

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Samuel Vails S6300
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn15NC
rev'd 7/9/11

[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 Tennessee, Hardeman County

On this 8th day of May 1838 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Hardeman County now sitting Samuel Vails a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged at 79 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 act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That in the year 1780 he being then a Citizen and resident of Rowan County North Carolina he volunteered in the Service of the United States as a private under Captain Tom Gordon and marched to Charleston S. C. and joined the forces then there under the Command of General Lincoln [the scribe appears to have written "Green" first and then overwrote "Lincoln"] and Colonel Francis Locke or Major Joel Lewis, we were stationed at Moncks Corner, after a few weeks the British succeeded in landing and captured the City of Charleston. General Greene then retreated and we were marched to Salisbury where we remained 15 or 20 days from thence went down towards the Eutaw Springs, we fought the battle of that name and I was slightly scratched on the forehead. Remember seeing Colonel Washington and Cavalry and also Colonel Lee. We were discharged in Salisbury – Colonel Locke gave me a discharge, but I have lost it. (We were out on this tour of duty at least six months, but declarant is too old and feeble that his memory does not served him well[]). 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 in any State or (if any) only on that of the Agency of the State of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. S/ Samuel Vails, X his mark

[Wm Nuckolls & John Kelly give an affidavit attesting Vails' age and belief in the neighborhood of his revolutionary services.]

State of Tennessee, Hardeman County

On the 6th day of August 1838 personally appeared in open Court, Before the County Court now sitting, Samuel Vails a resident of said State and County aged 79 years and who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, make the following additional declaration to what he has heretofore sworn to and in the files of the War department in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That being old and after having in a great measure lost the sense of hearing, it is difficult for him to make himself understood, being also incapable of reading or writing, by which means he was not as explicit in his former declaration as is required. He now states that to the best of his remembrance he entered the Service of the United States under Captain Gordon and served a tour of three months in & about Salisbury North Carolina this was in __ at the end of that tour, he was discharged and afterwards served another tour of three months under Captain Fletcher and was at the Fork of the Yadkin [River] guarding prisoners, our Colonel was Colonel Locke. It was this tour of service when I was in the battle of Eutaw Springs a distinct recollection of which I have. This declarant says that he having no education never applied for a pension before, as he was profoundly

ignorant that he had a Claim to his Country's bounty until informed so recently. 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. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Samuel Vails, X his mark

[Robert C. Moore and John Mitchell give affidavit of the belief in the neighborhood of Vails' revolutionary services.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]