

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Sowers S32532

fn15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/2/11

[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.]

[Union County, Illinois]

On this \_\_ day of June 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable John [indecipherable last name], Edward Davis & Thomas Ferril Judges of the County Commissioner's Court in and for said County (now judicially sitting) John Sowers of said County aged 74 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was drafted into the service of the United States in the year A.D. 1776 on the \_\_ day of July and served under the following named officers Colonel \_\_ Captain John Lopp for the term of 5 months, he was drafted in Rowan County State of North Carolina and rendezvoused in Salisbury where on the \_\_ day of August following he employed a substitute who served 5 months in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians. That on the \_\_ day of January 1781 he volunteered and served as a private under Captain John Lopp on a tour of service for 3 months and marched through Salisbury towards the Catawba River intending to join the American Army near the South Carolina line but before we got to the Catawba River we were met by Morgan's Army retreating before Lord Cornwallis and joining Morgan he was marched back to the Yadkin River to the trading ford where the Army crossed in great haste and with much difficulty before the Army of Lord Cornwallis arrived some of [??] the American baggage fell into the hands of the British and some skirmishing took place between the rear guard of the American Army and the British but during the night after he crossed the Yadkin a heavy rain falling the Yadkin rose so high that the British Army could not cross it at this ford but had to march higher up the River to the Shallow Ford where they crossed here the company to which he belonged was directed by General Morgan to guard the prisoners taken at the Cowpens to Guilford where he was taken very unwell and sent home on parole and was not able to return to duty during the remaining part of the three months for which Term he enlisted which terminated on the \_\_ day of April 1781. That on the \_\_ day of July 1781 the Tories having committed many depredations in North Carolina on Deep River and it was thought that they would extend their depredations, Captain John Lopp raised a Company of volunteer Whigs, in which I volunteered for 3 months and served under said Captain, [indecipherable word] the country on deep River, and as far south as the South Carolina line, on Cape Fear River about 80 miles from Wilmington he had a skirmish with the Tories in August 1781 but the Tories did not stand to fight but fired

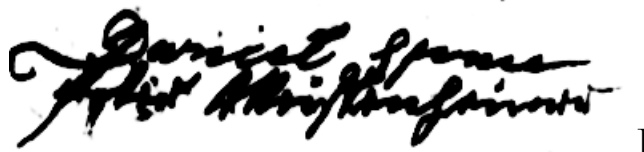
their guns once and ran doing no damage, with the exception of a slight wound which our Captain received through the arm which did not disable him from duty, That he served as private during his services all making 11 months, in service and hiring a substitute, viz. 5 months in service and by substitute, against the Cherokee Indians commencing on the \_\_\_ day of July 1776 & terminating the \_\_\_ day of [indecipherable] 1776, 3 months on the 2nd tour commencing the \_\_\_ day of January 1781 & terminating on the \_\_\_ day of February 1781 with Morgan & guarding the prisoners to Guilford and the 3rd Tour against the Tories commencing in July the \_\_\_ day & terminating the \_\_\_ day of October 1781. From which service he states that he does not recollect to have received any discharge. That he knows of no one by whom he can prove 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 any agency of any state. That he cannot now recollect the name of the Colonel under whom he served.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ W. Davie, Clerk

S/ John Sowers, X his mark

[David Spence [could be Spencer], a clergyman, and Peter Meisienheimer gave the standard supporting affidavit.



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Interrogatories put by the Court to the within applicant for a pension

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

I was born in Rowan County State of North Carolina in the year A.D. 1760

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

I have no record. I knowledge of my age is derived from what my parents stated when I was young

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

I was living in Rowan County State of North Carolina when called into service, where I resided until 1828 when I removed to Union County State of Illinois where I now reside

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

I was drafted in the first Tour for 5 months, the 2 last tours for 3 months each I volunteered

5<sup>th</sup> 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 recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I recollect General Morgan, Colonel Lee, Colonel Washington, General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] was with the Army but cannot now recollect whether I ever saw him or not during my service. I have stated my services in the Declaration as fully as I can state them now I served 3 tours in part I hired a substitute for a part of the first tour of 5 months. The 2nd tour from indisposition before my tour of service expired I was obliged to leave the service from indisposition and being near my father's house I was permitted to stay there during my illness but was on parole, 3rd tour of service I was actively employed the whole time, was in no other battle or skirmishes than the ones spoken of in my Declaration with the Tories. I had crossed the

Yadkin before the skirmishing took place between the British and the rear guard at the Trading Ford on the Yadkin River.

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?

If I ever received a discharge I have now forgotten it I think I never did.

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.

Daniel Spence a clergyman & Peter Meiseinheimer both residents of Union County State of Illinois all my acquaintances and can testify to my veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]