

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Sparks S7580

fn43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/3/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina County of Wilkes: SS

On this 30th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, now sitting, John Sparks Esquire a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina aged seventy-nine 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 7th 1832.

That he was born on the 25th day of February 1753 in the County of Rowan in the State of North Carolina where he lived until he removed with his Father to what is now Wilkes (then Surry) County North Carolina about the year 1772. He resided in Wilkes until the commencement of the revolution, and about the year 1775 or 1776 he volunteered himself and entered the service of the United States in Captain John Walton's company of minute man who had volunteered for two years – Soon after the company was organized, they were called upon to go against the Scotch & Tories who were said to be committing great depredations in the Country around Cross Creek or Fayetteville – at the time the Company marched this deponent happened to be from home, but as soon as he returned, and being informed that they had gone, he took his horse & pursued with great speed, but did not overtake them; having heard that the Tories were suppressed and the troops on their return, he immediately turned about & returned home – soon after this he was ordered out by Captain Walton to take command of a scouting party & scour the country around through Surry & Wilkes & to suppress the Tories or to bring in as such as was supposed to be disaffected – in these little expeditions he supposes he was in service 2 or 3 weeks. After remaining at home some months, orders were received from Colonel Martin Armstrong to repair and rendezvous at the head of the Yadkin [River], preparatory to marching against the Cherokee Indians. They did rendezvous at or near the head of the Yadkin, and there remained until they built Fort Defiance, where General William Lenoir now lives – during which time, this deponent had the command of the Company, Captain Walton having been appointed a Major – about the time the Fort was completed, orders were received from Major Walton for the company to return home and prepare for an expedition against the Cherokee Indians. This deponent and the company under his command did return home having been gone about a month and prepared with all possible dispatch to go against the Indians, and in a few days marched to headquarters at the Pleasant Gardens where they joined General Rutherford, at

which time the company under the command of this deponent was attached to the company under the command of Captain Benjamin Cleveland, and the entire command transferred to Captain Cleveland. After organizing at headquarters, they marched immediately to the Cherokee Towns of Watauga, Cowee, Oconoluflee [Oconoluftee], Hiwassee, Tuckaseegee & Big Chota, with some others not recollected. This deponent was detailed while in the nation with others, to act as a spy, and on one occasion there party fell in with a small body of Indians on the Hiwassee, with whom they had an engagement in which they killed ten & took three prisoners – without losing any men on their side – After this little skirmish they returned to the main Army, with their prisoners and delivered them up to General Rutherford. The main body of Indians having fled and abandoned the Country, it was thought unnecessary to pursue them, and after burning their houses, destroying their corn, and committing such other depredations upon them as they could, they returned to North Carolina, where they were discharged and returned home – having been gone about three months – after the return of this deponent, he was again called out and served in various short expeditions against the Tories, but the particular periods of each cannot now be recollected. About the time that's Lord Cornwallis was approaching North Carolina from the South, this deponent was again called upon and marched under the command of Colonel Benjamin Herndon, in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis as he was on his march from Cowans Ford to the Catawba to Guilford, and occasionally annoyed and kept in check his outpost and foraging parties, one of whom they captured amounting to twenty or thirty men and detained them prisoners until they were sent off to Virginia – this deponent and the troops with whom he was associated, pursued their march until they reached General Greene's Army at the high rock on Haw River, where they remained several days after which General Greene discharge them, and they returned home having been gone in this expedition at least one month – in a few days after their return home, this deponent was again called with others to search in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis who had retreated to Wilmington – they marched immediately and rendezvoused under General Rutherford some distance on this side of Fayetteville – after organizing, General Rutherford detached near four hundred mounted men, of whom this deponent was one, and place them under the command of Colonel Smith, & Major Graham, and ordered them to proceed down on the South side of Deep & Cape Fear Rivers until they reached Wilmington; while he (General Rutherford) with the balance of the troops crossed the River and proceeded down on the North side – previous to their arrival at Wilmington they heard that Cornwallis had left the place, but that he had left a portion of the British troops to keep possession of the Town. Before however they reached the Town a small detachment was sent ahead to reconnoiter and ascertain the situation of the place – when they returned, it was ascertained that most of the troops were on the northern side of the river, but that a small body had been left on the South to act as a picket guard, upon whom Colonel Smith marched and surprised, and succeeded in killing and taking every man, without surprising the Camp. In a day or two General Rutherford arrived on the North side of the river, about which time the news of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis was received – upon which the British troops immediately evacuated the town and made their escape down the River in the night. The smallpox having been left in Wilmington by the British, it was deemed unsafe for the troops to enter the place – and a discretion was given to the troops to return home or remained with General Rutherford – many did return home, of whom this deponent was one – having been gone in this expedition nearly three months – (& having volunteered for three months would have remained that length of time, but for the smallpox breaking out as before mentioned). The capture of Lord Cornwallis being considered the closing scene of the war, this deponent was not again called upon to

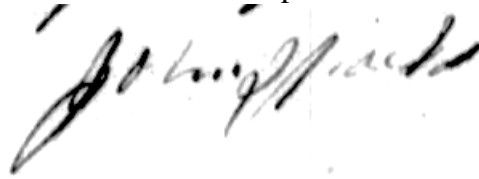
perform any other service – This deponent has continued to reside in the Counties of Surry & Wilkes ever since. He has no documentary evidence to prove his services, nor never received a written discharge that he has any recollection of. He refers to Captain Samuel Johnson¹ as a witness who can testify to part of his services – and he also refers to Captain Samuel Johnson & Reuben Sparks as persons to whom he is well acquainted in his neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services.

This deponent has no record of his age, but the information herein given on that subject was derived from his mother many years ago, and he believes it to be 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 and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ R. Martin, Clk.

S/ John Sparks



On this day and year aforesaid personally appeared in open Court before the court aforesaid Captain Samuel Johnson who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith that he served with John Sparks Esquire of the above applicant during the three months tour performed under General Rutherford to the Cherokee nation, and further that the said three months tour as set forth & specified in the foregoing declaration as having been performed by the said John Sparks Esquire was performed by him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Saml. Johnson



[Samuel Johnson & Reuben Sparks gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: SS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, John Sparks Esquire, who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades – For "8 Months and 21 days" I served as a Private and for such service I claim a pension –

This deponent further saith by way of amendment to the foregoing declaration, that there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood, nor any within a reasonable distance whose testimony he could procure in favor of his veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution –

Sworn to & scribe this 20th day of May 1833 before me

S/ M. H. Wheatly, JP

S/ John Sparks

¹ [Samuel Johnson W5012](#)

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months & 21 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]