

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Sutton S6178

f95VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/28/12: rev'd 1/23/22

[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 'indcipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 24]

John Sutton's Declaration

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the Act entitled "an act for the relief of certain Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved the 15th May 1828" I John Sutton of the County of Caroline in the State of Virginia do declare that I entered into the service of the United States in the year 1776 as commissary to the first Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, and was made paymaster to the same Regiment in the latter part of the same year. I do further declare that I received the pay and rations of a Captain Lieutenant, and that my commission was destroyed by the British troops under the command of Colonel Simpko [John Graves Simcoe] sometime in the year 1781. I further declare that I received certificates agreeably to the Auditor's Statement for my full pay as a Pay Master, with the rank of Captain Lieutenant, and that I should have applied for payment of my claim sooner had I known of the existence of the above recited Act of Congress, but am an old man & not much in the way of information. I further declare that I was at the close of the War Pay Master as above stated with the Rank of Captain.

Before me

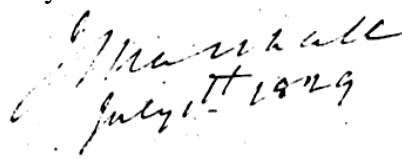
S/ Saml. C. Dickinson, JP [January 29, 1829]

[p 19]

I was very well acquainted with Captain John Sutton during the war of our revolution. He was paymaster to one of the Virginia regiments on Continental establishment. He says the first and I have no doubt it was the first. He continued in the service as well as I recollect until it was ordered to the South and I believe marched with it from the northern Army where I remained. The Regiment was captured in Charleston. I never heard that Captain Sutton resigned.

S/ J. Marshall

July 1<sup>st</sup> 1829



City of Richmond to wit

This day Chief Justice John Marshall personally appeared before me an Alderman for the City aforesaid and made oath that the above Certificate so far as he knows or believes is true. Given under my hand this 1st day of July 1829.

S/ James Rawlings

[p 17]

Richmond July 2nd 1829

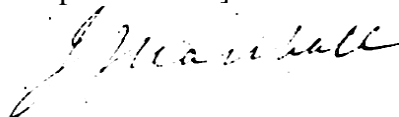
Sir [Addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury of the US]

Frequent applications are made to me to certify the services of officers engaged in the war of our revolution. I gave one yesterday to a Captain Sutton who was a pay master in one of the Virginia regiments which was ordered to the South while the residue of the Virginia line including the Regiment in which I served remained in the North. I gave it in some haste while some friends were waiting for me and on reflection in the afternoon am induced to suspect that a fact may be implied from the certificate which I did not intend. The fact to which I allude is that Captain Sutton was captured in Charleston. I did not mean to convey this idea. I meant to say that I believe he still belonged to the Regiment when it was captured, not that he was then personally with it. I believe he was not with it. We had more officers than were necessary and some whose services were not required for the time remained either as supernumerary or to follow after the Regiment. I am induced to believe that this was Captain Sutton's case. I do not understand that he ever resigned.

I do not suppose that Captain Sutton will attempt to represent himself as having been a prisoner but to obviate the possibility of misinterpreting my certificate I have thought it proper to give this explanation.

If the subject does not belong to your department I hope you will pardon the trouble I give when I request that this letter may be transmitted to the person before whom the certificate may be laid.

Very respectfully  
I am Sir your obedient  
S/ J. Marshall [John Marshall, Chief Justice of the US  
Supreme Court]



[p 7]

State of Virginia, Caroline County To Wit –

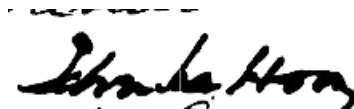
On this 10th day of August 1832 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Captain John Sutton a resident of the United States in the County of Caroline, in the State of Virginia aged about eighty eight, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered into the Army of the United States in the year 1776 in the month of July to the best of his recollection, with the commission of a commissary, and was attached to the first Virginia Regiment of the Continental line under the following named officers – The said Regiment was commanded at that time until he died in Bethlehem some months after by Col. Isaac Read, Lt. Col. John Green, and in the month of October following he was attached to the

brigade of Genl Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg]. The said Sutton states that he continued to act as commissary in the said Regiment until October 1776, at which time he accepted the appointment of paymaster to the said 1st Va regiment, in which capacity he continued to act until the 1st Va regiment was taken prisoners of war at Charleston in 1781 [sic, May 12, 1780], the circumstances of which were as follows – The said regiment was ordered on to Charleston in South Carolina. The said Sutton being at that time indisposed & unfit for duty, obtained a furlough at Petersburg Virginia & returned to Caroline County, where he intended to remain until the state of his health would permit him to join the Army & resume the duties of his office – Whilst in said County of [Caroline] he was surprised and taken prisoner by a part of Tarleton's troop of horse, commanded by Captain Simco [John Graves Simcoe], and the 1<sup>st</sup> Va regiment shared a similar fate at Charlestown – the said Sutton states that he was taken prisoner about the month of June 1781 and was put on parole, in which situation he continued to the close of the war, never having resigned his commission, but always holding himself in readiness to enter upon the duties of his office whenever called on or permitted so to do – The said Sutton states that he was with the Army at the battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] & Monmouth [June 28, 1778] and Germantown [October 4, 1777]. That he marched with the Army from Virginia to New York & was in the island when it was evacuated by General Washington & his troops.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Booth Brown, JP    Robert B. Corbin, JP                      S/ John Sutton



[Booth Brown, JP, & Robert B. Corbin, JP, gave testimony that the veteran was physically unable to attend court due to his age and infirmities.]

[p 63]

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia ,

The petition of John Sutton respectfully states that he entered the service in the beginning of the Revolutionary war – that he marched to the North, with the 1st Virginia Regiment – for a while acted as Commissary and then was appointed Paymaster to said Regiment, with the rank of Captain. He continued in that capacity during the whole time the Regiment was at the North, – and in 1778, incurred a heavy loss, in consequence of his inability to protect and guard the public funds entrusted to him – for which he was indemnified by a special resolution of Congress of April 1779. Upon the return of the Regiment to the South, and during the invasion of Tarleton, he, was taken prisoner and was put on parole & remained in that situation until the end of the war.

The public records show most of these facts, and the enclosed affidavits of Patrick Carnal,<sup>1</sup> Edmund Gatewood<sup>2</sup> and William Southworth<sup>3</sup> confirm the statements herein made.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

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<sup>1</sup> [Patrick Carnal S8156](#)

<sup>2</sup> [William Gatewood S17968](#)

<sup>3</sup> [William Southworth W6141](#)

S/ Thos. Green  
Atty. for Petitioner

[p 63: a copy]

I hereby Certify that I was acquainted with Captain John Sutton in the Revolutionary war. The said Sutton lived about 5 or 6 miles from me, before and after the war – and I understood at that time, that he was a paymaster in the regular army for several years, and that he was taken prisoner by Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] & put on furlough, in which situation he remained to the close of the war, such was the general impression at that time, and I have no doubt but it was correct.

S/ Patrick Carnal

[p 64: a copy]

I hereby Certify that I have been well acquainted with Captain John Sutton all my life being born, & raised near him, in Caroline County. The said Sutton was Paymaster in the regular army, and was in active service at least four years. The said Sutton continued in active service until the invasion, by Tarlton [sic], by whom, he was taken, a prisoner and put on furlough, in which situation, he continued to the close of the war.

S/ Edmund Gatewood

I certify that I was acquainted with Captain John Sutton from boyhood, being raised in the same, neighborhood, and I knew of my own knowledge, that he was paymaster in the regular army in the Revolution, and that the above statement of Mr. Gatewood is minutely and substantially, correct in every particular.

S/ Wm Southworth

[p 66: copy of the resolve of Congress dated April 9, 1779 absolving Sutton of responsibility for the thief of money entrusted to him as paymaster.]

[p 77]

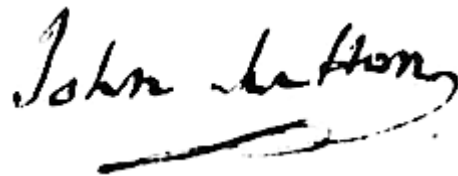
State of Virginia Caroline County SS: Before me Saml. C. Dickinson a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Caroline, in the state of Virginia, personally appeared John Sutton a resident of the County and State aforesaid known to me as a person of good repute and entitled to credit, who first being duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 15th of May 1828 – that he entered into the service of the United States, and joined the Army at Hanover Court House in Virginia in the spring of 1776, with the commission of Commissary to the first Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment. The said Regiment was commanded at that time by Colonel Isaac Read, Major John Green – soon after joining the said Regiment, John Allen was appointed my deputy in the commissary Department, and we marched from Virginia to New York Island – and in the [paper torn and text missing] of New York and joined the main Army under General Washington and was attached to the brigade of General Muhlenberg – On our [paper torn and text missing] aforesaid, Colonel Read was taken sick and died at Philadelphia – He was succeeded in command by Colonel Parker [Richard Parker], – whilst on New York Island he was appointed paymaster to the Regiment afore named, with the rank, pay and subsistence of a Captain. He remained with the Army in active service in New York & the adjacent states about three years, and whilst there was with it in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and

Monmouth – whilst in service, and to the best of his recollection, in the year 1779, the said Sutton states that he was charged with improper conduct, in the management of the public funds; that he appealed to Congress for an investigation of the charges, that a committee was appointed, which investigated the subject, and honorably acquitted him – when the enemy invaded Charlestown in [p 75] South Carolina, that he started with the Army for that place, & on arriving at Petersburg in Virginia he became so much indisposed, that he was incapable of discharging his duties or of going further. Colonel Parker there gave him a furlough with leave to return home in Caroline County to remain until his health would permit him to join the Army again. As soon as he was able, he returned home, where he was confined for a long time with the diseases he had contracted in the Army, which will were a diarrhea & ague & fever – While thus confined, Tarleton made an excursion into Virginia, through the County of Hanover – He states that because of Tarleton's said excursion, he set out, though much indisposed to raise a party to oppose him & whilst thus engaged, he was surprised by a party of Tarleton's troop & taken prisoner. After detaining him as prisoner for some time he was put on parole, and so continued till the war closed – He was captured in the spring of 1781 – He states that he never resigned his commission, but always held himself in readiness to enter upon the discharge of the duties of his office, whenever ordered [paper torn and text missing] & his health permitted –

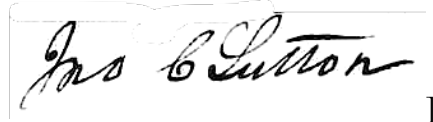
He states that he has long since lost his commission & [indecipherable word] & all papers relative to his service not deeming them of any importance –

He further states that he received no bounty lands from the United States, but received a warrant for a Captain's allowance of 4000 acres from Virginia – He also states that he has never received or applied for a pension, till since the passage of the law of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, under which he applied and received the pay of a Lieutenant only, instead of the pay of a Captain, to which he conceives himself entitled – he further states that he is 89 years of age, & that he never heard of, until recently of the act of Congress under which he now claims. He states also that he never received any commutation pay. In testimony whereof he has hereunto annexed his signature – witness my hand this [p 76] 6th day of July in the year 1833.

S/ John Sutton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Sutton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

[p 11: On October 29, 1835 in Caroline County Virginia, John C. Sutton, executor and devisee of John Sutton filed an application to have the pension increased from \$320 per annum to \$480 per annum; he knows that John Sutton, the veteran, died October 29, 1835 in Caroline County leaving a will in which the petitioner is named as executor and residuary legatee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Sutton". The signature is enclosed in a rectangular box.

[p 12: George L. Graves and Charles H. Marshall gave testimony that the veteran died October 29, 1835 as a bachelor leaving John C Sutton as his executor.]

[p 12:copy of the last will and testament of John Sutton who describes himself as being of

Chesterfield in Caroline County Virginia; he names his nephew Norborne E. Sutton to whom he gave her a Negro named Ottaway and a Negro girl named Courtney; nephew John C Sutton son of his brother William Sutton, deceased; he names his nephew John C Sutton as the residual legatee of his estate with the request that said nephew will loan to his [John C. Sutton's] daughter Sarah James Sutton a Negro girl named Sally, to his daughters Lucy Carter Sutton and Ann Lewis Sutton a Negro girl to be chosen by their mother; he also names John Sutton Sutton, the son of his nephew John C Sutton to be well educated agreeable to the directions of his grandfather Edmond Pendleton of Ridge Way; he names as executors of his estate his nephew John C Sutton and Edmund Pendleton of Ridge Way.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Pay Master for 4 years in the Virginia service. His pension was increased to \$480 per annum and ended October 9th, 1835, the day of his death.]

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The [Virginia State Library](#) online digital collection relating to rejected pension claims of veterans of the revolution contains the following documents relating to this veteran

#### Fauquier County

I do certify that I knew John Sutton – paymaster to the 1st Virginia Regiment on Continental line – he was several years in service & had the rank of a Captain in the line – Given under my hand the 10th September 1822

S/ Jo. Blackwell, Late  
Capt. 6<sup>th</sup> Va. Contl. Regt.

*Fauquier County. I do certify that I knew John Sutton - paymaster to the  
1st Virginia Regt on Continental line - he was several years in service &  
had the rank of a Captain in the line - Given under my hand the  
30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1822. —*

*Jo. Blackwell Late  
Capt. 6<sup>th</sup> Va. Contl. Regt*

#### A Just & true Account of John Sutton's Case

In the year 1776 I rec'd an unsolicited commission as Commissary to march the first Virginia Regiment to New York upon my arrival the British had taken the town, & was marched a little below Fort Washington – on the Island; in October I was appointed pay master to the 1st Virginia Regiment & continued the same until the end of the War – having obtained in the spring 1780 for the time a Furlough to visit my Friends in Virginia for a few months in August or September meeting with Colonel William Daviss of the same brigade but not of the same Regiment he gave me an unsolicited furlough let [?] about November or a return of my health which was not recovered – until I heard of the 1st Virginia Regiment being ordered on to Charlestown (South Carolina) I joined the said Regiment in Petersburg under Colonel Richard Parker the commander thereof gave me an unsolicited Furlough to join the 1st Virginia Regiment at Charles Town South Carolina he marched on there & was shortly after killed & his Regiment was taken with the town. This circumstance I laid my case before the Court martial of the County of Caroline who gave it as their opinion that I was clear of militia duty & that I had no right to perform duty until the Regiment that I belonged to was exchanged – I have applied to

Burbridge Coleman Esquire the son of Daniel Coleman Esquire who was about that time the Judge of the court martial who can give me an account of the Court martial books but that he believes them to be lost or destroyed. In May '81 Hearing that Lord Cornwallis was at Hanover Courthouse with his Army ([indecipherable word or words] were the reports) the next morning by the rise of the sun I went to Captain [indecipherable name]<sup>4</sup> endeavoring to raise a party to find out the truth of the report (which were numerous & contradictory) on my return I saw four men enter into the road called New Market road, from the Cook's Ford Road, which road makes an angle with woods to the left which prevented my seeing them until I came within less than 100 yards [the image of the balance of the text on this page is of such poor quality that I cannot decipher it] British – I returned making my way to Hackel's [indecipherable word] having a young horse [several indecipherable words] I gained ground from them when unfortunately he jumped on a place where a stump had rotted & fell, within five minutes four of them came up to me when they took me, my horse, watch, gold sleeve buttons & between 2500 & 3000 paper dollars & my papers & carried me to Colonel Simco [John Graves Simcoe] – who carried me to Chesterfield in Caroline County there paroled me until Simco's return from his intended route & then carried to Lord Cornwallis' [one or more indecipherable words] Tavern in Hanover – whilst Simco went to Lord Cornwallis was confined until I was sent to him I was politely treated by him, who after some examination said he could expect to gain nothing from me who entered as early into the rebellion – was carried to a place where I was with others put under guard – & paroled to the end of the War, my horse, watch & what I was plundered of &c I am deprived yet & walked about 6 miles to my plantation – my first service was as one of the guard to protect the powder magazine in 1775 – soon after that I volunteered under Captain Thomas Proper [?] & after my return I received the appointment of Commissary as above mentioned I was in service the whole war – though on parole from the spring 1781. Mr. Munroe once promised to get my land for me but never did it.

I now asked it from the Executive of my native State.  
My rank in the service was Captain.

S/ Jo. Sutton

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jo. Sutton". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Sutton". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

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

Addendum to John Sutton S6178

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 22 Jan 2022.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Friday April 9th 1779

The Committee on the Treasury to whom was recommitted their report of the 19<sup>th</sup> of December in the Memorial of Capt. John Sutton, having reconsidered the said Memorial, and been attended by Capt. Sutton with his proofs, report.

That the committee are fully satisfied of the truth of the said Memorial and that the money mentioned in the said Memorial, viz. 956,75-90 [956 <sup>75</sup>/<sub>90</sub>] dollars due to the Commissary's department being a balance in his hands for the time he acted in that Department for the 1st Virginia Regiment; and 3844,11-90 [3844 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>90</sub>] dollars in his hands as paymaster to the said Regiment, was stolen from his tent without any negligence or default on his part; that on the contrary it appears that he used all the precaution in his power for its safe custody: that he took pains and offered to secrete his accounts: that he applied for a guard to watch his tent, which was not granted: that he removed the money with him when he went abroad in the day into the tents of officers of the army who were his friends: that he entreated the Deputy Pay Master Gen'l. to suffer it to be lodged in the Military Chest, which was refused, because there was no room for it: and Lastly that the proof of the theft is clear & satisfactory' whereupon,

Resolved, That two certain sums of 956,75-90 dollars, and 3844,11-90 dollars, stolen from Capt. John Sutton, Paymaster of the 1st Virginia Regiment, be allowed & passed to his credit on the settlement of his public accounts.

The above is an extract from the Journals of Congress Vol 3<sup>rd</sup> page 247 now in my possession and is all I can find in the Journals respecting Capt Sutton. Thos. Green/ 22 July 1830

Frederic County 30 August 1823

I do certify that I was acquainted with John Sutton, Paymaster in one of the Va. Continental Regiments. he was pay master whom I became acquainted with him, and was called Captain Sutton. he was a part of the Military Staff when I knew him, but how long he remained in service I know not. Given under my hand this day & date as above written.

Cha Magill [Charles Magill W5336]



[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I certify that I was well acquainted with Capt John Sutton of Caroline County in and before the revolutionary war. Capt. Sutton and myself were born and raised in the same neighbourhood and were both in the army in the Continental line. The said Sutton entered service as a Captain and served in that capacity in recruiting and in active duty in the ranks for some time when he was induced to take a staff appointment which he held untill the invasion of Tarlton [sic: Banastre Tarleton] in 1781 when he was surprized and taken prisoner and after a while put on parole in which situation he continued till the close of the war. A little before Tarlton's invasion Capt. Sutton's health had become so bad as to render him unfit for duty, and he retired for a short time on furlough & was staying near Chesterfield on the Hanover Line when he was captured. When Capt. Sutton entered the Staff department, he did not resign his commission in the line that I ever heard of.

Norment (Norman) Harvey [S38005]

[March 1833]





