

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Sims W10252  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Milly

fn45  
rev'd 2/16/11

[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 Tennessee, Blount County: County Court to June Sessions 1833

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of Blount County now sitting John Sims resident in the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-two years the first day of March 1833 as he believes, 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 enlisted in Burke County North Carolina where he then lived in the Summer of the year 1779 as he now recollects in the North Carolina State Troops or Continental Line, for three years, in the Cavalry or mounted forces, under Captain John Stearns, Lieutenant Frederick Plyler, and was attached to Colonel Phifer's Regiment, \_\_ Higgins Major, that they marched and joined General Davidson's Command near Camden South Carolina, and was generally with the Main Army, Some time with Small detachments, and during his Service was in the following Battles, to wit at Moncks Corner, Rugeley's Mills, Ramsour's [Mill], Hanging Rock and Eutaw Springs, in which latter battle he was wounded in the head in two places. The troops to which this applicant belonged, were ordered to join General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], which they did and about three days after their Junction, were in Sumter's defeat near Camden and applicant was there taken prisoner by Colonel Tarleton's Cavalry, and was kept a prisoner three months and one day, when he deserted from them, got home and there remained, Consequently he never received any discharge, and his term of Service expired before he reached home, nor, can he by reason of old age and the Consequent loss of memory, Swear positively to the precise length of time he was in Actual Service, but believes it was three years & a few days, and Served as a private and having been a prisoner of War, and never exchanged as he knew of, he could not again enter the Service without a great a hazard should he be again taken prisoner. He has no documentary or other evidence of his Services, nor does he know of any person now living, within his reach (as he is very poor & unable to travel to North Carolina), by whom he can prove his Services, except James Matheney of Roane County Tennessee whose affidavit is hereto annexed. To the several interrogatories required to be answered by the War Department he answers as follows to wit.

To the first I was born on Roanoke [River] Halifax County North Carolina about the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1761 as I have always understood and believed.

To the Second – I have no record of my age and know of none but one kept by my Cousin in his Bible, and I rely upon that, and the account of my parents & friends and early acquaintances for the above account of my age.

Third – I was living in Burke County North Carolina, from there I removed upwards of 30 years ago to Rutherford County Tennessee, lived there three years; then removed to Roane County Tennessee, lived there two years, then removed to Blount County Tennessee where I now live.

Fourth – I enlisted; as well as I can remember, that was what the officers and Soldiers called it.

Fifth – I cannot State the names of any other Officers, that those above named.

Sixth-- I'd never received any discharge because I was taken prisoner at General Sumter's defeat, as before stated & then deserted from the British & never entered the The service again.

Seventh – I am known in my present neighborhood and in Blount County to the following persons, to wit, David Kerry, Littleberry May, John Henry, Saml. Henry, James Cope, Mathew Kerr, James Henry and Thomas Maxwell & others who can testify as to my Character for Veracity and their belief of my Services as a Soldier of the Revolution and that there is no clergyman residing in my neighborhood or within my reach to whom I am now, or who can certify for me.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that I am not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in Open court 25 June 1833.

S/ John Sims, X his mark

S/ Jacob F. Foute, Clerk

State of Tennessee, Roane County

Be it Known that on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 personally appeared James Matheney a Citizen of Roane County Tennessee before me Thomas Spence – an acting Justice of the peace duly Commissioned and Sworn in and for said County and State, and made Oath in due form of law that he has been from boyhood acquainted with John Sims now of Blount County Tennessee, that deponent lived within about half a mile of the residence of said Sims in Burke County North Carolina at the time said Sims enlisted under Captain John Stearns, in the Revolutionary War, that deponent saw said Sims mustered into Service with other troops and set out on the Service, and saw said Sims after his return home and always understood and believed that said Sims had faithfully & honorably Served out his term of service & discharged his duty as a good Soldier, and deponent never heard it doubted or questioned by anyone, and he continued to be a near neighbor of said samples for many years after the Close of the War and frequently saw all the Wounds received by said Sims on the head and breast while in Service. Deponent further states that he was well acquainted with Captain John Stearns and Lieutenant Frederick Plyler, the officers in whose Company said Sims went into service and that they did command the Company in the Revolutionary War – and this deponent has a full and entire faith and Confidence in the Statement made by Said John Sims as to his Services.

Sworn to & subscribed the day above.

S/ James Matheney, X his mark

S/ Thos. Spence. JP

[Standard certification of reputation for veracity, age and believed in the neighborhood of service in the revolution given by Littleberry May, James Henry and Thomas Maxwell, citizens of Blount County Tennessee]

[Milley Simmes [sic] filed for a widow's pension in Monroe County, Tennessee, stating that she was then 73 years old, that John Simmes, her husband, was a pensioner who died 28<sup>th</sup> August 1840 in Monroe County, Tenn, where he had removed prior to his death, that she married her husband on the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1792 in Pendleton District, SC; that both she and her husband were illiterate and neither could read or write; that she has no record of their marriage.] [The widow was still alive to renew her petition on May 24, 1856 in Monroe County; in this petition she adds that her maiden name was Milly Bowling.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two years service as a private in the North Carolina militia as a cavalryman.]