

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Dorson Sewell W8712

Mary (Polly) Sewell

f117NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/5/11: rev'd 4/26/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 9]

State of Kentucky Pulaski County Court Sct.

On this 18th day of August 1834, personally appeared before the County Court of Pulaski County State aforesaid in open court now sitting as a Court, Polly Sewell widow & Relict of Dorson Sewell Sr who at the time of his death was a resident citizen of Pulaski County State aforesaid and was aged about eighty two years the said Polly Sewell who is also a resident of said County and being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that from the Declaration¹ heretofore made by the said Dorson Sewell Sr during his lifetime as well as other information in her possession, he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, during the Revolutionary War and served as herein after stated, that while a resident of Wilkes County North Carolina in the month of April 1778 he volunteered for the term of three months in the company of Captain Frank Hardgrove [Francis Hargrove] and was attached to the Regiment commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] to go against the Enemy who were lying stationed in and about Cross Creek in said State after rendezvousing & marching about 50 miles was ordered back and ordered to march to the frontiers to protect & guard the country against the Indians he was continued in the service until the latter part of the month of August following and a part of the time while in the service was stationed at a Garrison in said County at the foot of the Blue Ridge at the head of the Adkin River [sic, Yadkin River] and a part at a Colonel Isaacs' Fort from the time he entered the service until he again volunteered he was engaged from the above statement not less than four months and while in the Service a call was made for an Army to go against the Indian Towns he again volunteered under the same officers for the term of three months upon the Service aforesaid and was marched with the Army and was during the service in three Battles with the Cherokee Indians and was in the Service until the latter part of the month of November when he was discharged and was in service not less than three months. Afterwards the said Dorson Sewell volunteered to serve against the Tories lying in and about Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780]² and in the company of Captain Ben Cleaveland [Benjamin Cleveland] did enter the Service, but how long he was engaged in the service she is unable to state. Afterwards the time not recollected while a resident of said County he volunteered under Lieutenant Ellison for eighteen months to go to Augusta in Georgia and belonged to the Regiment of Colonel McNeal [James McNeal] of the State of Georgia and under the command of General Twiggs [John Twiggs] of said State after

¹ I could find no such declaration in this file.

² https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

entering the service was engaged in the Battle fought in Augusta with the British & Tories and during his service was in several other Skirmishes in said State and during said tour was taken a prisoner by the Indians & Tories under a Tory Colonel named Arnold and after being detained a short time was liberated and being sick was discharged from the service one week before the expiration of said eighteen months, which Term he fully served out excepting the one week aforesaid. He was discharged by Colonel McNeal at Brier Creek [Briar Creek] – between Augusta and Savannah.

She further states that said Dorson Sewell Sr departed this life in the County and State aforesaid on the 30th day of August 1833 and that she was his wife. She can prove by Andrew Surber the time the said Dorson Sewell Sr departed his life and that she was his wife. She can prove by Joseph Sewell³ a resident of Cumberland County Kentucky the services of said Dorson Sewell Sr whose affidavit properly authenticated she here produces in open Court. She further states that said Dorson Sewell Sr during his life was well known to Martin Owens a clergyman & to James Bobbitt residence of his neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

She further states that she has no Documentary evidence whatever of the service of the said Dorson Sewell Sr and She hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present on account of his Services, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or Territory.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Polly Sewell, X her Mark

[Martin Owens, a clergyman, and James Bobbitt gave a standard supporting affidavit relating to the late Dorson Sewell Senior husband of Polly Sewell.]

[p 15]

State of Kentucky Cumberland County Sct

This day Joseph Sewell a resident of Cumberland County, State aforesaid aged 80 years personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid and being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he does of his own personal knowledge know that the late Dorson Sewell Sr who has departed this life and who at his death, was a resident citizen of Pulaski County State of Kentucky, volunteered to serve in the militia of the United States in the revolutionary war while he was a resident of Wilkes County State of North Carolina for the term of 3 months in the Company of Captain Frank Hartgrove, sometime in the month of April 1776, and was under the command of General Rutherford, he volunteered to serve against the Enemy who were then lying stationed in and about Cross Creek in said State. After he was rendezvoused and had marched about 50 miles he was directed to return and he together with the rest of the men was ordered out on duty to protect & defend the frontiers against the Indians and Tories and a part of the time he was engaged he was stationed at a Garrison at the Fort at the Blue Ridge at the head of the Adkin River and a part at a Col. Isaacs' fort and was continued Guarding the frontiers till the latter part of the month of August following when the Army was to be raised to march against the Indians Towns and he volunteered and entered the service under the same officers for the term of three months marched out with the Army and continued in the service until he was discharged and when discharged he returned home with the Army and was during the service in three battles.⁴ He was discharged from service in the latter part of November 1776 from the time the said

³ [Joseph Sewell S31354](#)

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

Dorson Sewell marched out against the Indian Towns until discharged he was engaged in the service not less than three months and from the time he was in the service in April until he volunteered & to go against Indian towns not less than three months. Afterwards this affiant knows that the said Dorson Sewell volunteered in the company of Captain Ben Cleaveland the time not now recollected to go against the Tories at Ramsour's mill and did march against them, and was engaged in the service but how long he does not know. Afterwards the time not remembered he states that the said Dorson Sewell volunteered to serve eighteen months in the company of Captain ___ to go to Augusta in Georgia for which service the government was raising men, and said Dorson Sewell served out said eighteen months except one week.

He knows that said Dorson Sewell, served several other Tours but how long he does not know.

Given under my hand this 14th day of July A.D. 1834.

S/ Joseph Sewell, X his mark

[p 25]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office 16th February 1835

Sir

Your letter of the 11th instant asking information respecting the services of Dorson Sewell in the Revolutionary war was received this morning. I have carefully searched the Musterrolls and lists of claims allowed for such services but do not find the name of Dorson Sewell on either.

If he served it must have been with the militia.

Your Obedient servant

S/ Wm Hill [William Hill, NC Secretary of State]

[p 4]

State of Kentucky Pulaski County: Sct

On this the second day of April 1839 Personally appeared before me William Bradley a Justice of the peace for the County of Pulaski and State aforesaid Mary Sewell a resident of the County of Pulaski and State of Kentucky aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of Dorson Sewell who was a Soldier in the revolution, and a pensioner on the rolls of the Kentucky agency at the time of his death, She further declares that she was lawfully married to the said Dorson Sewell in the State of North Carolina the County not now recollected in the month of June in the year 1780 or 1781. She further declares that she was married in the above named State by Magistrate but does not recollect his name. And she further declares that her Husband the aforesaid Dorson Sewell did volunteer and perform a tour of duty after their marriage for she well recollects staying with her Father John Lipps in the County of Roan [sic, Rowan] in the State of North Carolina, while her Husband the said Sewell was in Service and during that time she recollects one day Eighteen Tories came to her father's the aforesaid John Lipps and took from her father's house all the property which was of any account. But the declarant does not now recollect of any of the officers under which her husband volunteered and marched under nor does she know any person she can prove his service by therefore she contents herself by claiming her pension under the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 Stating that her marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated. She further declares that her Husband the aforesaid Dorson Sewell died on the 30th day of August 1833. And that she has remained a widow ever since the present period. And she knows of no record of her marriage.

S/ Mary Sewell, X her mark

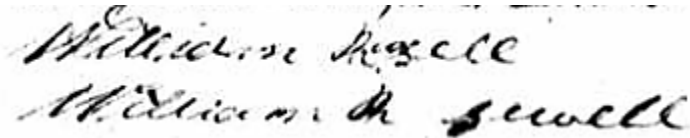
[p 5]

The deposition of William R Sewell of Polasky County Kentucky taken at his own residence in said County to be used as evidence in favour of the application of Mrs. Mary Sewell for a pension under the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838.

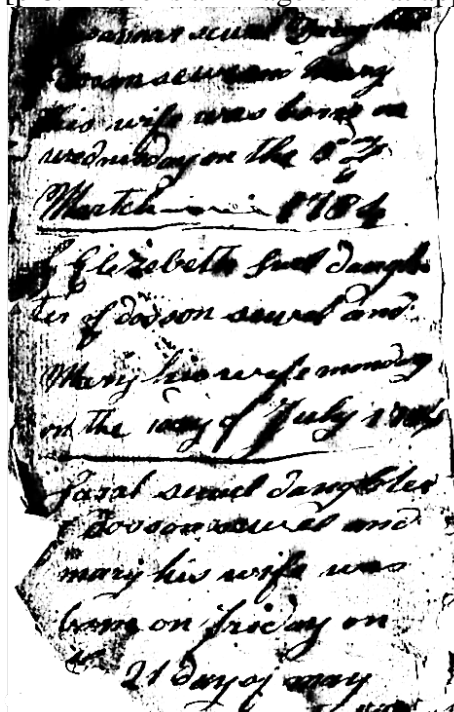
Deposeth and Saith he is twenty Seven years old That he knew his Father Dorson Sewell deceased was a pensioner on the roll of the Kentucky agency at the time of his death – And that the aforesaid Dorson Sewell died on the Thirtieth day of August 1833, And that his Mother Mary Sewell has remained a widow ever since the death of his father the said Dorson Sewell to the present period. Deponent further saith that he has been shown a paper which has a very old appearance which paper he has frequently seen before and for many years past which paper contains the age as he has frequently been informed both by his father & Mother of their Oldest Children Commencing with these words viz. Susanna Sewel Daughter of Dorson Sewell and Mary his wife was born on Wednesday on the 3 day of Martch 1784 Elizabeth Suel Daughter of him Sewel and Mary his wife Monday on the 10 day of July 1786 Sarah Sewel Daughter of Dorson Sewel and Mary his wife was born on Friday on the 21 day of May 17__ – These three was all the Children's ages registered on the said paper the other Children's ages was since registered in some book and some in others which the deponent cannot now lay his hands on, the deponent makes this leaf which has been in the possession of his Mother (who lives with the deponent for) for many years past of this his deposition and further Saith not

S/ William R sewell

S/ William R. Sewell



[p 6: There is an image of what appears to be a family record as follows:



[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for his 6 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

[Note: beginning on page 32 of this file, all of the remaining documents relate to the claim of a Capt. Henry Sewell of Maine FPA W1897, a Continental officer in the Massachusetts Line who also was awarded Bounty Land Warrant 1898-300.]