

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Swanson W1900

Sarah

fn57NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/24/11

[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.]

[fn p. 15]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: SS

On this 30th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, now sitting, John Swanson a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, aged seventy-one 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 14th day of November 1761 in the County of Edgecombe and State of North Carolina (the record of which he extracted from that made by his father, in his family record) where he lived until he was about twelve years of age, when he removed with his father to the County of Wake, in the said State, where he resided until the fall of the year 1780, when he was drafted for a three months tour, and entered the service of the United States, in the said County of Wake, in a company of militia commanded by Captain Etheldred Jones<sup>1</sup>, and rendezvoused at Hillsboro, where they joined the Regiment under Colonel Thomas Farmer – after remaining at Hillsboro a few days, they marched direct to Hillsboro where they joined the troops under General Davidson and marched in a short time to Beatties ford [Beatties Ford] on the Catawba River, where they met with the Army under Lord Cornwallis, attempting to effect a passage. After a slight skirmish at that place between the opposing armies, General Davidson divided his troops, and leaving about 300 under command of Colonel Farmer (of whom this deponent was one) he proceeded with about 300 more, down the River about four miles, to a place called Cowans Ford, where a portion of the British Army were endeavoring to cross, and where General Davidson had a considerable engagement with them, in which, he was unfortunately killed, in the troops under his command totally defeated and dispersed – the Americans retreated as fast as they could, towards Salisbury, without however keeping the main road or endeavoring to keep themselves together – about six miles from the Catawba Colonel

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<sup>1</sup> A/K/A Dred Jones

Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] with a party of British Light Horse overtook a small body of the Americans, of whom this deponent was one, and attacked and dispersed them after exchanging a few shots, but they all succeeded in making their escape. This disaster having thrown the Americans into great confusion, they continued their retreat until after they crossed the Yadkin [River], when the small body to which this deponent was attached not knowing where they could find the remaining portion of the Army and expecting the British to overtake them every day, and that term of service being about to expire, they proceeded home, which place this deponent believes he reached about the middle of February 1781. In the month of April following, this deponent volunteered himself for twelve months (under a requisition made by the State of North Carolina for a certain number of twelve months men) and rendezvoused at Wake C. H. from whence they were marched under the command of a Sergeant to Hillsboro, where they were placed under the command of Captain Tilman Dickson [Tilghman Dixon] – After remaining at Hillsboro a short time, they were marched to a small town in the County of Granville, then called Harrisburg (now supposed to be Oxford) where they were stationed for some time, during which time, the troops from the adjoining Country were meeting at that place. On the first day of June 1781 at that place, this deponent took what was called "the soldiers oath" – From Harrisburg they marched back to Hillsboro, from thence to Salisbury under General Sumner and from thence through Charlotte, Camden &c to the High Hills of Santee, where they joined General Greene. After joining General Greene they marched back again to Camden, and after staying a day or two at that place, General Greene set out with the Army, and after crossing the Wateree and Congaree rivers, they proceeded towards the Eutaw Springs, at which place the British had taken post. When the Army had arrived within about four miles of the Eutaw Springs, they fell in with a party of the British whom they attacked and which very soon retreated to the main Army – upon their retreat, the Americans pursued, until the general action which was fought at that place commenced. After the engagement was over, the American Army returned again to their former encampment at that High Hills of Santee. After being stationed for a short time at the High Hills of Santee, General Greene proceeded with his Army to a place called the Round O near Edisto River, at which place this deponent was transferred to the Light Infantry, and placed under the command of Captain Wilmoth – the Light Infantry troops being under the Superior command of Major Eggleston [Eggleston or Eccleston] – After being transferred to the Light Infantry, they marched from place to place, for a considerable time, in order to keep in check or to suppress any parties of Tories were disaffected persons which might exist in the Country, (they having been very troublesome previous to that time) – until they finally joined General Greene's Army, even that at the place where they had left them, or at a place called the Pond Ponds [Pon Pon or Edisto]. Soon after rejoining General Greene, they marched to Bacons Bridge on Ashley River, where they were stationed until the term of service of this deponent expired on the first June 1782, when he with many others, marched for home, and when they arrived at Charlotte N. C., they received their discharges, and dispersed – it being near 14 months from the time he first entered under his last engagement until his discharge.

This deponent continued to reside in the County of Wait for about 5 years after the Revolution, when he removed to the County of Lincoln, in the same State, and there lived about 20 years, when he removed to the County of Wilkes, where he has lived ever since, and where he now lives. This deponent received a discharge from his last term which was signed by Captain Bailey, but has no knowledge of it at this time. He has no documentary evidence to prove his service, nor does he know of any person living, whose testimony he could procure, who can testify to his service. He refers however to the Reverend Smith Ferguson & George Walker as

persons to whom he is well known, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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/ R. Martin, C. W. C. C.

S/ John Swanson, X his mark

[Smith Ferguson, a clergyman, and George Walker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 10: On August 1, 1853 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Sarah Swanson, 75, filed for her widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Swanson, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$53 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him April 5th, 1817 in Wilkes County; that her husband died November 22, 1850 at her residence in Wilkes County.]

[fn p. 13: Copy of a marriage bond dated April 5, 1817 signed by John Swanson and William Walker to secure the marriage of John Swanson with Sarah Scolister [sic].]

[fn p. 6: On March 26, 1855 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Sarah Swanson, widow of John Swanson, filed for her bounty land entitlement stating that her husband died at his residence in Wilkes County North Carolina November 22, 1850; that she married him in Wilkes County North Carolina March 25th, 1817; that they were married by John Carlton, JP; that her name before her marriage was Sarah McCellister<sup>2</sup> [sic].]

[Facts in file: there is no information in this file regarding the children, if any, of the veteran and his widow.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 10 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia and Continental line.]

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<sup>2</sup> The summary made by the Department of the Interior in the 20th century interpreted this name as Sarah McCollister.