

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Josiah Sykes Rev. Pension Application S7673

fn20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/27/11

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

State of North Carolina, New Hanover County

On this 13th day of December A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for New Hanover County now sitting, Josiah Sykes, a resident of New Hanover County, State of North Carolina aged ninety two years on the fifth day of March last, 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

That he first joined the Militia as a volunteer under Captain John Devane. That he does not recollect the year when he entered the service, but that he is certain he entered it at the beginning of the war. That while under Capt Devane, he does not think he went out of the County of New Hanover. The Company was kept in the County marching about through the County to annoy the Tories and discover their plans. That nothing of importance occurred during his service as volunteer under Capt. Devane, except the Battle at Moore's Creek Bridge in the above mentioned County. That Capt. Devane understanding that McCloud [sic, Colonel Donald McLeod] with a considerable number of Tories was marching towards the Bridge and intended crossing it. He took the Company to the Bridge, thence up an entrenchment near it, took up a[text missing, word probably is "all"] the Bridge and left nothing but the sleepers for them to cross on. That having three brass pieces he placed them in a range with the three sleepers of the Bridge, and then kept the men entrenched. That very early one morning the Tories arrived, McLeod at the head marched across, upon getting over, he waved his sword around his head, and said "Come on my boys, the day is our own" when he was instantly shot down, and all those on the sleepers coming over were fired upon and shot, falling off into the

Creek. That they attempted three times to come over, but all being killed who came on the sleepers, they did not attempt it a fourth time, but those of them who were left alive retreated. That he served under Capt. Devane as volunteer six months.

That he was next drafted and served under Capt. Stephen Andrews three months, at Green Field near Wilmington in New Hanover County North Carolina.

That he was next drafted in Bladen County and served six months or thereabouts under Captain Thomas Haynes; that he was marched from Bladen County North Carolina to PeeDee in South Carolina, and from thence back again to Drowning Creek in Bladen County, backwards and forwards through that section of Country. That during his service under Capt. Haynes nothing of any consequence occurred. They were all the time in search of Tories. That while in Bladen County they attacked a small party of Tories on the Brown Marsh and killed one man. That his Captain Thomas Haynes died.

And not long after he was again drafted and served under Captain Turpin McRae about six months. That while under McRae he was employed with the company he was in, in gathering cattle for the use of the soldiers. That he got cattle in Bladen County North Carolina and drove them to Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Camps, back of Charleston.

Upon being asked what Battles he was in, he recollects and states that he was drafted and served under a Dutch Captain from the west whose name he does not recollect; that he was while under him, a part of the time at Greene's Camps in South Carolina. That he went under the Command of General Greene, (This same Dutchman from the west being his Captain) to the head of the Santee River. That while in Camp at the Eutaw Springs, they were attacked by the British about the break of day. That a Battle ensued which lasted as well as he can recollect, about two hours, when the British retreated. That General Greene then sent a flag to them to return and bury their dead, which they did. That General Greene with the main body of the men returned to the Camps, but understanding that the remainder of the British who were in that engagement were to march to the Cape Fear River in North Carolina, Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] with some of the men, commenced a march for Cape Fear River in North Carolina. That he, this Deponent, was among those under Morgan. That while on their march at the Cowpens, while encamped for the night they were attacked by the British and Tories. An engagement commenced, which lasted he thinks about an hour or an hour and a half when the enemy retreated.

That he does not recollect when these engagements happened, but he is certain they were after the battle at Savannah in Georgia. That he does not recollect the names of any officers besides those he has already mentioned. That he has no documentary evidence of his service, and that he knows but one person now living who knows of his having served in the Revolutionary war, and that person is a colored man by the name of Holmes living on Long Creek in New Hanover County.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

To the Interrogatories propounded by the Court, he makes the following answers:

To the first Interrogatory he saith: I was born in North Carolina, in Edgecombe County. The year when born, he cannot precisely say but thinks he was Ninety two years of age the fifth day of March last.

To the second Interrogatory he saith: My Father put my age in a large Bible, which he gave to one of his last sons, who carried it to Kentucky.

To the third Interrogatory he saith: I was living in Bladen County North Carolina, I have since the war lived part of the time in Bladen County and part of the time in New Hanover County, North Carolina. I now live in New Hanover County.

To the fourth Interrogatory he saith: I served as volunteer for six months and after that was drafted.

To the fifth Interrogatory he saith: I have already answered this as fully as I am able in the above declaration to which I beg leave to refer.

To the Sixth Interrogatory he saith: I never did receive a written discharge.

To the Seventh Interrogatory he saith: Leuten [sic] Orr, William Lewis, David Jones, William Scudder. I cannot remember any more names.

This Deponent states that he cannot procure the attendance of a Clergyman without too much inconvenience & expense.

S/ Josiah Sykes, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[Leuten Orr and William Lewis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Josiah Sykes, 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 one year and 9 months I served as a private and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the Justice of the Peace for County aforesaid the 3rd day of May 1833

S/ John Kerr, JP

S/ Josiah Sykes, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 21 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]