

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Stokes (Stoakes) W8754 Sarah fn55NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/15/11

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

State of Kentucky Graves County

On this 16th day of May 1832 personally appeared in open Court before William Armstrong, James Crawhorn, David F Cargill, composing the County Court of Graves County and now sitting, John Stoakes a resident in the County and State aforesaid in the 70th year of his age, 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:

The Declarant, according to his father's record was born in Brunswick County Virginia on the 8th of April 1764 from which place he, with his parents, removed to the County of Caswell North Carolina, while he was yet in his infancy. In the year 1779 this applicant was called into the service of the United States by draft from the County of Caswell North Carolina for the time of three months, though he only served one month at the time as his place was taken by his Brother David Stoakes, who served out the balance of the time, during this month which this declarant served he was stationed with the troops at Hillsborough North Carolina. But in consequence of his extreme youth at the time of service & his short service, he cannot now recollect the Officers under whom he served nor the day or the month he entered or quit the service.

In the spring of the year of 1780 he volunteered his Services to fish for the troops, he finished on Dan River, and salted and stored up the fish in a Rock house near the mouth of Hico [Creek] he served his three months under one Sergeant Raymond.

In the month of August 1781, he the said John Stoakes took the place of Joel Stoakes a relation of his who had volunteered for three months from Caswell County North Carolina the said John Stoakes served in the Company of Captain Harrold the Lieutenant's name was Shuragood [sic ?] and belonged to the division to which Major McClary belonged from Caswell County they marched to the High Hills [of] Santee where they met with General Greens

[Nathanael Greene's] Army and joined him and on the 7th September was in the Battle of the Eutaw Springs Green Commanded, Colonel Washington was slightly wounded and conveyed to Charleston South Carolina.

After the British had retreated we conveyed the wounded to the Baggage wagons. Then took charge of some prisoners who were taken in the battle and carried them from the Eutaw Springs to between Saulsbury [Salisbury] and Charlotte, where we were met by a new guard and who took charge of them and we were then discharged after two months service his discharge was signed by Major McClary.

In the latter part of 1781 after the battle of the Eutaw Springs Joel Stoakes enlisted in the State Troops, North Carolina in the County of Caswell for the term of twelve months and declarant [words obliterated] again in his place and served out the said Joel Stoakes time of 12 months, a few days before the term of service expired this declarant received a furlough from Major Bennet Crafton who then commanded the Corps he the said Stoakes belonged and before the furlough was out the troops were discharged and he received no other discharge than his furlough the Corps that this declarant belonged to during the said 12 months was a [indecipherable word, looks like "detaletied"] part of the State troops of North Carolina Major Crafton was the Commanding Officer this declarant belonged to Captain William Jones Company during a part time of the time Major Crafton with the troops that the said Joel Stoakes belonged were placed at Hillsboro North Carolina for the purpose of Guarding the Legislature which was then in session from the incursions of the Tories after the adjournment of the legislature said John Stoakes marched with the troops to Haw River thence to Deep River where they built a Stockade here they took a deserter who was tried and hung from Deep River to Drowning Creek thence Raft Swamp thence Ash Pole, here they came in contact with General F. Marion's men (thinking they were enemies) Major Crafton's men gave the troops of Marion a fire before the mistake was discovered, but fortunately done no damage. Marion was in pursuit of a noted Tory by the name of Fanning [David Fanning] when Crafton's Troops and he is met. Thence near little Pedee [River], thence to Hillsboro where the declarant received his furlough.

In the latter part of 1782, this declarant volunteered as a Ranger from Caswell County North Carolina and served in the neighborhood of Hillsboro under Captain Harrold three months nothing occurred during this service of importance only the conveying some Tory prisoners from Hillsboro to Halifax North Carolina he received his discharge from Captain Harrold.

After the war the said John Stoakes moved from Caswell County North Carolina to Wilkes County Georgia where he had the misfortune to have his house consumed by fire together with all his property, his discharges his furlough's and the records of his age was also consumed at the same time and place. And never having expected to have got a Pension he did not charge his memory with the many incidents which took place during his service nor the days of the month he entered or quit the service and by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot now recollect or refresh his memory on these subjects, he served the whole time spoken of as a private, he knows of no one by whom he can prove his service [indecipherable word], from Wilkes County he moved back to North Carolina, thence to Henry County Tennessee, thence to Graves County Kentucky, where he has resided ever since, he is acquainted with no clergyman in his neighborhood or County [several words too faint to discern] of that poor section in the country.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

S John Stoakes, X his mark

[Thomas B Brown & Edmund Adams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 8: on November 26, 1844 and Graves County Kentucky, Sarah Stokes, 82, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of John Stokes a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married John Stokes in early 1784; that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Hall; that she was the daughter of Henry Hall of Anson County North Carolina and that she married her husband in Anson County; that she has no record of her marriage; that she had by her husband the following children: Betsy born in 1786, William born 1788, David born 1790, Polly born 1792, Phebe born 1794, Thomas born 1796, Susan born 1798, Vincent born 1800 and Lucinda born 1802; that her husband died April 19, 1840 in Grave Kentucky.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for one-year and 8 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]