

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Solomon Sommers S35079

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Maryland        }  
Talbot County Court }        On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord, 1819 Solomon Sommers formerly of Queen Anns [sic: Queen Annes] County, but now of Talbot County afs'd personally appears before me the subscriber, Chief Judge of the County Courts in the second Judicial District of Maryland, and makes the following Declaration under Oath, to wit, that He the said Solomon Sommers enlisted in the year 1778 as a common Soldier, under Captain James Bruff, then a recruiting officer, for nine months, that he was put into the Company of Captain Levin Handy & in the 5<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regiment, that He served out his term of service to wit nine months. He enlisted again for three years under Captain Levin Handy, He served about one year in his Company; Captain Handy then resigned & he, the said Sommers, was then under the command of Captain Jonathan Gibson (who succeeded Captain Levin Handy) until General Gates's defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. He, the said Solomon Sommers, after he had served out his Term of three years, enlisted a third time under Captain Jonathan Gibson as a Common Soldier to serve till the end of the Revolutionary War — The said Solomon Sommers further declares and deposes that he served as a common Soldier under Captain Perry Benson now General Benson according to His third & last Enlistment until the end of the war —

The said Solomon Sommers further declares and deposes, that he is a resident Citizen of the united states and that He is, by reason of his reduced Circumstances in Life in need of assistance from his Country for a support and that no Pension has to his Knowledge ever been heretofore allowed to him, by the Laws of the united states, but if any should have been, He hereby relinquishes all Claim to the same, from and after the date hereof —  
[Certified by Solomon Barrott, pension application W703.]

District of Maryland Sct. }        On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord 1820,  
Talbot County        }        personally appeared in open Court, at Easton, in the County afs'd, before the Honourable, the Judges of Talbot County the same being a Court of Record (having the power to fine and imprison) in the second Judicial District of the State of Maryland, Solomon Sommers (a resident of Talbot County aforesaid aged Seventy years) who being first duly sworn, according to Law, doth on his Oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows towit, He enlisted in June 1778 as a private in the army of the revolution and was placed in the company of Captain Levin Handy of the 5<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regiment, which was then Commanded by Colo William Richardson, he remained in this company about one year, Captain Handy then resigned and William Riley was appointed Captain of the Company, he served under Captain Riley several years, he was then put into the Company of Captain Perry Benson, and in the Regiment that was commanded by Colo John E. Howard. He served in Captain Perry Benson's Company till the end of the war, and until he was duly discharged at Annapolis, he was wounded at Gates' Defeat, but still remained attached to same Company and Regiment. He was in the following Battles during the Revolutionary war, towit, in the battles of Gates Defeat, Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781], Guilford Courthouse [NC, 15 Mar 1781] and Eutaw Springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781] and in sundry skirmishes during the war. He further declares that the pension certificate obtained by him from the war office of the united States bears date the nineteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and Nineteen, and the number of it, is not endorsed or mentioned in it, or on it, in any place that he can discover. His original Declaration was made, to the best of his recollection on the Eighth day of June one thousand eight hundred and Nineteen.

and I, Solomon Sommers do voluntarily swear, that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it, as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress, Entitled "an act to provide for certain

persons engaged in the Land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1818, and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule

The said Solomon Sommers declares that he has not any property either real or personal, necessary Cloathing and Bedding excepted nor any income or support except what he can earn by his daily Labour, as a common laborer on a farm and his pension from the united States.

The said Solomon Sommers further declares that his present occupation is that of a common Laborer on a farm, he is infirm and not able to do much work, he is upwards of seventy years of age. He has a wife named Celia aged about thirty five years and one child named Joseph about three months old residing with him, His wife is able to work, but his child is unable to contribute anything to his support.

Solomon hisXmark Sommers