

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Means <sup>1</sup> W5368

Susan Means f56SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/20/09: rev'd 2/7/17

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[Note: The version posted on Ancestry.com is much more legible than that posted on Fold3.com which is very faint.]

State of Illinois Edgar County: SS

On this 28th day of September 1833 personally [appeared] in open court being a court of record viz. the Circuit Court in and for the said County of Edgar William Means a resident of said Edgar County and State of Illinois aged 70 years the 3rd day of May last past who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. He states that he was born in Augusta County near Stanton in the State of Virginia on the 3rd day of May 1763. This his age he gives from a family Register once in his possession but now lost. He states that in his infancy his father moved into the State of South Carolina and settled on a branch of Tyger River called fairforest [Fairforest] in the now County of Union in said last named State, where he continued to reside with his father till sometime about the first of January 1780<sup>2</sup> he entered the State service as a volunteer & as a private & minute man called out by competent authority and was placed under the command of Captain Robert Faris he thinks the Lieutenant's name was \_\_ Mays [probably Andrew Mayes] but is not certain the name of the Major is forgotten. Captain Robert Faris's company was attached to Colonel Thomas Brandon's Regiment. He states that in the time of the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] where General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] defeated Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton], he with others was left with the baggage wagons, after the said battle was over he returned home to his father's and in this neighborhood of his father's & continued as a minute man as aforesaid being transferred to Captain James Crawford's company in the same Regiment [?] till some time in August following during which term of service as a minute man as aforesaid he was to the best of his recollection actually engaged in said State service two months & five days and was not engaged in said time of two months & five days in any civil pursuit for this his service as a minute man &c he did not receive any written discharge.

He further states that in August 1780 he entered the State service of South Carolina for two months and was placed as a private under the command of said James Crawford Captain in Colonel William Fair's [William Farr's] Regiment being called out by competent authority and

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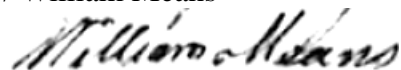
<sup>1</sup> BLWt28635-160-55

<sup>2</sup> Veteran probably is referring to 1781 since the Battle he mentions is the Battle of the Cowpens which occurred on January 17, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cowpens.htm>

continued in said service scouting and ranging about to prevent Tory depredations till his full term of two months service had expired and during said term was not engaged in any civil pursuit for which said two months service he received no written discharge. He further states that in April 1781 he again entered the State service of South Carolina as a volunteer & private for two months and was again placed under the command of Captain James Crawford whose company was attached to Colonel William Fair's Regiment (same as above) was called out by competent authority was marched to the village of Orangeburg on Edisto River in said State of South Carolina & was engaged in scouting & ranging about to prevent Tory depredations the full term of two months during which time he was not engaged in any civil pursuit and that he received no written discharge for said service.

He further states that in the last of September or first of October 1781 he again entered the State service of South Carolina as a volunteer and private for six weeks and was again placed under the command of Captain James Crawford whose company was attached to General Andrew Pickens' Brigade other officers names forgotten; was called out by competent authority was marched to an Indian town named Long Swamp town on Long Swamp River in the State of Georgia took two Indian prisoners: General Pickens promised the Indians if they would give up the bad white men who was among them, he would not cut off, or destroy the Indians: upon which proposition the Indians surrendered up seven white men, three of whom were hung by General Pickens the other four as this declarant was informed was given to General Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] of Georgia State. We visited sundry other Indian Towns and found them all friendly that he served out his said last named six weeks tour of service and was not engaged in any civil pursuit during said term & that he received no written discharge for said service -- He further states that he continued to reside in the State of South Carolina for 12 or 15 years after the war closed: then removed to the State of Georgia and in three years removed to the State of Ohio in Adams County & resided there about 23 years then removed to the present place of residence in Edgar County State of Illinois where he has resided for the last 11 years. He states that he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service. He states that William J. Mayo Clergyman and Milton K. Alexander laborer can testify to his veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

S/ William Means



[William J. Mayo, clergyman, and Milton K. Alexander gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9: On June 6, 1853 in Edgar County Illinois, Susan Means, 67, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of William Means, a pensioner for his services in the revolution at the rate of \$25.33 per annum; that she married him April 18 1811; that they were married by the Reverend William Williamson in Adams County Ohio; that her husband died June 11, 1848 and that she remains his widow.



[Facts in file: The widow was Susan Chenowith, widow of John Chenowith, at the time she married the veteran and that her maiden name was Susan Seal; she was the veteran second wife

(the name of his first wife is not set forth in the file); the file contains no other family information.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25.22 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months and 17 days in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Spartan Regiment of the South Carolina militia.]