

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Sawyer S32504

f12NC

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. 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 'indecipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Alabama County of Greene } SS

On this 12th day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Greene County now sitting Stephen Sawyer, a resident of the County of Greene and State of Alabama, aged seventy-four years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by 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. His Captain's name was John Graves [John Herndon Graves], his Major's name was Smith – (his Christian name he does not remember) -- his Col.'s name was West (Christian name not remembered)¹ his General's name was Butler [John Butler]. He rendezvoused at Hillsboro in North Carolina, the latter part of July 1780. From Hillsboro where a large number of North Carolina militia had been collected, they were marched to near Camden in South Carolina where a severe battle [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] was fought between the American Army commanded by Major General Gates [Horatio Gates], and the British Army commanded by Lord Cornwallis. The American Army was completely defeated.² The militia threw away their arms and fled with great precipitancy and confusion. The Continental soldiers stood much better, but were finally forced to give way. The Baron De Kalb who commanded the Continental troops, was killed in this battle. The battle was fought in the month of August. From the battle of Camden he returned home, where he was taken sick and lay some length of time. Shortly after he got well he again entered the service and was engaged in several small irregular expeditions. He continued to serve in this way until about the first of July 1781 when he went with a company of Virginia militia, from Orange County in Virginia to the City of Richmond, from the City of Richmond back again to Orange County, where they met with a division of the American Army under the command of General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] who was in pursuit of the British. They joined the Army under Wayne and marched with him to old Jamestown and from there to Yorktown where the British Army had taken post under the command of Lord Cornwallis -- and near where General Washington and the American and French Army were assembled. After his arrival the Company to which he belonged was placed together with some other militia were placed with the part of the French Army near Gloucester to

¹ I could find no officer by this name who was likely to command a regiment including the company commanded by Captain John Herndon Graves. At the battle of Camden, Captain Graves was under the command of Colonel John Collier. Likewise, I could not identify a Major Smith.

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

watch and restrain the British on the side of Gloucester -- where he continued to serve until the capture of York [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and the whole British Army when he returned home. In this last expedition his Ensign's name was Smith, his Lieut. was named Lindley and his Capt.'s name was George Wa. [sic, probably Capt. George Waugh of the Orange County, VA, militia]

He, the said Stephen Sawyer, was born in the County of Orange in the State of Virginia, he has no record of his age and being entirely illiterate, he does not know the precise date of his birth, but from what he was told by his parents and events that have occurred within his own knowledge he is about 74 years old as first stated above -- When he was first called into service he was living in Caswell County North Carolina. Sometime after his first tour of service expired, the precise time he does not remember, the Tories having been very troublesome, his father with him, removed back to Orange County in Virginia where he was born, at the time he entered the service on his last tour he was living in Orange County, Virginia where he continued to live until after the war was over. After the close of the Revolution he removed back to Caswell County North Carolina, where he continued to reside until about the year 1800 when removed to Wilkes County in Georgia, where he settled and continued to reside until about the year 1820 when he removed to Monroe County in the State of Alabama where he resided until the month of December 1832 when he removed to Greene County Alabama where he now resides. During all the time he served he was a drafted militia man. General Gates, Baron DeKalb, General Wayne, General Washington, General Lafayette, the Duke de Lauzin were the principal if not the only regular officers with whom I served that I now recollect. He received a discharge when he left the Army after the battle of Yorktown, but has lost or mislaid it long since. Joseph Middlebrooks, with whom I now reside, knows my character for veracity and can give evidence of his belief of my being a soldier of the Revolution. He knows of no other as he has been very short time in his present neighborhood. He would further state that putting all the different periods during which he served together he thinks he served not less than one year & one month and a half, & that one of the tours in which he served he cannot state the names of any of his officers except the name of General DeMarcus [Lafayette], in this expedition he joined the Army at Orange Courthouse in Virginia and marched to Richmond in the same State.

S/ Stephen Sawyer, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed by the said Stephen Sawyer making his Mark the day of the date hereof in open Court

Attest: S/ I. C. Snedecor, Clerk

[Joseph Ryan, a clergyman, and Joseph Middlebrooks gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]