

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Sammons S6045 NY NJ
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

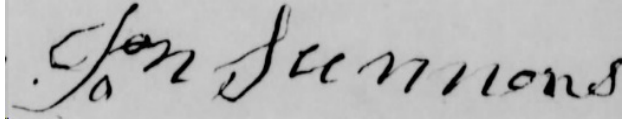
State of Virginia } SS.
Greenbrier County }

On this 24th day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the County of Greenbrier (it being a Court of Record) John Sammons a resident of the said County of Greenbrier and State of Virginia, aged 73 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 enlisted in the army of the united States in 1776 or the year 1777 under Capt Thomas Wolverton and served in the [blank] Regiment of the Line under the following named officers. That he enlisted for the term of four months in the year 1776 or 1777 he does not recollect which (but he well knows that it was the year the battle took place on Long Island [27 Aug 1776]) in Sussex County in the State of New Jersey under Capt Thomas Wolverton, and was marched to the City of New York and was there attached to the Regiment commanded by Colo [Ephraim] Martin, was then stationed on Long Island under General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], and was reviewed by Gen'l Green and remained on Long Island until he was discharged during this four month service he was in no engagement with the enemy. That he was discharged at Brookland [sic: Brooklyn] on Long Island. that if he received any discharge he has lost the same, that his time of service expired about the last of July. and about 1st September following in the County of Orange and State of New York he enlisted again into the service of the United States for the term of five or six months he does not recollect which under Capt John Weigner, and was marched from the County of Orange to Kings Bridge near York Island [Manhattan] and was then attached to the Regiment commanded by Colo Nicholas and under the Command of General James Clinton. during this five or six months service he was engaged in active service, was in many scouting parties, in one of which his Capt Weigner was arrested and broke for Cowardice and that he was at the battle of York Island [Harlem Heights, 16 Sep 1776] and the Company to which he was attached at the battle of the white plains [28 Oct 1776] he was not in the Battle owing to being sick, and after his term of service was out he was discharged at Peeks Kill [Peekskill] on North river. That his discharge if he got one he has lost. That he returned to Sussex County New Jersey, and the year following he was drafted in the Militia Service, and place under Capt Cole and was marched to Elizabeth Town, and was placed under Gen'l. Windes and was placed there to guard said Town and Amboy and served one month at this time and then was relieved, and about two months after this he was called to serve another month at same place, and then returned to Sussex County, after this months service was expired some time, he was called on to service a third months and so on until he served four or five months at different times, at Elizabeth Town and Amboy one month at a time. and that he recollects that one of his Captains name was Shill[?] and that another name was Etsell and that during this service a number of the British army was stationed on Stratton Island [sic: Staten Island], and some skirmishing took place with them. and that he was drafted and marched on to the Battle of German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777]; He was not in the Battle at German Town owing to an injury he received in his foot, but that Capt Etsells Company to which he belonged was in the Battle and that he served one month or upwards this Tower, and returned home to Sussex County, and that he was called on frequently on Scouting parties or as an Indian Spy towards the head waters of Delaware river about four or five different towers, sometimes he served in these towers eight, ten, or twelve days at a time in all he believes he served about two months or upwards. In the year 1781 he either enlisted or was drafted for three months he does not now recollect which under Capt David McCambly in Orange County New York and was stationed at the Fish Kills on the north river in the Regiment commanded by Colo. Hathhorn [probably Hartshorn or Hawthorne] and there served out his three months and was discharged at Fish Kills. If he received any discharge he does not now recollect what has become of the discharges. that he

has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can with convenience procure except the evidence of Robert Buckhannon [sic: Robert Buchanan, pension application S37806] that he herewith submits in corroboration with this declaration [not found]

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 state

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



Richard Sammons being sworn in open Court sayeth that he was born in the State of New Jersey in Sussex County and was raised and lived in Orange County New York, and has heard it said by a number of persons that John Sam[mons] had served in the Revolutionary war, and has heard Benj[amin] Sammons his Father who is the brother of the said John Samm[ons] frequently state that John Sammons did serve in the revolution

Sworn & subscribed this day & year aforesaid

[signed] Richard Sammons

Question 1st Where and in what year was you born

Answer, I was born in the County of Orange and State of New York I believe in the year 1758 or 1759

Qs. 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

Ans. 2 I have none, and only know my age from recollection and from information from the family

Qs 3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now [live]

Answer 3rd I was living in Sussex County New Jersey, and in Orange County New York when I was called into service. I lived for some time after the Revolution in Orange County New York, and then moved to Greenbrier County Virginia where I have lived for the last Forty years and where I now live

Qs 4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom.

Ans. 6. In the first two towers of duty I enlisted afterwards I was drafted, except the last three months I served. in that I do not recollect whether I was enlisted or drafted.

Qs 5. State the names of some of your [sic: "the"] regular officers who were with the troops, where you served: such circumstances and military regulations, and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans 5. I have been under Generals Washington, Green, [Israel] Putnam and Clinton of the regulars and Hathorn and Windes of the militia, and Colonels Martin, Soward, Nicholas, and others. I have stated all the particulars of my service in the foregoing declaration

Q 6 Did you receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Ans. 6. If ever I did receive a discharge I do not recollect and if I did I have lost them

State of Virginia } SS

Greenbrier County }

on this 9th day of July 1833 personally appeared before me Henry Erskine a Justice of the peace in and for said county John Sammons aged 74 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following further declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1833

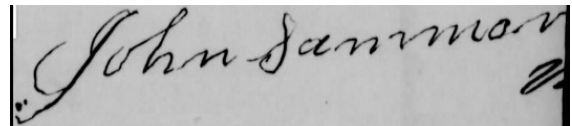
There appearing to be some objection to is declaration of the 24th September 1832 and explanation to be made which he feels well satisfied to do In the first objection as stated That on or about 1st Sept 1777 he entered into the service for five or six months he dose not recollect which to

rectify which he will place this service at five months. this much time he is sure he entered the service for and served as stated in his declaration of 24th Sept 1832

2^d. Objection in year 1778 he served two months and was called on to serve a third and so on until he served four or five months at different times at Elizabeth Town & Amboy He now states that he is sure of having served five months that is embracing first second and third month it appears that two months are put down as intended to be allowed these two months are to be embraced in the five months which he is sure he served in this year as set forth in his declaration of 24th 1832

2^d Objection is as to the service in scouting parties in which it is stated he served two months and upwards He states that he is well satisfied of having served in this service more than two months but as it has been a long time and he cannot bring his mind to a proper recollection of the particular time he is willing to place it at two months but well knows it is under the proper time he served. He states he is advised as to the other service set forth in his declaration of 24th Sept 1832 it is unnecessary to state anything as further explanation of them as there appears to be no objection to them. But He states when he made his declaration of 24th Sept 1832 He entirely forgot one month and a very important month of his service which was a months service he thinks in the year 1779 in month of June he was detached to serve one month and put under Capt Richard Etsell and was marched from Sussex county New Jersey to a place called Pyrammus near Hackensack River [sic: Paramus near Hackensack River] New Jersey. During this months service the company had had severe service to encounter in guarding the settlement against the enemy and Tories which were numerous in that settlement and had several severe skirmishes with the enemy in which three men were killed.

It appears that he in signing his name wrote the same Sammons He states the reason that it was written in that way he is not accustomed to write his name and committed the mistake himself that his name is as stated in his declaration Sammons

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Sammons". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Sammons was originally issued a certificate for a pension of \$56.66 per year for 17 months service, but on 21 July 1835 the pension was reduced to \$43.33 per year for 14 months service. The reduction evidently resulted from James L. Edwards, the Pension Commissioner, counting only what Sammons remembered to tell US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton in the following report, and also from Edwards having decided that Indian service was not military. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth. S6111. Singleton wrote on his report "Entitled." The report is extremely faded.]

John Sammons served 17 month has rec'd \$169.95

I the undersigned John Sammons being called on by W. G. Singleton agent of the Pension office for a narrative of my services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution and statement of my age give the following to wit – On the 11th of May next I shall be 76 yrs old. am a native of Orange County New York and lived in that county during the war of the Revo. I was born in 1759 – in February succeeding the May in which I was sixteen years old – which must have been in 1775 [sic] – I enlisted in New York for four months under Capt Thomas Wolverton. (received no bounty) Rendezvoused at Warrick[?] & marched to the city of New York. Joined Genl N. Greens division at Booklen Long Island. Whilst on the Island the British attacked the American army and preceding the attack my enlistment expired – I got my discharge and went home; – My discharge has been long since lost or [one or two illegible words] – this service was done in the year in which Washington retreated from New York [1776] – I belonged to Col Ephraim Martin Regt

after being at home for five or six weeks only [several illegible words] for five months under Capt. John [illegible] [illegible name] Lieut. Saml Gore [Samuel Gore] Ensign, went to Kings Bridge was attached to Genl James Clintons Brigade Colo Nicholas Regt after being at Kings bridge about 3

mo. we marched to the Peak Kills, at the latter place my term expired. was discharged [several illegible words] – after an interval of 3 or 4 weeks I was drafted for one month. [one or two illegible words] Elizabethtown N. Jersey under Capt. Cole. I cant tell the year in which this was. after an interval of a month or two I served a nother month at same place under Capt Stull. was drafted – after an interval of a month or two I served a nother month at the same place under Capt Etzell – in the next succeeding summer I served a nother month at same place under same Capt Etzell – during the war of the Revolution I served at least [illegible] months against the Indians on the Deleware River. the Indian Service was done in detached tours of sometimes a month & some times less. cant pretend to [illegible word] to the service thus performed and to enumerate the tours – but I am possitive that I served at least one month in all against the Indians

In the year in which the war closed [sic] I substituted in the place of [illegible name]. marched to the Fish Kills under Capt David McCamblin remained there three months – Col. Hawthorne[?] commanded – thus ended my service – I repeat that I am seventy six years old next may – and that I enlisted as before stated in February succeeding the May in which I was sixteen years old – and that I did not go into the war until a year or two after the Battle of Bunker Hill [17 Jun 1775]. Henry Erskine wrote my Declaration charged me nothing. Jany 19th 1835 John Sammons

Witness/ Wm [illegible] A copy W. G Singleton

Memo. it is manifest that this [illegible word] is mistaken in his age or that he is an impostur. I think him an Honest man, and therefor am bound to believe that he is [illegible word] in his age

W. G Singleton/ Jany 22 1835