

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Sulcer [alias, Mathias Selser] W9687 Jane f76VA
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 5/26/12

[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.]

[f p. 14]

Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

State of Indiana, County of Knox

On this 11th day of September 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the President Judge of the Circuit Court of Knox County, Indiana, William Sulcer, a resident of Green [sic, Greene] County State aforesaid, aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration: that he was born in Shanadock [sic, Shenandoah] County, Virginia, near where the town of New Market now stands, in the year 1756, according to a record made by his father in the German language: that in the year 1775 troops were required to march against the Indians, and his father was bound to obey orders, he, the applicant, being then approaching his nineteenth year, offered his services as a substitute for his father, and was received, and was attached to a company commanded he believes by Captain Lewis; he is positive that Colonel Lewis commanded the Regiment to which the company belonged, and said Colonel was killed in the engagement with the Shawnee Indians at the point formed by the Junction of the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers where said Regiment attacked and defeated a body of hostile Indians, the troops were marched towards home and after six months service he was discharged at Staunton, Virginia; that soon after his discharge as aforesaid, he enlisted in said town of Staunton in a Virginia Regiment to serve for and during the war, and remembers the names of Van Swearington or Van Sweargren and Linder, as officers but owing to the lapse of time, and old age, and the names of so many different officers floating in his indistinct memory, he is unable to state their grades with precision; he thinks he was then called Mat, and may have been entered Mathias, instead of William his proper Christian name, upon the rolls; that he was marched from Staunton to Winchester, and his father being acquainted personally with General Washington, he was by order attached to the General's life guard and marched to Delaware where the Army under General Washington then were: that he crossed the Delaware on the ice, passed through Jersey, and was on service in Washington's guard at the battles of Trenton [December 26, 1776], and Princeton [January 3, 1777]: that in 1777, in the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], he was severely wounded by a ball passing through his leg, and lost his horse and remained on the field of battle shielded by a log, for two nights, when the British all disappeared, and he crawled to the house of one David Cartmill [?], an Irishman, and a true Republican, whose kindness nursed him and caused his father to come to him from Virginia, and his father followed General Washington to New York and procured a written order to convey him on to Virginia, which operated by its tenor, and language, as a discharge from the enlistment at Staunton, and after two years service he returned to Virginia and recruited his health. The written order, or discharge procured by his father as mentioned, has been long since lost or destroyed: that in 1779, or 1780, as well as he can recollect the year, when he had become

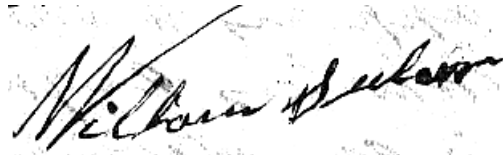
perfectly restored to health, he joined a body of six months men called into service under Col Campbell [William Campbell] in Washington County, Virginia, and marched to the South, and in North Carolina, he believes Colonels McDowell [Joseph McDowell] and Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Sevier [John Sevier], joined the troops, and all proceeded to the Cowpens or Broad River, South Carolina thence marched to King's Mountain and he was of the corps at King's Mountain, that commenced the attack upon the British, and after a warm fight [October 7, 1780] gained the summit of the mountain, and the British soon after surrendered at discretion, and he can never forget the brave conduct of Colonel Newell¹ upon that occasion: that Col Campbell marched his men home after an absence of six months, or upwards, and he received a written discharge at Chissell's [sic, Chiswell] mines, which is lost or destroyed long since. During the next year, indeed in a few months after the last mentioned service, Col. Campbell called for another Army, and he joined for a six months tour, and was marched to South Carolina and attached to the Army commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], that on the day of the battle of Guilford court house [March 15, 1781] he was detached with a party in pursuit of a body of Tories and on that occasion was under one __ [blank in original] Evans and after rejoining his Regiment he was with all of Col Campbell's men, marched home to Chissell's Fort [sic, Chiswell Fort] and there discharged, which discharge was also in writing, and is lost: that after this last mentioned discharge on returning from the battle of Guilford with the troops, as is stated, he rendered various services on short scouting parties, until he enlisted under Captain Crockett, and was marched from Wythe court house to the head of Clinch [sic, Clinch] River, and was there stationed to guard the frontier: that after the expiration of six months at the head of Clinch, the company were relieved, and he with a portion of the men, was marched to [word obscured by ink blots] and there stationed for six months, when another relief of troops arrived, and he, with the company to which he remained attached, was marched to Powel's Valley [sic, Powell's Valley] where he remained six months, occasionally engaged during all this service, in skirmishes with the Indians: that he received his discharge at Powell's Valley after eighteen months service under his last enlistment; and in all his various services during the revolutionary war, he acted as a private except during the last six months at Powell's Valley, where he received the appointment of Sergeant and acted in that capacity: that he is now destitute of all his discharges, and has no documentary evidence and knows of no person now living to testify to his actual services: that after the war he married near Wythe town, Virginia, and some years afterwards removed West, first to Kannama [? Kanawha?], thence to Kentucky, where he resided until the year 1823 or 4, when he removed to Indiana and has resided where he now lives, in Greene County, said state, for seven years past: that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name on his account is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State: that the services herein specified as well as his frail memory will allow, and truly performed he is conscientiously positive, for which he now claims remuneration in the shape of a pension under the Act of Congress aforesaid, are as follows – two years altogether, serving as above stated, under Col Lewis and under General Washington & two tours, each six months service under Col Campbell, making one year – and 18 months under his enlistment with Captain Crockett, in all four years and six months actual services, independent of various short tours of duty in the capacity of a citizen, to guard and protect the neighborhood.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ A. Kinney, P. J.

S/ William Sulcer

¹ This is probably a reference to then Lt. Samuel Newell of Frederick County, Va. who filed his own application for a pension. [Samuel Newell R7617](#)



[Henry M. Shaw, a clergyman, and Henry Collins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 22: On November 15, 1842 in Knox County Indiana, Jane Sulcer, 71, now a resident of Daviess County Indiana, formerly Jane Johnston of Wythe County Virginia made application for a pension as the widow of William Sulcer, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him 49 years past in August, say August 1793, and Wythe County Virginia by the Reverend Frederick Repos; that she and her husband lived for many years in Wythe County Virginia then moved to Kentucky thence to Illinois and thence to Green County Indiana where he died in December 1836; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 23: Polly Sweeney gave a supporting affidavit dated November 15, 1843 in which she states that William and Jane Sulcer had 7 children, 3 of whom are dead and 4 our living.]

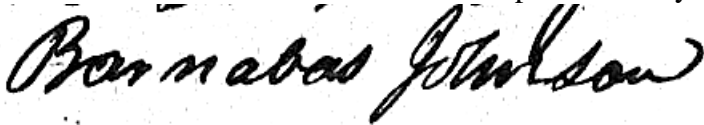
[f p. 4: On June 16, 1846 in Monroe County Indiana, Jane Sulcer, 72 last January 20, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Sulcer; that she married him August 13, 52 years ago last August; that their 1st child, Henry, was born June 10th, 52 years past; that she had a record of her marriage and the births of her children in a Bible which was borrowed and never returned when they lived in Hardin County Kentucky; that her son Henry lived in Illinois the last time she heard from him but in which County she does not recollect; that she makes this application in Monroe County Indiana while on a visit to see a son and daughter of her deceased brother Daniel Johnston. She signed her application with her mark. She does not state the date of the death of her husband in her original application.]

[f p. 6: On June 17, 1846 in Monroe County Indiana, George H Johnston, 48, gave testimony in support of the widow's application stating he is the son of Daniel Johnston deceased late of Wythe County Virginia; that he was taught at an early age that Jane, the sister of his father, intermarried with William Sulcer, now deceased.



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[f p. 25: on August 17, 1846 in Pike County Kentucky, Barnabas Johnson [sic], 69, gave a supporting affidavit in which he states his sister Jane married William Sulcer; that the marriage took place in the residence of the father of the deponent in Wythe County Virginia August 13, 1793.



. [The loop in the name "Johnson" is from the word "day" above the signature. Consequently, I think that Barnabas clearly signed his name as "Johnson" not "Johnston".]

[Facts in file: veteran died December 14, 1836, in Greene County Indiana; the widow had brothers John and Hugh Johnston who were supposed to be living in Kentucky in 1846; the widow's next you

Hugh Johnston, was born in August 1794 and was living in Abingdon Virginia in 1847; in 1847, Isaac J. Leftwich was referred to as a nephew of the widow.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]