

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joseph Sapp: S41122

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia: Be it remembered that at a County court held in and for the County of Monongalia at the courthouse of the said county on tuesday the 27th of June in the year 1820, personally appeared in open court, {being a court of record which proceeds according to the course of the common law, with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, and keeping a record of its proceedings} Joseph Sapp aged about sixty years, resident of said county, 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 the year 1776 under Capt. Joseph Caldwell, in the flying camp for five months, commanded by Col. Patterson, was in the battle of Cuckolds town on Statten island [sic: Staten Island NY, possibly 22 Oct 1776], then discharged in Philadelphia in December. he again enlisted in March 1778, in Capt. Hollands company Delaware regiment commanded by Col. [David] Hall, who was succeeded by Col. Vaughn [sic: Joseph Vaughan]. after taking the small pox by orders, he marched to Valley forge, from thence to Monmouth, where he was in the battle of that place [28 Jun 1778], was then in the battle of Gates' defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], he was then in the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], then in the battle called the Surprise at Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, 25 Apr 1781] where he received a wound in his arm by a ball and buckshot. after lying in the hospital at Charlotte [NC] three week was at the attacking of the fort of 96, when he was again wounded by a musket ball which passed through his stock on his neck, into his right arm near his shoulder, and came out on the opposite side near his elbow, while he was attempting to scale the wall of the enemys fort, to set fire to the same [see note below]. he was then taken prisoner, and kept about five weeks Col. [John Harris] Cruger of the British army then parolled him to go home, there he obtained Doctor Millers certificate of his wounds, on the 26th day of January 1788* [Note at bottom of page: "*This should be 1783 - vide declaration dated 25 Sept. 1820."] he received a certificate from Col. Walter Stewart Inspector of the northern army, that he had examined him and found him unfit for further service, and recommended him to his excellency the commander in chief for a discharge agreeable to a resolution of Congress of the 23^d April 1782. that he did receive a discharge signed William Jackson Sect'y War attested by Jos Carlton Sect'y which is recorded in the rolls office at Dover in Kent county Delaware in soldiers book A folio 15. a copy of which he has now in his possession; that he has no other evidence that he knows of in his power.

And I do solemnly swear, that I was a resident citizen of the United States, on the 18th of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any other 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, passed on the 18th 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 following schedule, which I have subscribed to wit

One mare & colt, one cow & calf, 5 pigs, 2 plows, 1 set of gears, 3 chairs, one pewter dish & a few old plates, two cups & saucers, a few old broken knives & forks, 2 buckets, one old tub, one churn, 1 kettle, 1 stew pot, 1 old table, one chest, two axes, 1 mattox & 2 hoes

(Signed) Joseph hisXmark Sapp

my wife Sarah aged about 58 years, a son Samuel, near 21 years old much of a cripple, another son Henry about 19 years of age, and one daughter Elizabeth about 14 years of age is all the family I have with me- lives on rented land, and is not able to do much work, has no trade-

Virginia. Be it remembered that at a County court, held in and for the County of Monongalia, at the courthouse of the said county, on monday, the 26th of September in the year 1820. and 45th year of the Commonwealth, personally appeared in open court, {being a court of

record, which proceed according to the course of the common law, with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount and keeping a record of its proceedings} Joseph Sapp who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare in addition to his former declaration made before said court at June term last. That he enlisted under Capt. Holland, for three years or during the war, in the month of March 1778, in the Delaware regiment commanded by Col. Hall, who was succeeded by Col. Vaughn. that he was at the attack of the fort Ninety six, in the month of June 1781, and was taken prisoner on the 14th of the same month. That more than one year after being taken prisoner, having been parolled, he was ordered to appear at Philadelphia to be inspected as an invalid. that he then kept garrison five months, when he received a certificate of discharge a copy of which is now in his hands, and is in these words "This Certificate that the bearer Joseph Sapp soldier of the State of Delaware, having been examined by me is found to be unfit for any further duty either in the field or garrison from a wound he received in the service of the United States, which also appears by a certificate lodged in war office signed by his Colonel and the surgeon of his regiment. he is at his own request recommended to his Excellency the Commander in Chief for a discharge agreeable to a resolution of Congress of the 23^d of April 1782. Given under my hand at Philadelphia this 26th day of January 1783.

Walter Stewart Col. Inspector North Army

August the 21 in the yer 1820

Monangahaile County Stat of Virgine

Der Sir I take this oportunity of righting to you to Let you know that Joseph Sap pensner has sold three plantasion and he has the Money at intrest and he has reseved Mor Mone that Wood By the Best planttion in our Cuntre and this famle is rised up and the [sic: they] stand waiting for the pension then the Ceape train at hounds Evre night the air out and hunts pepls orchds or ther nope[?] paches the property is worth Mor then one thousad Dolers and he is abell to work as ene of his age and his faml is totell idellness

And to inform y of Gaberell Willims [sic: Gabriel Williams, pension application W9896] is no Charity for he is abel [to] work But the Ceap hore hous froleken and allid lers [idlers?] gethers ther and the go Dresed Evredaye and he has raised By froleks five hundred Bushells of grain and if thes gets pension we May Leve the stait for the pensioners will Rull the Cuntre

I will tak My oth that the air no Charety But you can Dou as you ples But if the get all shud get and the air Ruen this Naberhood By Dunkeness if I Cold in form you Rig hong lapey I wood nomor at present But remains your Adm David Wells

Morgantown 20th Feb 1821

I received your letter by the last mail, containing the information with respect to the claims of Gabriel Williams and Joseph Sapp and was truly astonished and surprised that any person could be so malicious and without the least regard to truth, state that the one had raised 500 bushels of grain the last year, & had a family who together with himself were able to support themselves, and the other had sold three good farms & was living on the interest of his money -

I immediately communicated the contents to Thos Wilson esq. (an atto. at law & a member of congress in 1812) Col. Ralph Berkshire, Nimrod Evans esqr (clerk of the court) & several other gentleman of this place. they were all truly astonished and surprised, and with one accord, they determined to immediately satisfy the War department that the information received there was without even the shadow of truth -

Accompanying this letter, I send the affidavits of gentleman of standing & integrity, whose character are well known to Dr. Jackson, our representative.

You may be assured sir, that the County court of Monongalia would never order the declaration & schedule of an applicant for a pension to be certified (if they could know the truth of the applicants situation) if they supposed it did not contain a fair statement - Williams & Sapp are well known & live within eight miles of this place -

Respectfully yrs T P Ray[?]

[To] J S Edwards esqr

Washington Dec'r 29th 1821

Hon'ble J C Calhoun [Secretary of War]

I beg leave again to call your attention to the suspended cases of John [sic] Sapp & Gabriel Williams Revolutionary Pensioners of Virginia

They are suffering for the want of the aid of the Government.

Last winter a great many respectable persons of Monongalia signed a memorial in their behalf which is on file in our office, to which I beg leave to refer. It appears that David Wells whose information in this matter the War Dept. acted upon never lived in the foregoing county. Neither is he known by the inhabitants thereof

From the distressed situation of the Pensioner, the interest that is felt in their behalf by their neighbors induces me to hope the War Dept will give their immediate attention to the matter & will decide favorably to the old soldiers. Very respectfully E B Jenkson[?]

NOTES:

Sapp appears to have been one of the 10 men, called the "Forlorn Hope," who attempted to burn the Star Fort during the Siege of Ninety-Six SC between 22 May and 19 Jun 1781. Six of the ten were killed or captured.

On 26 Sep 1820 Zadoc Morris deposed that both he and Joseph Sapp were captured at the Battle of Camden.

The affidavits referred to in the last two letters above are in the complete file.