

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Sims S6100

f24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/26/12

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Culpeper County Sct.

On this 20th day of September personally appeared before the justices of the County Court of Culpeper now sitting Reuben Sims a resident of said County and State aged seventy-seven 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 the 7th 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he was born in the County of Culpeper Virginia on the 17th of March 1755 – That he entered the service in the fall of 1775 in the "minute" service under command of Captain Stevens afterwards General Stevens [Edward Stevens], Lieutenant Pallin [could be Patten], John Jamieson Ensign Colonel dark's Regiment.

That he marched to Williamsburg, thence to Suffolk, thence to Hampton, where we took a vessel from Dunmore [Lord Dunmore, the last Royal Governor of Virginia]. That he was at the Battle at Long Bridge [December 9, 1775] where Faudyas [Charles Fordyce, a British officer] fell– thence to Norfolk, after that Town was burned [Lord Dunmore burned Norfolk January one, 1776 as he departed the state of Virginia] and Dunmore gone, thence to James Town, thence back to Culpeper with the company was dined [?] at Moore's [?] table and discharged, being gone about twelve months. That in the year 1777 in March he was drafted and went into service under Captain John Waugh and marched to the lower part of Virginia, and getting to Petersburg, and was in a Battle at that place, thence marching about was finally discharged at Richmond. That Colonel Morgan commanded the Regiment and Major Welsh.

That in the spring of 1778 or 1779 he again went into service under Captain James Nash, Major Hill, General Muhlenberg and marched towards North Carolina, and was given back by the enemy – Thence through the Dismal Swamp to Cabin Point and to Richmond, and was again discharged at that place making three months.

That in the latter part of the summer 1781 he was again drafted under Captain James Clarke and at Williamsburg transferred to Triplett's Company, Colonel Edmunds and Major Welch were in command and General Stevens' Brigade – from Williamsburg he went to York Town, and was at the siege of York – saw Cornwallis's Army surrender [October 19, 1781] and marched out between the French and American Troops, after the siege he went on with the prisoners to Winchester and was discharged, that during the siege he was wounded at Pigeon Hill when ordered with his Regiment to aid the French troops on attack on that place.

That in the month of August 1777 he was in the service in Pennsylvania marching from Culpeper under command of Captain Henry Hill in Colonel James Barbour's Regiment, but in Maryland on the way was under command of Major Roberts. That in Pennsylvania he joined at

Washington's Army and continued with him until near Christmas and was discharged making a tour of four months or thereabouts.

That he can prove the above service I Major Roberts and others

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 the agency of any state.

S/ Reuben Sims¹

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

I Joseph Roberts resident of Culpeper County Virginia do hereby certify that I was with Reuben Sims as he describes the above Declaration in the tour of which he speaks that as at Petersburg in Virginia and have no hesitation in saying that he performed the service of which he speaks at that time.

S/ Joseph Roberts

Then the Court proceeded to propound the following interrogatories to the applicant he being under oath, and which he answered as is herein after stated

Question Where and in what year were you born?

Answer In the County of Culpeper Virginia on the 17th of March 1755

Question Have you any record of your age; and if so where is it?

Answer I have the family Register in a Bible

Question Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer I was born in Culpeper County Virginia and have never lived elsewhere

Question, How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer I entered in the minute service first for 12 months and was drafted afterwards

Question State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; as such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the General Circumstances of your service

Answer I have stated the names of the officers under whom I served. I knew many others such as was Marquis Lafayette &c I have set forth my services in my Declaration.

Question Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer I never was discharged in writing – companies and regiments were disbanded together. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Answer Mr. John Turner, Zephaniah Turner, Captain Brown and I might name others. My service is proved by respectable testimony.

State of Virginia Culpeper County SS

This day before this [one or more indecipherable words] a Justice of the Peace in and for that said County, personally appeared George Foushee² and being sworn stated that he knew Reuben Sims in the Revolution and was with him two tours, one at and about Petersburg, the other the siege of York, and that he knew that said Sims served both those tours, which he thinks

¹ I do not believe this is the actual signature of the veteran since handwriting appears to me to be identical to that of the body of the entire application.

² FPA S8505

word nearly three months each – and that he was unable to get to Culpepper court which is apparent –

Given under my hand this 19 day of September 1832
S/ Thomas Hill, JP

State of Virginia Culpeper County: SS

This day, before me a justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Lucy Sims and being sworn stated that she was the sister of Reuben Sims who is applying for a pension, that she recollected he belonging to the minute service in the Revolution, and that he was absent from home for a period of twelve months at a time and she understood him to be in the service for that time, she being 15 years of age recollects when he left time and when he returned. Given under my hand this 19th day of September 1832.

S/Thomas Hill, JP

State of Virginia County of Culpeper: SS

On this 28th day of January 1833 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Reuben Sims and being sworn in legal form deposed and saith – That in his declaration for a pension made in open Court in the County aforesaid on the 20th day of September last (which is now before him) he stated the "minute service" to have been for twelve months because he believed as it was an enlistment that he was entitled to the whole time, but being now told that he must specify the precise time says that he was in actual service during that tour (the circumstances of which are stated in his declaration) seven months or more – that during said twelve months he was ordered to Hunter's forge where he was in service he thinks one month but is willing to receive for twenty days – that he did not state that service in his declaration because he included in his twelve months tour and thought that right – That the tour commencing March 1777 was a three month tour or was continued for three months waiting for reinforcements. – That the tour under Captain Nash in 1778 or 9 continued for the same period of three months – That the tour of 1781 under Captain Clarke and afterward, Triplett, including the siege of York was also for three months. That the Tour to the North under Major Roberts in 1777 was for four months. That during the Revolutionary war he was much in the service – he is confident now that the period he claims (twenty months 20 days) and that he more than 15 years ago put his papers in the hands of a member of Congress who getting an appointment under the government went off and has never returned them nor can they be found on file – and that no clergyman lives within 15 miles of him.

Given under my hand the day and year first above written.

S/ A. F. Hill, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$68.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 20 months and 20 days service as a private in the Virginia militia.]