

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Lain W5123

Sarah Lain

f55VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/13/13

[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.]

[p 22]

State of Virginia Pittsylvania County: SS

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before David H Clark, John A. Clark, William L Lanier & C. D. Bennett the County Court of Pittsylvania now sitting Joseph Lain a resident of the County of Pittsylvania aforesaid in the State of Virginia aged 72 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 after stated: to wit –

That he first engaged to serve as a Volunteer in a Company commanded by Captain James Adams, John McGhehe [John McGehee? or John McGee?] Lieutenant, Henry Eilson [Henry Eidson] Ensign, under Charles Lynch Colonel in the County of Bedford then, now Campbell, and with that Company marched through Botetourt to the Lead Mines in Montgomery County where he with his Company guarded the said mines, which tour commenced about the last of July 1779 and ended about the first of November the same year three months; that during that tour he was engaged in no Battles. When he entered the service aforesaid he resided in the County of Bedford, afterwards some years in Campbell then some years in Halifax and now in the County of Pittsylvania where he has resided for the last sixteen years, that he was regularly discharged at the lead mines aforesaid by Lieutenant John McGhehe by order of the Colonel James Lynch, but his written discharge is mislaid or lost – that after he obtained that discharge he returned home to the County of Bedford where he remained until January 1781 when he entered the service of the United States as a Volunteer with John Trigg Captain, John Davis Lieutenant and Guy Smith Ensign and marched through Charlotte, Prince Edward, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, remaining one week at Petersburg, thence on through Prince George and Surry remaining one week at Cabin Point, where the Company he was in received their arms and were marched to the armed force commanded by Colonel Thomas Merryweather [Thomas Meriwether] and Major Decloman [Christian Charles de Klauman], from thence they marched to Stonners Mill in South Hampton County where they remained seven days from thence they marched to the Burnt Mills on Nansemond River above the town of Suffolk where they were stationed about ten days, from thence they marched to Edmonds Hill Crossing the long bridge where they were stationed six weeks within one mile of Norfolk from thence they retrograded marching back through the Dismal Swamp to the Burnt Mills above Suffolk when they were attached to the armed force commanded by General Mulenburg [Peter Muhlenberg], from thence he marched back with his own and another Company raised in the same neighborhood to Petersburg (calling by the way of Prince George Court House where they returned their arms) where after a tour of three months he was regularly discharged by Captain John Trigg but his discharge is mislaid or lost dated on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 1781, during this tour he was engaged in no regular Battles but some

skirmishing and Pickett firing when and where three of our Army were killed from thence he returned to his residence in Bedford where he remained until sometime in September 1781 when he was drafted or detached from Captain William Marshall's Company of Militia and marched in a Company commanded by Captain James Bullock, Charles Talbot Lieutenant and James McAllister Ensign through Charlotte, Prince Edward, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Prince George crossing James River at James Town and marched down the River to York where they were attached to the armed force of the United States Commanded by Generals Washington, Lafayette & others under the immediate command of Holt Richardson [Holt Richeson] Colonel, where he remained in and during the siege of Little York, that after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1781 he was regularly discharged by Major Overton after a tour of about five weeks, but which discharge with the others has been lost or mislaid no care being taken of them not supposing that hereafter they might be necessary or useful, that he has no documentary evidence to prove the facts required therefore presents authenticated certificates. 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 and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ Joseph Lain<sup>1</sup>

Campbell County Sc.

This will certify that Joseph Lain served a tower [tour] in the Militia Service in 1779 at the Lead mines in Montgomery County in Captain James Adams, Lieutenant John McGhehe & Henry Eilson Ensign where he served three months. I further certify that said Joseph Lain served another tour in the same Regiment with me at Norfolk in the year 1781 commencing in January and was discharged the 15<sup>th</sup> of April at Petersburg, he was under the command of Captain John Trigg, John Davis Lieutenant, Guy Smith Ensign. Given under my hand and seal this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832.

S/ Henry Brown<sup>2</sup>

[James H Mitchell gave a more or less standard supporting affidavit. Mitchell also stated that Henry Brown, the above affiant, is a preacher of the gospel.]

[p 19]

Virginia Pittsylvania County February Court 1833

It appearing to the Court that in the Declaration made at August court last past by Joseph Lain a Revolutionary Soldier, the Interrogatories put by the Court & the answers thereto by the said Joseph Lain were not entered at length on the record, they were this day propounded and answered as follows –

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

Answer. In the year 1759 the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November in the County of Bedford –

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

Answer. I have none –

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?

Answer. I lived in Bedford when called into Service. I lived in Halifax about 16 or 17 years since the revolutionary War and now and for about 15 years or more in the County of

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<sup>1</sup> handwriting is identical to the body of the document: consequently I do not believe it is the actual signature of the veteran

<sup>2</sup> [Henry Brown W9365](#)

Pittsylvania –

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?

Answer. I volunteered the two first tours, the other I was drafted –

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.

[Answer.] Thomas Mereweather, Colonel DeCleman, Major, Holt Richerson Colonel, Generals Washington & Lafayette; the style of the Regiments, Continental or Militia I do not recollect. The principal circumstances the surrender of Lord Cornwallis with the British forces at Little York to the American arms

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?

Answer. I received written discharges, first from John McGehe Lieutenant, 2<sup>nd</sup> from John Trigg Captain & the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last from Major Overton at siege of York but they all have been mislaid or lost –

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.

[Answer]. I state the names of Henry Brown clergyman, William Heath, Robert Montgomery, John Webb clergyman & James Mitchell.

[p 37: John Webb, a clergyman, and Robert Montgomery gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 39: Henry Brown, a clergyman, and William Hayth gave another standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 41]

Virginia, Pittsylvania County Sct.

Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace of the County aforesaid Joseph Lain, who being duly sworn deposed 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 grade, for the year 1779 he served 3 months as a Soldier, I served as a Soldier 3 months for the year 1781 and the same year he served from the first September and was discharged at the Siege of York it being one month and 19 days, as a Soldier and for such service I claim a pension.

Given under my hand this 14 day of February 1833.

S/ Nelson Tucker, JP

[p 17: Of September 24, 1841 in Pittsylvania County Virginia, Sarah Lain, 86, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Lain, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$25.42 per annum; that she married him December 20 1775; that he died April 12, 1837; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 34: Certificate signed by William Holt, clerk of the Halifax County Virginia County Court stating that he has searched the records in his office and finds no record of the marriage of Joseph Lain to Sarah Hall but that the records in his office are not complete and should not be presumed as proof against the marriage of said Joseph Lain and Sarah Hall on December 20, 1775.]

[p 35: On July 31, 1844 in Campbell County Virginia, Juriah Hall [could be Juriah Hull] gave

testimony that she was a sister of Joseph Layne [sic]; that she was present at the marriage of her brother to Sarah Hall by Parson Nathaniel Hall at his in Halifax County Virginia about 64 years ago. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 54: On May 11, 1842 in Campbell County Virginia, Isham Hall,<sup>3</sup> a revolutionary war pensioner gave testimony that his sister Sarah Hall married Joseph Lain, a revolutionary war pensioner; that they were married in Halifax County Virginia by the Reverend Daniel Hall in or about the year 1775 in the winter of the year he thinks. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[pp4-15 are pages cut from a Bible containing what appears to be miscellaneous family register records. The handwriting and spelling on these pages is very challenging and consequently the transcript below should be used with caution. The following is what I think I see:

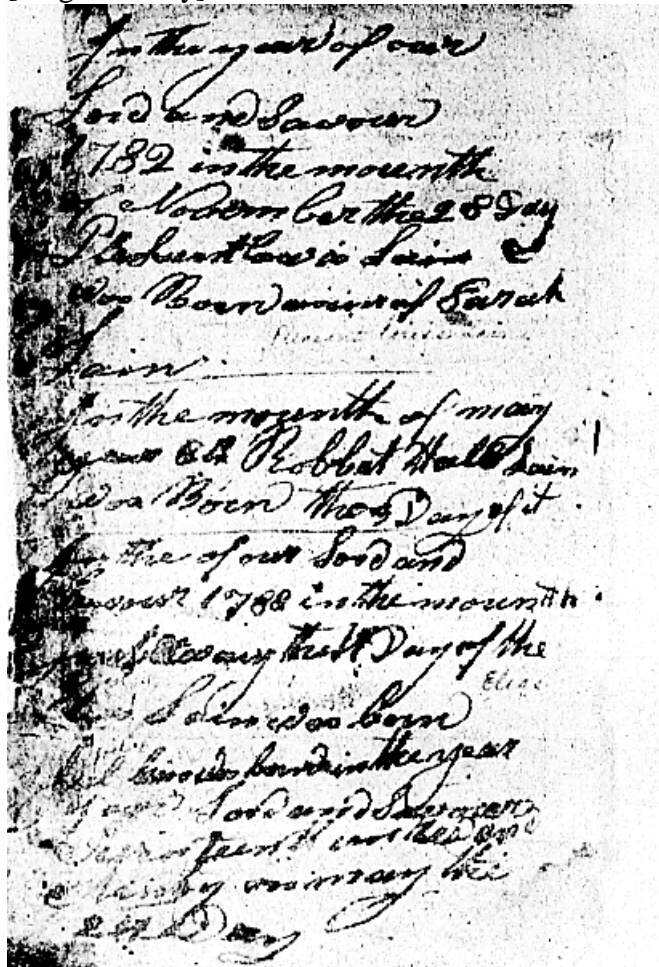
[p5]

In the year of our Lord and Savior 1782 in the month of November the 28<sup>th</sup> day Pleasant Lain was Born of Sarah Lain

In the month of May year 84 Robert Hall Lain was born three Day of it

In the [year] of our Lord and Savior 1788 in the month of January the 4 [?] Day of the [illegible] Elias Lain was born

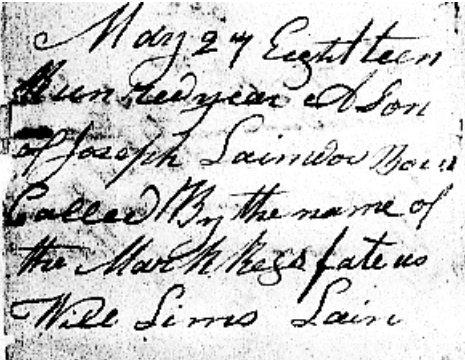
[illegible entry]



<sup>3</sup> [Isham Hall W7638](#)

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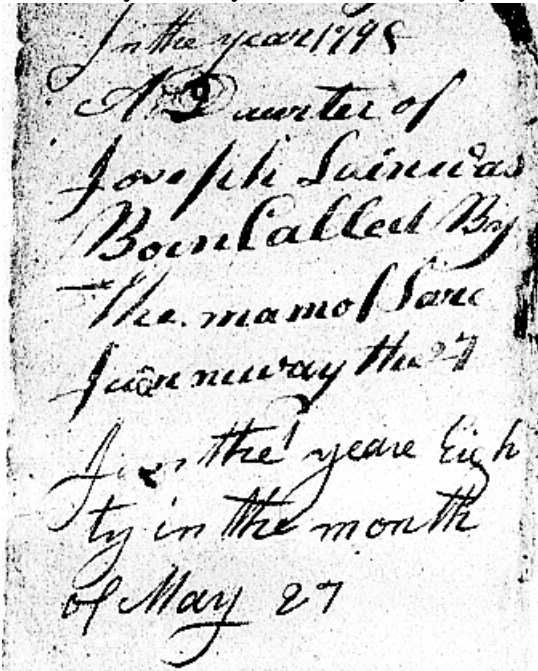
May 27 1800 year A Son of Joseph Lain was born called by the name of the Markkess fate [the Marquis Lafayette?] as Will Sims Lain



May 27 Eighteen  
Hundred year A Son  
of Joseph Lain was born  
Called by the name of  
the Markkess fate as  
Will Sims Lain

[p 11]

In the year 1798 a Daurter [daughter] of Joseph Lain was Born called by the name of Sare Juarneway January] the 27 In the 1 year Eighty in the month of May 27



In the year 1798  
A Daurter of  
Joseph Lain was  
Born called by  
the name of Sare  
Juarneway the 27  
In the year Eighty  
in the month  
of May 27

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25.42 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months & 19 days in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]