

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Swords

W 8773

Transcribed and Annotated by R. Neil Vance
[Original spelling and punctuation retained]

August 9, 2010 Source: Footnote

The State of South Carolina

By the Honorable Charles J. Colcock Esquire one of the Associate Judges of the Said State, and
presiding Magistrate in the Western Circuit of the State aforesaid.

To all to whom these presents shall come be seen or made known Greeting.

Know ye that this day John Swords of the District of Pendleton in the Western Circuit of the State aforesaid, Labourer, did appear before me and made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, That in the Spring of the Year, as well as he recollects tho he is of opinion it was the Year of the Great May Frost, at the Cross Roads, Chester County now Chester District in this state, He did enlist under a Mr. Johnson into Capt. George Varleys [George Warley¹] Company of the Sixth Regiment of Infantry of the South Carolina Line of the Continental Army for the Term of Three Years – He was first marched to Tawcaw Swamp from there to Charleston S.C. where he remained in the New Barracks about one Year, He was then ordered on a tour of duty and was marched to Augusta, St. Marys [St. Mary's River], St. Tilleys [sic, Satilla River] & Fort Onion in Georgia and returned by water to Charleston again and afterwards was marched to Purrysburg __ Stono [June 20, 1779]__ Beaufort S.C. _ And then to Savannah Ga. having nine weeks at the Seige of Savannah [Fall, 1779] under the command of Captain Boyce² who was in[sic] slain in the Battle, this deponent was assisting one of his fellow soldiers to carry off his Captain was taken prisoner by the British & kept two weeks in Savannah and would have starved But for the charity of some Americans who divided their provisions with him – The British gave him no victuals while he was a prisoner about Two weeks __ He made his escape from them, and made his way up towards Augusta & thence home. He remained at home awhile & Col. Brattan [William Bratton] of the Militia requested him to assist to turn the Militia out which he did, as they were dilitory in going into service at that time, He this deponent went with the Militia into service at that time, He this deponent with the Militia into Service and was at Lauren's Ferry on Santee when the Virginia Regiments was ordered home & passed on after peace was made __ This deponent saith the reason he never joined his Company and regiment after the Seige at Savannah was that his Regiment was ordered to Charleston & all his old officers were there taken prisoners by Clinton & Rowden [sic, Rawdon]. This deponent futher saith he was two Years and eight Months in the Regular Service before he was taken prisoner, that many of the minor occurrences and the dates &. &. are not distinctly recollected but this he does know that he never had an opportunity of getting his discharge, that his Father who was in the service at the same time was made a prisoner at Charleston __ This deponent entered the service with the view of obtaining Liberty which done he considered himself as amply rewarded __ But he saith he is a poor man & has raised & maintained his family by manual __ That he has no one to assist him is poor, aged & infirm and needs the assistance of his Country for Support __ And that it is out of his power at this time to furnish better Evidence of his claim to a pension than the affidavits of such persons as were acquainted with him in the service and knows that he was a regular Soldier as aforesaid.

John Swords
his mark³

¹ BLWt 2448-300-Capt.

² According to Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, Capt. Alexander Boyce of the 6th Regiment died in November 1779 of wounds received at the siege of Savannah on Oct. 9, 1779.

³ John Swords did not make his mark with an "X" or "+"; but the letters "Joh"

In Testimony that the foregoing affidavit & statement of facts was this day Sworn to & signed before me I have herunto set my hand and caused the Seal of this Court of the Spartanburgh District [sic, Spartanburg District] to be affixed hereunto at Spartanburgh Court House this Seventh day of April in the Year of Our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and nineteen and in the forty third Year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America ___ C. J. Colcock

The State of South Carolina

Be it remembered that on this third day of April in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, Before me Joseph Grisham Esquire Notary Public and Virtule [?] Officer one of the Justices of the Quorum in and for Pendleton District at my office at Pendleton personally came and appeared David Rowland⁴ of Pendleton District, (farmer) and made oath that at a camp near Santee in the time of the Revolutionary War this deponent as in the Third Regiment of the S.C. Line commanded by Col. Thompson _ when this deponent first saw and got acquainted with John Swords, was then in Varleys [Warley] Company of the Sixth Regiment of the same Line, This deponent further saith, he was with the said John Sword, at the Battle of Stono _ at Beaufort S.C. and at the Seige of Savannah _ This deponent saw the said John Swords in service and does know that the said John Swords was in the Regular service in the United States Army in the Revolutionary War Eight or nine months and he does verily believe that the said John Swords did do his duty faithfully until the Battle of Savannah where he understood the said John Swords was unfortunately taken prisoner. And this deponent has been well acquainted with him for the last Ten years and does know that he is a good Citizen, an honest man but poor, and that his word or oath is worthy of credit & belief. And he does verily believe on his oath worthy of full credit and that he needs the assistance of his country for support.

David Rowland
his mark

Sworn to and subscribed by making mark the day first mentioned
Before me Joseph Grisham
Notary Public
Virtule Officer
J.W.Q.

South Carolina
Pendleton District

In the year in 1777 Colo now Genl Sumpter was appointed to raise & Command the Sixth Regiment of this state ___ the place for the Officers and Soldiers to assemble & rendezvous at was the old + [cross] Roads now a part of Chester District my Father William Browne [William Brown] lived in two miles & Major of the Regiment) this frequently & occasionally had me to resort to this place when & where I first became acquainted with John Swords musterd as a soldier of the Regement aforsaid enlisted by Lieut John Montgomery [sic, John Montgomery] and finally enroled in Captn George Warleys Company) after the Corps had continued at this encampment two or three months – orders came from Colo Sumpter for the Regiment to March near his Residence at Taucaw Santee) some months after this Visiting my Father at this place I met and saw John Swords Ranking among the Soldiers aforsaid – After continuing at Taucaw for some considerable length of time – this Regiment was marched to the new Barracks at Charleston where in the Fawl or Winter of 1778 I again met with John Swords leading the life of a common Soldier in the Regiment above stated in the capacity and discharge of which he was regarded as an orderly and faithful man) after this from Common report he marched in the Noted Florida expedition and when the United Attack was made by the French and Americans on Savana Swords was among the besiegers made Prisoners. this Deposition was dictated by and sworn too by Elijah Browne [Elijah Brown] as the law directs before me this 3d of September 1819
Jas Thomson J. Q. E. Browne

⁴ probably [David Rowland W9270](#)

The above named John Swords is a Poor Man and of course old and unable to work sufficient to support his Family and being first Inhumanly defrauded out of his Indent and secondly out of his Bounty land It is therefore confidently hoped that all good men will assist in geting made safe for him the Sum the Public has granted for his releaf and which he so will deserves as an Honest Man and an old & meritorious soldier of the Revolution
E. Browne

South Carolina
Pendleton District

John Sword at the time he enlisted with Lieut Montgomry lived in two miles of me in a part of this State now called York District and after he Joined the Regiment at the Cross Roads I saw him there doing his duty as Common Soldier in which Situation he continued untill he was taken Prisoner a the Seige of Savanah and, always understood him While a Soldier in the continental service to have Performedd his duty with fidelity The above dictated and sworn too by Hamilton Browne {Hamilton Brown⁵} before me as the Law directs this 3d September 1819

Jas Thomson J. Q.

Hamilton Brown

Anderson County
South Carolina

On this 26th day of October, Eighteen hundred and forty seven Personally appeared before the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas now in session at Anderson Court house in and for Anderson district State aforesaid John Swords a resident of Said district Son of John and Eleanor Swords deceased aged fifty two years. Who being duly Sworn on his oath makes the following declarations in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836 granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows. That the said declarant in behalf of himself and the other heirs at Law of John Swords deceased sets forth that the said John Swords deceased was a private Soldier of the revolutionary war and in the Continental troops of South Carolina and as such served his Country against the enemy and enlisted about the beginning of Said war. or as declarant believes in Seventeen hundred and seventy five and a term of five years & after the term expired enlisted again During the war and was in the following Campains as they were then called and engaged in the following battles. Viz. The Snow campaign [Snow Campaign] in 1775 and I[n]dian Expedition in the winter & spring Season of 1776 and in the Florida campain in the Summer of that year and afterwards at the attack on the enemies first at Savanna and again at a Similar attack at Ninety Six and taken prisoner by the enemy at the reduction of Charleston and having made his escape was in battle afterwards at the rocky mount [Rocky Mount] and at the hanging rock and Eutaw Springs. and in the Florida Campain was in the Brigade of General Williamson and in the attack on Savanna in the Brigade of General Lincoln Concerning the other officers under which the said John Sword served declarant cannot say only that he has often heard his father say that he the aforesaid John Swords deceased did much service under Colonel Bratton. The above statements are what declarant has always understood

Declarant further states that John Swords his father & Eleanor Swancy his mother as appears by the family record was married April 24th Seventeen hundred and eighty two 1782 and lived together as man and wife untill the death of the said John Swords which took place on the 28th day of September eighteen hundred and thirty four and that the aforesaid Eleanor Swords remained a widow untill her death which happened on the 3d day of May eighteen hundred and forty one as will fully appear from the family record and oath of the Coffin Maker ___ declarant also states that the heirs at Law of his father are William Swords, Isabella Pilgrim, Dorcas Elrod, Elizabeth Elrod, Ruth Newton, Esther Moore, Mary Morris having died March 30th, 1841 and Jonathan & Andrew Swords having removed to the far west he knows but little about them and has small hopes of ever seeing them again. The above are all the heirs including himself of John Swords deceased. And further that the family record hereto appended has been long known and acknowledged as true it having remained in his mothers possession untill her heath and since that event in possession of William Swords and is in the handwriting as to [can't read]

⁵ [Hamilton Brown W1707](#)

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year first above written in Open Court

John Swords

[Transcribers Note: The file contains the following family information]

John Swords Sr. Born March 19, 1755 died September 26, 1834
Eleanor (Swancy) Swords Born June 9, 1754 died May 3, 1841

They were married April 24, 1782

Children of John and Eleanor Swords

William Swords b. March 19, 1783
Isabella Swords b. April 10, 1784 m. Pilgrim (1) , Green (2)
Dorcas Swords b. October 24, 1785 m. Elrod
James Swancy Swords b. June 20, 1787 d. June 19, 1796
Elizabeth Swords b. Jan. 30, 1789 m. Elrod
Ruthy Swords b. November 21, 1790 m. Newton
Esther Swords b. March 15, 1792 m. Moore
Mary Swords b. Oct. 21, 1793 m. Morris d. March 30, 1841
John Swords b. May 13, 1795
Jonathan Swords b. Dec. 31 1796 "went west"
Andrew Swords b. July 28, 1799 "went west"

William Swords d. January 30, 1794 (father of John Swords ?)

Elizabeth Swords d. May 19, 1824 (mother of John Swords?)