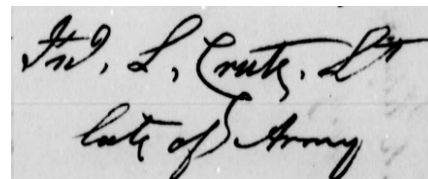


Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Soyars W6140 Jane Soyars VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 June 2014.

Prince Edward County State of Virginia To wit.

I John L. Crute [pension application S24980], late a Lieutenant, in the Revolutionary War, do Certify that James Sawyers of the County of Pittsylvania and State aforesaid was a Corporal in the Detachment commanded by Colo. [Abraham] Buford, and that the said Sawyers was Wounded and taken prisoner, on the 29th of May 1780 when that detachment was defeated by Colo Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, Battle of Waxhaws SC]. Given under my Hand this 5th Day of December 1809.
Jno. L. Crute, Lt late of Army

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jno. L. Crute, Lt late of Army". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted.

Virginia, Halifax County to wit,

I do hereby certify that James Sawyers at present a resident of the County of Pittsylvania, was a soldier during the late Revolution, for the term of three years in the Virginia line, in continental Establishment. from under my hand this 25th day of December 1809.

Nath. Terry [Nathaniel Terry, W3054] Capt 14th V. Regiment

We Rawley White and James D Patton do hereby certify that we have examined James Soyars a revolutionary soldier and find that he has received a wound on the head, arm & on the instep, which wounds prevent him from hard bodily labour, and as he grows older renders him more and more incapable of labour, by reference to certificates & documents procured by s'd. Soyars from his superior officers whilst in the service as above stated, which documents have been laid before the Congress of the United States, it will be found that he is the same man therein described

Given under our hands in the County of Pittsylvania State of Virginia this 16th day of November in the year 1819 Rawley White Jas. D. Patton

Prince Edw'd. Cty. Virginia

I John Crute late a Lieut in the continental army in the revolutionary war with great Britain, do certify that James Sawyers of the County of Pittsylvania, was a Corporal in the company commanded by Capt. Thos. Hoard [sic: Thomas Hord BLWt1073-300]; that he was in the memorable defeat of Colo. Buford, by Talton and was severly wounded and taken prisoner by the enemy. I consider the effects of the wounds must in a great measure have rendered him incapable of a support by personal labour. Given under my hand this 8th day December 1819. John Crute

Pittsylvania County & Va. to wit

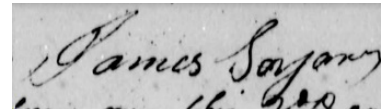
This day came John Quin [sic: John Quinn S38322] before me Jas Lanier (a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that he was well acquainted with Maj'r. Jas. Soyars in the last revoluti'y war and served with him in the same regiment, and he allso further states that from every information he could geather the s'd. Soyars enlisted endureing the war given under my hand this 21st Jan'y. 1820 [A Charles Carter of Pittsylvania County also referred to Soyars as Major James Soyars.]

Pursuant to the annexed Commission from the Honble St. George Tucker, I William Tunstall Clerk of Pittsylvania Count Court have proceeded at the Courthouse of the said County of Pittsylvania on Tuesday the 22^d day of May 1821 to take the Deposition of John Quinn, a Credible Witness residing in the said County who being duly sworn deposeth, that he became acquainted with James Soyars of the said County shortly after the battle of Brandy Wine [sic: Brandywine PA, 11 Sep 1777] in the Revolutionary War. That the said James Soyars was then in the service of the United States under Capt. Nathaniel Terry of the 14th Virginia Regiment commanded at that time by Col. Davis [sic: William Davies] and he believes afterwards by Colo. Bluford. That the said James Soyars continued in the service for about twelve months after that time, and then at Middlebrook in New Jersey enlisted during the War. that the Deponent and the said James Soyars continued in the same Regiment until the year 1779 when the Deponent was discharged having served the term of his enlistment, and that he then left the said Soyars in service at Petersburg in Virg'a. The said John Quinn further Deposeth that he has known the said Soyars ever since the Revolutionary War ended, that the has constantly resided in the County of Pittsylvania aforesaid and that he is the same James Soyars first herein mentioned

John hisXmark Quinn

Pursuant to the commission hereunto annexed James Soyars named in the foregoing Deposition, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that the reason why he has not heretofore made application for a Pension is that he disliked the idea of being a Pensioner whilst he was able by any other laudable means of supporting himself and family and that he is not at this time or has he ever been on the Pension List of any State.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2^d Day of January 1822.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Soyars". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

Virginia to Wit

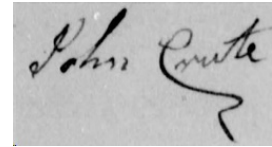
Pursuant to the Commission herein before mentioned from the Honorable St George Tucker, I William Tunstall Clerk of the County Court of Pittsylvania have this 17th Day of December 1822 at the Clerks office of the said County Court proceeded to take the deposition of John Seemster [John Seamster, S25429] a Credible Witness, in behalf of James Soyars an applicant for a Pension, on account of wounds received during the Revolutionary War. The said John Seemster being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that he was with the said James Soyars at the Battle of Blufords defeat at the hanging Rock in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War. That the Wounds described in the foregoing Deposition of Doctors Rawley White and George Craghead were received by the said James Soyars from the Enemy in that Battle. That the Deponent was Wounded and taken Prisoner at the same time, and that they were examined by the British Sergeons the day after the battle, and pronounced by them as being ever thereafter unfit for Service in consequence of said wounds. John hisXmark Seemster

[Thomas Gibson (S39573) also deposed that he was with Soyars at Buford's Defeat.]

The deposition of John Crute taken at the Town of Farmville in the County of Prince Edward and State of Virginia the 20th day of March, One thousand eight hundred and twenty four

The deponent being of lawful age and first duly sworn deposeth and saith; that he has been long well acquainted with James Soyars now claiming to be placed on the list of invalid pensioners of the United States, and knows him to have been a soldier of the Revolutionary War. That he well remembers that he was in the service about two years, and believes that he had been some time in the service before this deponent became acquainted with him. He knows that the said Soyars received four wounds, at Beaufords defeat, near the Hanging Rock, sometimes called the Waxsaw settlement in the State of South Carolina; two of these wounds were on the head, one on the left arm above the elbow, and one on the right instep. The wounds on the left arm and on the instep he believes to have been very severe, and

remembers to have heard from the attending Surgion, that the wound on the instep had cut the leader or sinew of the foot in two. The said Soyers was taken prisoner by the enemy, with this deponent at the before mentioned battle, but He does not know whether he was exchanged before the end of the war. From his knowledge of the Conduct of the said Soyers, he feels himself authorized to say that he was an excellent soldier. He has known him continually since the Revolutionary War, and thinks him considerably disabled by the wounds before described. This deponent was a Lieutenant at the time of his being taken prisoner and had been for sometime before.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Crute". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Virginia Pittsylvania County to Wit

Pursuant to the foregoing Commission from the Honorable St. George Tucker, Judge of the United States Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, I William Tunstall Clerk of Pittsylv'a. County Court, have this 22^d. day of June 1822 ["1824" elsewhere] proceeded, at the courthouse of said County to take the Depositions of Rawley White and William A. Anthony, two reputable Physicians of said County, in behalf of James Soyars an applicant to be placed on the Pension list of the United States, by reason of known wounds received whilst in public service during the Revolutionary War. the said Rawley White and William A Anthony, being duly sworn depose that the wounds which the said James Soyars is said to have received during the said War, were first a cut across the instep of the right foot, which divided the tendons, and that the said tendons have never united. Another across the joint of the left elbow, which has occasioned the left arm to be smaller than the others, and two wounds in the head. and in the opinion of the said affiants the said James Soyars is thereby one half disabled from obtaining his subsistance by manual labour.

Rawley White and William A Anthony

to the Congress of the United States.

The petition of James Soyars of the State of Virginia and county of Pittsylvania, respectfully sheweth to your honourable body, that, he was a soldier of the army of the Revolution which achieved the independence of these United States. That he enlisted in April 1776 at the age of sixteen years as a soldier under Captain Nathaniel Terry of the 14th Virginia Regiment on continental establishment (while a resident of Halifax county in said state) for the term of three years, as by the paper herewith marked No. 1. (a certificate of said Capt. Terry) will better appear. That in that capacity your petitioner served until the 20th December 1778, at which time your petitioner re-enlisted for and during the war of the revolution under Captain Thomas Hord of the [blank] Regiment of [blank] at Middlebrook in the State of [blank]. That, a short time after this latter enlistment your petitioner was made a corporal and so continued during the service. That at the time of this latter enlistment the resolves of Congress passed May 15th 1778 was read to your petitioner, standing in line, offering a reward of eighty dollars, and (as well as he now recollects) one hundred and fifty acres of land and to be tax free during life to such as enlisted for and during the war and should continue therein until its termination besides their regular pay. That you petitioner continued in active service under the command of said captain Hord, until the defeat of Colonel Bufords detachment on the 29th of May 1780 in South Carolina, where your petitioner was severely wounded during the conflict in three different parts of body (see paper No. 4) and taken prisoners (see paper No. 5 the certificate of Capt. Crute) in which situation your petitioner remained until the end of the war, as by the paper herewith marked No. 2 will appear, being a copy of the certificate of said Captain Hord on file in the Executive department of this State. that your petitioner was not officially exchanged or regularly discharged is accounted for by the fact that so soon as he so far recovered of his wound as to be able to travel, he had the good fortune to be dismissed on parole under severe penalties [promise not to take up arms again on penalty of death], and at the time when peace was declared [provisional treaty ratified by Congress 15 Apr 1783] was making his way towards his native State

Virginia. That, from the humble condition in which your petitioner found himself at the close of the war (and hence his slow means of obtaining information as to men and things – the wide dispersion which quickly follows a disbanded army) it was not until the 25th May 1796 that he discovered the residence of his Captain, Thomas Hord, in Caroline County, upwards of two hundred miles from him and obtained from him the foregoing voucher marked No. 2, which he thought would establish his claim for that pecuniary compensation which was promised him at the time of his re-enlistment. And forthwith profered his claim to what he was advised the proper department, and to his astonishment and great disappointment was informed (see memo annexed to paper marked No. 2 by Wm. Simmons) that if any thing was due your petitioner, it was then too late to make application, “all claims being bared by the act of limitations.” That part of said paper which speaks of depreciation can only be understood as referring to the £60.16.3 herein after acknowledged to have been received and ignorantly taken for the full compromise of the pay on account of his whole service. Your petitioner further states that for the time he was under Captain Terry, say two year and some months, he has received Sixty pound sixteen shillings and three pence (see the paper herewith marked No. 6) But for the time he was under the command of Captain Hoard, from the 20th of December 1778 to the end of the war, he has received nothing from the United States government or elsewhere, except one hundred acres of land; the pay and bounty together with the balance of land (the complement of 150 acres being still in arear and unpaid – although by the latter enlistment and service he became entitled to the reward of Eighty dollars – 150 acres of land and to be (as he recollects it) tax free for life, besides his regular pay as a non commissioned officer. It remains now for your petitioner to add that he has never transferred or parted with his claim as aforesaid to any person or persons in any manner or form whatsoever.

Your petitioner has hitherto laid his claims as aforesaid before the War department and before Congress, but at one time was informed that his papers were informal and at another that he was bared by the act of limitations (see papers marked No. 2 and No. 8.) As to form, your petitioner being an unlettered man is unable to understand when sufficient evidence of his enlistment and service is offered (see paper marked No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 & No. 5 as appears by the certificate of not only one, but several persons in the service with him, and commanding him) why mere matter of form should bar his rights – rights paramount to all obligation, for the same authority that created a rule of limitation have power to amend, extend or abolish it – and this the more especially as he is informed that rules are made to effectuate, not prevent or delay justice. Again, as to the other dilemma, no limitation ought in good faith to bar a claim like this of your petitioner – for without his services in the Revolutionary war, and that of others like unto it, peradventure the Congress and these United States had never had a political existence. True, your petitioner was only one individual, but it always requires units to make tens, and tens to make thousands, and so on, until an army is raised.

Your petitioner now applies as an humble individual to the Congress of the United States as to the material friend of himself and of the government thereof, and while substantially right, depends on their advice and assistance to rectify and amend deficient form; and to supply, by their penetrating judgment what must of necessity create, amidst the din of Revolution, want of exactness and technical nicety of well connected links of evidence in every turn of the story; and this too in a widely extended country and diffused population ever changing its place. The broad facts, that your petitioner was a soldier of the Revolutionary army, that he fought and bled in his countries cause to the end of the war – or until he was wounded and taken prisoner in that celebrated defeat of Colonel Buford, are before your honorable body – and that he has not been paid according to the contract made at the moment of his re-enlistment is also obvious.

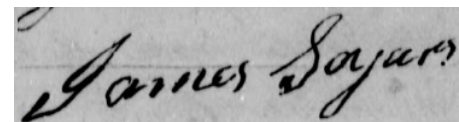
Your petitioner has viewed with mortification and regret that, notwithstanding his failure hitherto in his own attempts to obtain his promised remuneration, that he is still excluded from the benefits of the act of Congress passed he 15th May last (1828) which he was informed was intended to provide fully for all cases. For, upon an examination of that act, he finds that the Proviso of the 3rd Section excludes him, because at the time of its passage he was on the pension list of the United States (tho’ only an invalid pensioner on half pay.) True, your petitioner has been for three or four years last past in the receipt of

four dollars per month on account of wounds received in the Revolutionary war – But does not discover why that fact should operate with the framers of that act to his total exclusion from the benefits thereof. That proviso operates manifest inequality, especially when compared with whole extent of the benefits conferred by the act – an officer of high grade may have been long in the receipt of a full pension (and it is presumed there are many such) nay, ever since the close of the war, and now comes in for the full benefits of that act, and all the disability it imposes is that his pension ceases from 3rd day of March 1826, & the money received “as a pensioner” since that time to be deducted from what the officer would otherwise be entitled to under the act: while a non-commissioned officer, musician or private, who (as is your petitioners case) has not until lately been able to squeeze in for a small pension, who is found on the pension list at the time of the passage of the act, has no share, part or lot in it – merely (as well as your petitioner can understand) because he was a non-commissioned officer, musician or private, thus lopping him off for his adventitious standing, although his services in his station may have been as much, nay sometimes more beneficial than the officer of superior grade.

Your petitioner although a poor young man, unknowing in and unknown to the business of the world, at the close of the war – without friends or patrons, has made his way through life with credit, though not without difficulty – and this, while he does not mean to boast, it is due to himself to mention coming out of the vortex of a Revolutionary army, maimed and helpless (see paper marked No. 7 the certificates of Doctor White and Patton) he was compelled to commence life anew. He then learned the Sadler trade, by the aid of which he has raised a numerous family, and to shew that he has maintained the good wishes of his fellow citizens in his native State, even in their Legislative capacity, he will state that he is now in the Sixty ninth year of his age, the Sergeant at arms to the Senate of Virginia, now in session at Richmond city, from which place he dates this his position. Beginning poor, he is still hard run in pecuniary matters. Beginning alone, a soldier of fortune – a boy, he is now better known. Beginning in the worst of times, he is still unlettered, having only common sense to guide him, he has never been disgraced, and asks for his rights at his countries hands.

The prayer of your petitioner is that your honourable body will give to his case that examination it deserves and provide for the adjustment and payment of his claims. And if any defect exists in the evidence offered in support of his statements, that such defect may be suggested to him by such report upon his case as may seem proper so that he may supply that defect as well as length of time and its mutilation upon records, memory and persons will enable him; and that the act of Congress, passed the 15th day of May last (1828) may be so amended as to provide for his case, and that of others similarly situated. And as in duty bound he will ever pray, &c.

City of Richmond Jany. 9th 1829

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Soyars". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

[Punctuation partly correctly.]

James Soyars of the County of Halifax, under sixteen years of age, enlisted in the service of the United States, under Capt Nathaniel Terry, for three years. At the end of two years & two months, he reenlisted “for and during war” under Capt. Thomas Howard, and continued in service till the end of the war. At Bufords celebrated defeat, at hanging Rock, South Carolina, he was cut to pieces and made prisoner. The British Surgeons pronounced him unfit for service, & he was discharged by the enemy on his parole. Thus separated from his affairs, he was never paid one cent of his monthly pay. At the close of the war he presented his ap at the proper department, then in Rich[mon]d Va – it was rejected, because it wanted the prescribed authentication. A length off time elapsed before he could find out the residence and procure the certificate of Capt Howard, and before he could do so, the State of limitations bared [sic: barred] his claim. From that time to this, he has petitioned Congress, in vain, for compensation.

Will Mr. Dodridge be pleased to interest himself (if he thinks it right to do so) in procuring the old heroes dues? I know him well. He is highly esteemed and greatly respected by all that know him. In private life a humble cotager, his social virtues are worthy of all imitation. In youth his blood was

profusely shed in the fair fields of fighting men in the cause of Liberty. He is the father of seventeen children is old & poor. He asks justice & nothing more, from that Country which he has served so long and so well. His papers are in the hands of Col. Thos Davenport the representatives of the Halifax & Pittsylvania District in Congress. Benj. N. S. Cabell [initials not clear]


[Endorsed on back with earliest date 19 Jan 1829]

[The following are in [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Caroline County

I do Certify that James Soyars was a Corporal in my Company in Colo. Bufords detachment and was Taken prisoner at Colo. Bufords defeat the 29th of May 1780. Given under my hand this 25th of May 1796

Thomas Hord Capt Colo Buford detachment
N.B. The said Soyars was Inlisted during the war.
[signed] T. Hord.



NOTES:

The file contains a printed copy of a bill acting favorably on Soyars's petition.

On 19 Oct 1844 in Pittsylvania County Jane Soyars, 72, applied for a pension stating that she married James Soyars in Dec 1792, and he died 20 Oct 1838. On 6 Sep 1845 in Halifax County, where she had resided for nearly 12 months, Jane Soyars stated that her pension agent, Robert B. Bagby of King and Queen County had illegally withheld her entire pension instead of the half agreed upon. On 12 Apr 1855 in Halifax County VA at age 84 she applied for bounty land. On 19 Oct 1844 John T. Crane, 71, of Pittsylvania County, stated that he attended the marriage of James Soyars and Jane Oaks (Jane Oakes) in Halifax County, and that their first child was Isaac, who died at age four or five.

In the file is an original family record certified by Thomas O. Soyars as having been removed from Jane Soyars's family Bible, transcribed below.

BIRTHS.

Major Soyars was born April the 10th 1795
Salley Williams Soyars was Born September the 5th 1797
Pleasant[?] Soyars was Born May the 30 1799
Judith Soyars was born December the 18th 1800
Elizabeth King Soyars was Born June the 19th 1802
Frances Soyars was born December the 2 1803
John Soyars was born November the 23 1805
Alexander Brown Soyars was Born February the 23 1807
Thomas Oakes Soyars And Martha Jane Soyars was Born March the 9 1810
Isaac Oakes Soyars was Born December the 16 1812

MARRIAGES.

Major Soyars was marred November 1813
Sarah W Soyars was marred Febuary 24th 1820
James Soyars was marred October 5th 1820
Judith Soyars was married March 28th 1822
Pleasant Soyars was Married October 17th 1822 [last digit unclear]
Frances Soyars was Married [illegible] 18th 1824
Elisabeth K Soyars was married July 21st 1825
Alexander B Soyars was married 22nd Sept 1830 [last digit unclear]
Martha Soyars was married 22^d of [?]mber 1832
John Soyars was married the 26th sept 1832