

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Sullinger (Sullenger) W27638¹ Sarah Sullinger f101NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 14]

State of Kentucky, Livingston County SS

On this 3rd day of December 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before Joseph Watts, Christopher Haynes, & James Duvall Esquires justices of the County Court for said County now sitting, James Sullinger, a resident of said County, aged sixty-eight 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: in the year 1780 in the month of August just after the defeat of Gates at Camden, & whilst the British were on Dan River, I volunteered as a private, and joined a company of minute man or Guilford dragoons (as they were sometimes called) under the command of Captain Gillespie [Daniel Gillespie]. I joined this company in the County of Guilford, State of North Carolina, where I then lived, in about the age of 16. This was volunteer company, raised principally to guard the country against the Tories, as they were very numerous in that Country. We marched from point to point as our services were needed, in the protection of the Country, and had many skirmishes with Tories and British detachment, the particulars of which would both be tedious and uninteresting. During this time, the celebrated Colonel Fanning [David Fanning], was in that country, and done much damage – against him we had several times opposed, but we were never able to take him. At the time of the battle at Whitsel's Mill [Wetzel's Mill or Weitzell's Mill or Whitesell's Mill]² (called then by that name) we had joined Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and I was selected to pilot Colonel Lee to the iron works on Troublesome Creek, which I did. After which we proceeded to Chatham [County], and the adjoining Counties against the Tories who had collected in Companies in that quarter. We dispersed these Tories, and returned and joined General Green [Nathanael Greene] just after the battle of Guilford which was fought in March 1781. After joining General Green, the pursuit of the enemy was continued down towards Wilmington, and when we arrived at Deep River, I were Company was ordered back to guard some provisions wagons from Hillsboro to Salisbury, loaded with Bacon for Green's Army. This duty we faithfully performed; after which we marched down Little Pedee [River] to a Fort built by the Tories. Just before our arrival, they got intelligence of our coming – set fire to the Fort, and fled to the Sand hills. Thinking it vain to

¹ BLWt31805-1855

² March 6, 1781 http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html and <http://gaz.irshelby.com/weitzell.htm>

pursue them, we sought and joined Colonel Isaacs [Samuel Isaacs] (from Burke County) on Deep River near the Buffalo Ford, and we remained with him about two months, and at the end of which time, the Country was pretty well rid of the Tories. This was early in 1782 as well as I remember – it was about three months after the Surrender of Cornwallis which was in October before. Our Company remained embodied and in service until near the time the British left Charleston which was late in 1782, and as well as I now remember I was discharged (and the whole Company) in the month of September 1782. Having served faithfully from about the middle of August 1780 till the month of September 1782. During the most part of the year 1782, there was less fighting, and less need for a strong force, as the enemy rather ceased active operations after the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]; and after the taking and evacuation of several British forts in the Country. But the Tories never ceased their war and depredations until the British finally left the Country, and it remained necessary to keep up some active companies to suppress them, and Gillespie's Company, being raised for that purpose principally, was of the last that was disbanded, though in the year 1782 our services were not so severe as before. These all my services in the Revolution, and though they are not as important as some, yet – they were as laborious, and perhaps as useful as any. I submit them to the judgment of the Department. I declare that I have no documentary evidence in my possession which would prove my said service, nor do I know of any person now living who served with me under Captain Gillespie, except one Thomas Hamilton, who was lately living in Sumner County Tennessee, but I do not know that he is now living, & if he is, I have no possible means of procuring his evidence that I know of. I have a brother (Peter Sullinger) who was old enough to know of my service and does remember it, whose testimony I will produce. 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 whatever.

In the said Court propounded to the said applicant the several interrogatories as directed by the War Department, to which he made the subjoined answers:

Question 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Chatham, State of North Carolina on the 30th of December 1764, and was raised principally in the County of Guilford.

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have, in North Carolina, but not at my house.

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

Answer. When I entered the service I lived in Guilford County North Carolina: which County I left in 1802 and moved to the West – and lived a wild in Tennessee, and while in Kentucky. I now live in this County, and have for some time past.

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was a volunteer.

Question 5th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I received no written discharge, nor pay, for any services.

Question 6th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I served altogether with militia except when I was with Green & Lee; and that was so

short a time that I do not remember the names of regular officers distinctly.

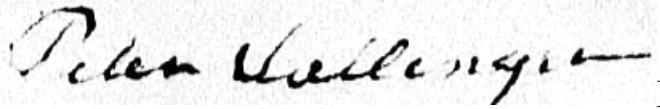
Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. John Bayless, Postmaster, William Thomson, Joseph Watts, Esquire, Colonel Hughes and many others.



[Abel Teague, a clergyman, Timothy O'Neal, William Dorris, Aaron Corn and Joseph Watts gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Peter Sullinger, 64, gave a supporting affidavit as to his recollection of his brother's absences while in service during the revolution.



[p 82]

State of Kentucky Caldwell County SS

Be it remembered, that on this 4th day of April 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned, an acting justice of the peace in & for said County, James Sullinger (who is known to me to be the person named in the annexed declaration for a pension) and being first duly sworn doth on his oath declare that according to the best of his recollection and belief he entered the service in the Army of the Revolution in August 1780 as mentioned before in his declaration, and continued in constant and active service from that time until sometime in December following when owing to the inclemency of the weather, and the enemy having gone into winter quarters, and pretty well ceased operations for the winter, his company was paroled or discharged for a short time, and in the meantime to provide clothing &c for themselves; that in pursuance to orders sent out, the company assembled again about the first of February and continued in service during the whole summer & fall afterwards. But during some time in this summer (he thinks in July) he was taken sick and was sent home where he remained 2 weeks out of the service, but as soon as he recovered he rejoined his company. That during the year 1781 the Tories were extremely troublesome in the Company to which he belonged was much engaged, and continued so until late in winter. He states that about Christmas of that year, there was a [indecipherable word or words] given the soldiers, and they were permitted to disperse to respective homes until a certain time on the express condition of returning and rendezvousing at the time and place mentioned: Now as to the time allowed him he is unable from loss of memory to speak positively; but he recollects distinctly that it was generally believed that the Campaign all to commence early, and his Company being minute men, had orders to hold themselves ready at a moments warning. Of the precise time of rendezvousing at this period of his service he will not speak positively, and will only say that to the best of his recollection it was sometime in February – that after this assembly this applicant was on continued service until his final discharge in September afterwards (1782). The particular history of his service – the circumstances &c &c are set out in the annexed declaration as faithful as he can relate them. He belonged to a Company of minute men and when at the several times the company was allowed

to disperse as above mentioned, they had orders to be ready at a minutes warning, and being in constant expectation of marching orders, the time of rest, was also one of suspense and solitude and anxiety. 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 period mentioned below, and in the following grade: –

For one year and 9 months I served as a private and for such service I claim a pension.

He states that what is contained in his original declaration and the two amendments annexed contains all he can or will say on the subject of his claim, and if this does not supply the defects of the former, he will abandon his claim as hopeless – that his age and helplessness render it quiet inconvenient for him to attend to it further.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Sullenger

S/ James C. Welles, JP

[p 21: On 26th November, 1861, in Hamilton County Illinois, Sarah Sullenger, 64, made application for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of James Sullenger; she states that she has resided in Hamilton County Illinois for the past 4 years having previously resided in Montgomery County Tennessee; that her post office address is McLeansboro, Illinois; that her husband was a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution at the rate of \$50 per annum which he collected at the Kentucky agency; that she married him in Montgomery County Tennessee September 17, 1817; that they were married by one James Bowers a justice of the peace; that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Baley [Baily or Bailey?]; that her husband died July 10, 1846 in Christian County Kentucky

[p 6: On November 27, 1861, Lorenzo Goodridge, Judge for Hamilton County Illinois, certified entries in the family Bible of Sarah Sullenger as follows

"James Sullenger was born December 31st 1760

James Sullenger Departed this life July the 10th 1846 his age 85 years 6 months and 10 days

James Sullenger and Sarah Baily were married September 17th 1817

Elizabeth P Sullenger was born 20th of August 1820

Jane G Sullenger was born May 12th 1824"]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year service as a private in the North Carolina cavalry, militia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]