

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Simms S4840

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.]

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State of Tennessee, Blount County }

Personally appeared before me William McTeer an acting Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid James Simms a soldier of the revolutionary war aged Eighty-One years four months and twenty-six days old and residing in the said County of Blount and State of Tennessee and being duly sworn according to law says that when he was twenty or twenty-one years old he substituted in the place of a man named George Riddle in the County of Frederick and State of Virginia to perform a Tour of duty for the protection of the frontier settlements and was attached to a company of drafted Militia under the command of Captain Sutton or Eason affiant does not now recollect which and was marched to the mouth of Wheeling on the Ohio River and was stationed at Fort Henry and remained there six months for the protection of said Fort at the expiration of which time he was dismissed by the officers who commanded him having performed the duties of a private soldier during said Term of six months this affiant states that he does not now recollect whether he got a written discharge or not for said Tour of duty if he got a discharge it is lost or destroyed. The said James Simms further states that afterwards he removed to the County of Washington in the said State of Virginia and in the year 1778 he volunteered to guard the Jail of the said County of Washington at Abingdon where a conspicuous & leading Tory was lodged whose name was Kerr affiant was there under the command of Captain Joseph Black and was in the service two weeks and was dismissed this affiant further states that in the 1779 he volunteered to perform a Tour of duty against the hostile Cherokee Indians (but cannot now recollect the names of the officers of the company he served) rendezvoused at the long Island of Holston River where affiant with the Troops got in Canoes and descended the River to the mouth of Chickamauga Creek in the Cherokee nation and was under the immediate command of Col Evan Shelby and was in service two months was marched home and dismissed without receiving any written discharge that he recollects of the said James Simms further states that in the spring of the year 1780 he volunteered to go to the Three forks of New River was under command of Lieutenant Samuel Newell¹ and commanded by Col Arthur Campbell and was one month in active service and then dismissed without any regular discharge. This affiant further states that in the fall of this same year viz. 1780 he volunteered to perform a Tour of duty for the protection of the Carolinas against the Tories and British attached himself to a company under the command of Captain Robert Craig rendezvoused on Watauga River in the County of Sullivan

¹ [Samuel Newell R7617](#)

marched from thence to South Carolina under command of Cols William Campbell, Sevier [John Sevier] and Shelby [Isaac Shelby] he was in the Battle of King's Mountain [October 7, 1780] where the Tories and British were defeated & captured and was in service one month that campaign and was dismissed without any written discharge that he recollects of the said James Simms further states that he performed all of said Tours of duty as a private soldier during the time of the revolutionary war & against the common enemies of the Country and that the services he performed in the term of said war does amount to ten months and two weeks active duty and that he knows of no person he can procure by whom he can prove the whole of his services and that he has no documentary written evidence to prove the Tours of duty he did perform as a soldier in the revolutionary war and the said James Simms hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension or annuity whatever except the claim hereby presented and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State.

S/ James Simms



Sworn to and subscribed before me this sixth day of August 1832.

S/ William McTeer, Justice of the Peace

State of Tennessee, Blount County

This day personally appeared before me William McTeer an acting Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid John McCroskey² who being first duly sworn according to law says that he is well acquainted with James Simms who signed the foregoing declaration and that he served with the said James the campaign to King's Mountain and that he also served with the said James the campaign to the Chickamauga Creek in the Cherokee nation and that he knows the declaration of the said James Simms as above written in relation to the said campaigns is substantially true and that he has reason to believe the whole of the said James's declaration true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the sixth day of August 1832.

I hereby certify that the above John McCroskey is not a citizen of my County and that he were not able to attend and certify as were expected.

S/ William McTeer Justice of the Peace

State of Tennessee, Blount County

This day personally appeared before me William McTeer an acting Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Andrew Creswell³ who being first duly sworn according to law says he is well acquainted with Lewis Simms who signed the foregoing declaration and that he served with the said James the campaign to King's Mountain and that he knows the declaration of the said James Simms as above written in relation to the said campaign is substantially true and he has reason to believe the whole of the said James Simms's declaration true.

S/ Andrew Creswell



² [John McCroskey \(McCrosky\) S2781](#)

³ [Andrew Creswell S1948](#)

Sworn to & subscribed before me the sixth day of August 1832.
S/ William McTeer

[Robert H. Snoddy, a clergyman, and Samuel Bogle gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee County of Blount: On this 2nd day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me William Mason an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, James Simms a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged eighty-two years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in addition to and amendment of the annexed original declaration dated the 6th day of August 1832 made before William McTeer a Justice of the Peace of said County and State and returned from the War Department Pension office &c Numbered 6575, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – to wit – That in his present neighborhood he is known to the Reverend Robert H Snoddy, Samuel Bogle, John McCrosky and Andrew Creswell whose Certificates and signatures are annexed to the original declaration, that he is also known to William McTeer, Hugh Bogle, and James Upton Esquires, also to James Dunlap, Evans Creswell and that William Malcolm Elder of the English Congregation and most of the members of that Congregation, to which applicant has belonged and of which he has been a member for more than thirty years – all those above named and many others of said Congregation will testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution

In of what County and State were you born

Answer I was born in Frederick County in the State of Virginia.

In what year were you born

Answer. I believe I was born in the year 1750 or 1751 or thereabouts but I have no record of my age and is obliged to dependent on the information of my friends and acquaintances when I was young and also when old some of which knew their age and upon which information I form I believe respecting my age.

S/ James Simms

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Simms". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ James Simms".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$34.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months & 14 days in the Virginia militia.]