

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Zachariah Wells S39119

fn28VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/29/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Sullivan County: SS

On this 29th day of March 1825 Personally appeared in open Court, being a Circuit Court of Law & Equity for the County aforesaid the subscriber hereto Zachariah Wells a citizen of said County, aged eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the subsequent amendments that he the said Zachariah Wells enlisted into the Continental service, during the Revolutionary war for the term of two years, on the 28th day of July in the year 1776 – in the County of Louden [Loudoun], State of Virginia, then in Captain Henry Lee's Company, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Theodorick Bland, of Light horse, in the line of the State of Virginia, that he continued to serve until said Henry Lee was promoted to the command of Colonel of the Cavalry, & by withdrawing his company from Bland, & the occasion of some others raised, had the command of the Corps, in which the applicant afterward served out his time: being under the command of Captain Henry Payton [Henry Peyton], a Captain of Colonel Lee's command, under which said Payten (when a cornet) this applicant first enlisted. That he continued to serve in the said Corps, until five months elapsed after his term was out – making two years & five months which he served in succession except the period of imprisonment, that he intended to continue the war out under said Lee, to whom he had become attached, but was sent home by him to recruit men & purchase horses, & after having so done to the extent of the money confided to him sent them on to Lee at Charleston in the State of Maryland – and circumstances then intervened which prevented him from returning to the service; from which cause he never obtained a discharge from service before he left it & afterwards he had no use for it – as he was not entitled to land, & had received his pay &c.

That he was in the Battles of Germantown, Brandywine, Bonum Town [Bonhamtown? January 6, 1777, or Bordentown?], &c during the two first of which he was one of General Washington's life guard – that he was taken prisoner by the British horse, on the 12th day of December 1777 at a place called the Fox Chase 15 miles from Philadelphia – and conveyed to Philadelphia, and there confined for five months each night & guarded throughout the day with the other prisoners – when he was exchanged and again returned to Lee's command again & served as before stated. That he has no other evidence in his power except the above – And in pursuance of the Act of first of May 1820, I do solemnly 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 whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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

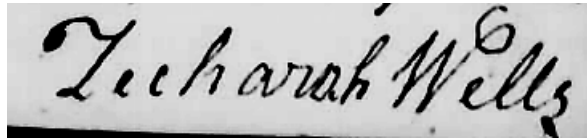
revolutionary war” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to wit

1 horse, old & small	\$40.00
2 milk cows & calves \$10 each	20.00
1 handsaw, one plan Hackle, one frying pan	4.00
1 falling axe, mattock, 4 old hoes	5.00
1 plow, & some horse giering [gear?]	5.00
2 pots & one oven \$2                      cash[?] 1 Bason	6.50
1 cutting box	1.00
2 old chests    broken                      50Cents	<u>1.00</u>
	\$62.50

That he in early life followed the Blacksmithing business but has been unable for years to pursue it, & has supported himself by farming, that he has no family his wife being dead & his children all married & gone from him, the youngest 4 years ago, & he is now left destitute in his old age, and since the loss of his wife, & the last decline of his strength he has been compelled to live upon what little property he has – which reason he assigns, for applying for a pension, that he never would have applied but for his inability to labor, & the small balance of his property being in adequate to his support, that he has parted from none of his property since the first day of May 1820 so as to set it forth, or he would do so, and any other way than by diminishing it in his support such as killing stock to live on &c.

Sworn to & declared in open Court March 29th 1825

S/ Zecharah Wells

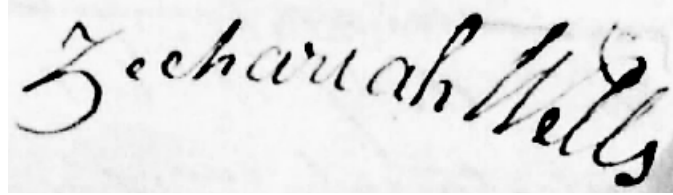


State of Tennessee Washington County: On this 5th day of September 1825 personally appeared before me one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County the subscriber Zachariah Wells and who is also the declarant in the foregoing declaration, and made oath according to law, that he gave in the within statement as near as he can recollect the time of his enlistment, but from frailty of his memory, he may have been mistaken, & given an earlier period than was the fact, but he thinks he distinctly remembers that his enlistment was previous to the declaration of independence. He further states, that he since the 18th of March 1818 has made no changes in his property, so as to give the same: and he so stated in the original declaration but the clerk who drew it, inserted the date of the subsequent law, supposing that to the time; and as before stated in his first schedule, he has had no other property since the 18th of March 1818 except what he therein [several indecipherable words] except what little stock of hogs or young cattle he in the meantime may in the seven years have raised & killed for support of which it is wholly impossible for him to give an account, but which could not in the whole seven years have exceeded \$20, but that his property is now & has for that length of time remained stationary, owing to his having been afflicted with a cancer & being unable to attend to business he lived with one of his sons, & was supported by his charity & filial affection, and again repeats that he served as stated in his declaration except indeed he may have been mistaken in the time of enlistment, which would not be surprising when he reflect that from old age and bodily infirmity

he is intellect is almost wholly gone.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the subscriber the day first before written.  
S/ Wm Colyer, JP

S/ Zachariah Wells

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zachariah Wells". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface, possibly a piece of paper or parchment.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing November 19, 1825, for service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]