817, Declarant states, he again removed over into Arkansas Territory, where he settled on White River and remained about 2 years; from thence he went to Arkansas River about 40 or 50 miles above Little Rock, in the aforesaid Territory, where he lived 2 years; then removed from there to the Saline on the

waters of Ouachita within 25 miles of Little Rock, where he again settled, and resided until the 2nd day of August last, when he removed into this County.

This Declarant states that he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated.

When this Declarant was 17 or 18 years old, as well as he can recollect in the year 1776 or 77, he joined a company raised by drafting, commanded by Captain John Beverly, and served a tour of 3 months. We marched from Wilkes County, North Carolina, where the company was raised, and ranged through the lower and sandy part of North Carolina in search of the Tories, to intimidate and keep them down in that part of the State. On this tour, we found no parties of Tories embodied, but we took several individuals. I remember particularly that we took a Tory Captain by the name of Jackson, a blacksmith, whom we hung. Our company took two others, names not recollected, and sent them to Head Quarters of the corps. The company of which I was a member was Mounted Rangers. The corps to which I belong consisted of several companies of rangers, and two or three foot and was commanded by Col. __ Isacks [sic, Samuel or Elijah Isaacs], given name not recollected, of North Carolina. I do not remember any major, or adjutant, nor the names of any other captains, except Captain __ Isbel [probably Pendleton Isbel] who commanded, as well as I recollect, a company of foot men. At the end of our term of service, we were marched back to our County by our officers, and there directed to go to our respective homes, without receiving any written discharge.

In the fall of a certain year, I do not recollect what year, nor do I remember how long after my return from my first tour, but not more than one or two years, I was again drafted into the service, in a company commanded by Captain Samuel Johnson and Elisha Reynolds, Lieutenant. This corps consisted exclusively of three or four companies of footmen, and was commanded by Major __ Hargrove of Wilkes County, North Carolina. Godfrey Isacks [sic, Isaacs] was one of the captains. We were drafted for 3 months and were marched through pretty much the same country as on my first tour, and for the same purpose. I remember it was a particular object of the expedition to go into a part of North Carolina where the Scotch very much abounded. We came to a part of the country where the main American Army, commanded by I do not recollect whom, had recently passed, and found ourselves in great want of the means of subsistence. After being marched about through the sandy parts of North Carolina two months without meeting with any parties of Tories or having any engagement, we were marched back to our own County having learned there was more occasion for us there than where we had been. Not long after we reached home we were dismissed by our officers without receiving any formal discharge.

In addition to these tours of service performed by me, I will state that Col. Benjamin Cleveland, who lived on the Yadkin [River], Wilkes County, North Carolina, early in the Revolutionary War, by his personal influence, formed an Association or Company of Minute Men, to go against Tories whenever called on. Of this company I was a member and performed under him many tours of duty from one to three weeks at a time, amount in all to at least 3 months. We invariably went out as mounted gun men or ranging [sic, rangers?]. We ranged principally on the mountains and New River. On these excursions, I remember, we took two parties of Tories, one consisting of 15, the other of 10 or 12 men. They had been engaged in plundering neighborhoods. Some of these we hung, shot others, and others that we took across the Virginia line, we delivered to the

Virginians. On another occasion, learning that a party of Hessian dragoons and Tories to the number of 12 or 15, passing up New River plundering and pillaging the country, we assembled and overtook them at the house of our Militia Captain (Paul Patrick) whom they had under guard and where they were regaling themselves on the best the house afforded. We surprised them, killed 2 and wounded 2 whom we took prisoners, together with one other. One of the wounded prisoners was a Hessian, and lived. His name was John Meisenner. He joined our side and was one of the men who served with me under Capt. Beverly.

This Applicant knows of no person by whom he can prove his service.

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.

S/ Matthew Sparks



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk.

We Bailey Sparks, late a Justice of the peace residing in the County and State aforesaid, and William Brigance residing in the same, hereby testify that we are well acquainted with Matthew Sparks who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be about Seventy four years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolution; and that we concur in that opinion.

S/ Wm Brigance

S/ Bailey Sparks

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named Applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier as he states. And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that Bailey Sparks and William Brigance, who have signed the preceding certificate are residents of the county and state aforesaid and are credible persons, and that their statement is entitled to credit.

S/ Sam Ingram, Chairman of Carrol County Court {Seal}

S/ Henry Wright {Seal}

S/Wilson Lightfoot {Seal}

Whereupon the said Court propounded the following interrogatories to the said Matthew Sparks on the occasion of his application for a pension as having been one of the Militia of North Carolina in the Revolutionary War.

Question 1. Where and in what year were you born?

A: I was born in Rowan County near Salisbury in the State of North Carolina on the 20th of January, 1759.

Question 2. Have you any record of your age; and if so, where is it?

A: I have none with me. My son took the Bible containing it when he moved from Illinois to Georgia.

Question 3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

A: I was living, when called into service, in Wilkes County North Carolina; the balance the Applicant answered in his declaration.

Question 4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute?

A: Answered in the declaration.

Question 5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served; Such continental and militia regiments as you can recall & and the general circumstances of your service.

A: Answered as in declaration.

Question 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

A: Answered as in declaration.

Question 7. 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 of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

A: I have but lately come to this country and therefore have but few acquaintances here. I can only mention my brother, Bailey Sparks, & Mr. William Brigance who knew my general reputation as a soldier of the Revolution &c.

[fn p. 26: On September 19, 1840 in Clinton County Illinois, Matthew Sparks filed for a transfer of his pension benefit from the Tennessee agency to the Illinois agency saying that he had recently moved to Illinois to be with his 3 daughters living there.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.60 6S per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]