

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Stalnaker (Stalmacker) S9487

f26Va.

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/24/21

[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

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State of Virginia, County of Lewis } SS

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 1833 personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Lewis, Samuel Stalnacker a resident of Hackers Creek Settlement in the County of Lewis and State of Virginia aged 70 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: that in the month of April in the year 1780 he affiant volunteered as a private in the County of Monongalia (now Randolph) Virginia under Captain Cornelius Bogard as an Indian spy for 9 months services that Adam Stalnacker was Captain Bogard's Lieutenant and John White his Ensign, that he was stationed at Westfall's Fort on the Tygarts Valley River and placed upon his spying excursions, that he spied through the Country and Counties of (now) Randolph, Lewis, Harrison, Wood, Tyler &c on the waters of Tygarts Valley, Buckhannon River, Stone Coat Creek, Hackers Creek, West fork River, Hughes River, Ten Mile Creek in Virginia State. That during which time he affiant pursued on the Indian Trails frequently on their retreat to their habitations in Ohio State, after having made executions and committed theft and murders upon the (then) thin Settled Country through which he spied, but without ever being able to get any further redress than rescuing stolen property in the first of his Servitude of nine months as a Volunteer under Captain Cornelius Bogard the winter of 1780, being an open one and favorable to the Savage Indians the volunteers were not discharged under Captain Bogard until 1781.

Then in March 1781 affiant again volunteered for eight months as a private to spy through the same Counties and Country as above enumerated namely Randolph &c on the waters of Tygarts Valley &c in Virginia State, under the same Captain Bogard, Lieutenant Adam Stalnacker, Ensign John White was stationed at Westfall's Fort (again) on Tygarts Valley River, Monongahalia [sic] County Virginia engaged upon his spying expeditions was actively engaged during throughout that Summer rescuing stolen property, pursuing Indians &c but without affiant or his company with him ever being able to kill any of the Savages.

That he was discharged in November 1781 by his Captain Bogard. In April 1782 affiant again volunteered under Captain Cunningham as a private to spy through the same Counties of (now) Randolph &c on the waters of Tygarts Valley &c in Monongalia County Virginia for six months and was again stationed at Westfall's Fort on the Tygarts Valley River, affiant again entered upon his spying excursions and during this servitude the Indians in one of their hostile visits killed five of William Lewis' family on the Tygarts Valley River, affiant was one that pursued after the Savages followed their trail twenty miles, and entirely lost any further tidings

of them, and returned under Captain Cunningham who was along personally to Fort, that trip the Indians stole horses out of the Settlement. Affiant continued on his Servitude of six months for which he volunteered without any other occurrence of particular note happening and was discharged by his Captain Cunningham in October 1782. Then in April 1783 Affiant again volunteered as a private to spy through the (now) Counties of Lewis, Harrison, Tyler, Wood, &c on waters of West Fork River, Valley River, Hughes River &c (emptying in Ohio River) under Captain Stuffel Carpenter, Lieutenant James Tanner, Ensign John Brown for four months was stationed at West's [?] Fort on Hackers Creek (now in Lewis County) in Monongalia County, Virginia affiant entered vigilantly upon his spying Requisitions towards Ohio River, Remembers but one circumstance of particular note this last Servitude namely the killing of three of his neighbors and making prisoners of three more by the Indians in July 1783 which prisoners an active effort was made to save particularly by affiant, Elias and Jesse Hews [?]<sup>1</sup> (two of the most renowned men of their day in defending the frontiers and surprising the enemy who out traveled the rest of those who pursued) but the Indians made such flight that they could not be overtaken, affiant continued until August 1783 spying, at which time he was discharged by his Captain Stuffle Carpenter. Affiant was never regularly placed under any Colonel, but knew Colonel Lowther<sup>2</sup> and Colonel Benjamin Wilson.<sup>3</sup> Affiant has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his Services. 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 Stalnacker, X his mark

The said Justice of the peace then proceeded to propound to affiant the Seven Several interrogatories<sup>4</sup> prescribed by the War Department to which he answered as follows Viz.:

As to the 1<sup>st</sup> affiant say as he was born in Hampshire County Virginia in the year 1763.

As to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interrogatory, Affiant saith that he hath not.

As to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Affiant saith that he was living in Monongalia County Virginia: that he has lived since in Randolph, that he now lives in Lewis County Virginia.

As to the 4<sup>th</sup>, Affiant saith that he volunteered.

As to the 5<sup>th</sup>, Affiant saith that he knew Captains Bogard, Cunningham & Carpenter all of whom he served under, Lieutenants Adair, Stalnacker and James Tanner & Colonels Lowther & Wilson.

As to 6<sup>th</sup>, Affiant saith that he was regularly discharged the two first tours by Captain Cornelius Bogard, 3<sup>rd</sup> by Captain Cunningham, and lastly by Captain Carpenter, but has lost or mislaid

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<sup>1</sup> This MAY refer to [Elias Hughes S8747](#)

<sup>2</sup> [William Lowther VAS32](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Benjamin Wilson VAS2022](#)

<sup>4</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7<sup>th</sup> 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

them all, so that he can't find them.

As to 7<sup>th</sup>, Affiant saith that he is known to Thomas Brown and Ezekiel Powers who can testify to his character for veracity, and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

[Thomas Brown and Ezekiel Powers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Lewis County

Samuel Stalmaker aged 71 years served 2 years

In a conversation with this man he said that he was 71 years old in September of 1833—Cant recollect who wrote his declaration, nor does he recollect whether he qualified for it, in open Court or before a Single Magistrate—does not recollect how long he served as a soldier in the War of the Revolution nor where he done service, nor what Company or Companies he served in under what officer or officers can't recollect any of the officers names, nor the names of any of his companions in arms—don't recollect to whom he applied to get him a pension nor any thing about it—referred me to the man who how has his papers, but don't recollect who he is—corrects himself by saying that he served under Captain Bogard in Randolph County, all the service he done during the Revolutionary War was done in Randolph County—Said he had only received about Sixty five dollars out of all the money that had been drawn on his certificate, that sum he received of R. D. Camden of Weston - after the war of the Revolution closed he removed to Lewis County and after his removal was frequently out against the Indians.

After the forgoing statement had been made by Stalmaker, I engaged him in conversation in reference to his settlement and history of Western Virginia—talked about the Indian troubles and all that sort of thing.

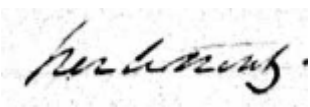
I found him to be a man of ordinary intelligence—his answers to my numerous questions were exceedingly [undeciphered word]<sup>5</sup> and shrewd and his memory of old transactions of 40 years standing. Strictly minute frequently quoting day and date, he is a harty hail man from his appearance I should think him about sixty years old, Mr. Goff my assistant thinks he may possibly be sixty five years old.

John Mitchel,<sup>6</sup> Samuel Bennett,<sup>7</sup> & William Powers<sup>8</sup> (all old men exceeding 70 years) have known Stalmaker from a boy—they all say he is too young to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that he is an imposter.

Stalmaker is one of Jonathan Wamsley's<sup>9</sup> boys—this of itself ought almost to exclude him from the benefit of the Pension Law

Respectfully Reported  
S/ W. G. Singleton  
Special Agent

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6 This may be the John Mitchell of Lewis County, Va., who filed for a pension. FPA S5761

7 This may be Samuel Barrett of Wood County, Va., who filed for a pension. FPA S6590

8 This may be William Powers of Lewis County, Va., who filed for a pension. FPA S18164

9 Notes from the Internet: "Jonathan Wamsley of Lewis County helped many old timers to file pension claims for service during the Revolution. Problem is, most of these were later rejected as being fraudulent.

Richard Phares says (9/97): Jonathan and Hannah fled to TX to escape prosecution after Jonathan and his brother-in-law were caught forging veteran's pension applications and as far as I know he never returned to WV." <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/WAMSLEY/2000-10/0972920828>.

July 1834

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as an Indians by for 2 years in the Virginia militia.]