

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Sexton W26432

fn54SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Kentucky, County of Lawrence

On this 13th day of March 1834 personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Commonwealths Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Lawrence now sitting. John Sexton, a resident in the county of Lawrence and State of Kentucky aged seventy five years 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he entered the service for nine months on the 4th of October 1779 in Fairfield County, South Carolina under Colonel John Wayne ^{or Winn} [sic, John Winn] who resided in Winnsborough, Capt Jas Steel [James Steel], Lieutenant Burnett, John Wheeler [?] Ensign. From this place he marched with several militia companies down the Savannah River a considerable distance till they arrived at a place called Ebenezer on the Georgia side where there was some Georgia troops stationed. From this place they crossed the Savannah over to the Edisto River and marched down it till they were opposed by some Tories on the river bank. After a short encounter they were overthrown and many of them were taken prisoners. The British had marched over against Charleston, this being in March 1780, from this place orders were received to join and reinforce General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] in Charleston, South Carolina but before we could get there the General in Charleston gave up to the enemy; we then marched to Orangeburg in that State and there routed a few British dragoons under one McDaniel, a captain in the British service and a large number of Tories that had come down to destroy the Whig settlements on the Saluda and Santee Rivers from Orangeburg. The militia regiment was forced to retreat to the upper country, they arrived near Augusta in Georgia on the Carolina side and from there marched back to Fairfield where he was disbanded and discharged from the service by Captain Steel, who signed and gave him his discharge. This was the 12th day of July 1780, having lost some five days which he made up. [H]e was in no battles except those before mentioned. He saw Gen. Marion [Francis Marion], Colonel Henderson [William Henderson] frequently while in the service while he was down in the country. There was no Continental Officers or regiments served with him but many militia companies did the regulars were [sic]. The British took Camden on the 28th day of July 1780 he volunteered to go against the British at that place under Colonel Luske, Capt Kenton, Lieut. Cunningham and Ensign Hugh Young for three months and this company started on the 21st and with forced marches got up with Gen. Gates' [Horatio Gates] army. The day before the battle took place at Camden he was under a different Col who came from North Carolina. The battle commenced about 2 o'clock in the morning and continued to fire some till daytime. The battle commenced on both sides with fury but the South Carolina Volunteers and North Carolina Militia fled and could not be rallied and brought back. The British drove the Americans off the field, the whole Army was in confusion and all retreat[ed] about twenty four mile[s] by 8 o'clock that night, at least the South Carolina troops did. A great any were killed and left behind. The Tories pursued the South State troops for two days who mostly scattered. The most of the Winnsboro men from where he states he started from and volunteered at got back except six of the men and the Lieutenant who was

killed at the battle of Camden immediately after the battle begun. In Sept., he got back and remained in the barracks a part of his time and next down the river one time with two more militia companies and routed and took several Tories. The whole country was filled with Kings men and they were putting people to death, stealing Negroes & horses from the Whigs and indeed every where they could find. A party came up into Fairfield [District] and attacked the house of John Young and took several horses, cut open the feather beds and drove off cattle and stole horses. His company pursued them for three days but they escaped and got clear in the night. This was in October 1780. He came back with his company to Fairfield where he guarded baggage wagons and his term of service having expired. He received his discharge for his term of three months. In the Spring following 1781, the six months draft came around and he was drafted for that time under Col Thompson, Major Dunnigan and Capt Robert Green, Lieut Denton in the Militia of South Carolina in Fairfield again. This was the 11th day of March 1781 being after Cornwallis' Army left Winnsboro and next after Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. After sometime preparing the Company was mustered into service and marched in an Eastern direction towards the North Carolina state. The British were coming up the country and had taken Ninety Six, not very far from Edgefield. After marching for a long time, the name of the county he has forgotten (takes the names of villages & creeks) he got up with the main Southern Army under Genl Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] in April, maybe it was May. He got up with the Army and he states he was in battle when the British fought Genl Greene at Log Town, this place is where he had been before when he first served. It was near Camden. The Americans were defeated and had four hundred killed and wounded and the Army then retreated. After this they marched down on the Santee River or the Congaree River and which now he cannot state. Several of the Tories had to leave the upper country and the whole Army except some light detachments that were down the river destroying boats marched to Ninety Six in South Carolina, this was about four or five weeks after the before mentioned battle. Genl Greene stormed the fort and after a long time was forced to retreat back in an Eastern course over the river. In this battle the Americans suffered a great deal while the siege and battle lasted. From this place he was marched not far from the junction of the Congaree and the other river that joins it and he was stationed at a Ferry on the river. The Army was high up the river. He staid here about two months and there until the Army marched and attacked the British at the Eutaw Springs. He states he was in that battle, it was very warm weather and the battle lasted near all day. The whole army of the British was given up. He remained with the army for two weeks and after this he received his discharge from his Captain & went home.

In May 1782, the 13th thereof, he substituted at Orangeburg in South Carolina for nine months for John Warring, who was one of Genl Sumpters [sic, Thomas Sumter] men of nine months. He hired him as a substitute for him. His Col was by the name of Dunahor [sic, Donahue?], Captain Frost [Robert Frost?]. He joined the army at that place. He was detached with four hundred men to march down to Buford [sic, Beaufort?] on the seaboard, which he done. After he got to this place he was marched direct for Augusta in the State of Georgia, the purpose of which was to guard some baggage wagons and some that had powder. In July he arrived at Augusta in Georgia and the baggage wagons started and he joined them until they arrived in about twenty miles from Charleston. From this place he was marched over on the Santee River and in November 1782 he was to Georgetown where he remained until the British give up Charleston and then he marched

to Charleston and received his discharge for the term of nine months and left the service, the war being at an end. He knew many regular officers during his different tours and militia also. His discharges he left in Carolina and he knows not what became of them. One circumstance he will mention is that when he crossed the Edisto River the Tories attacked the baggage wagons and a fight took place. Five Tories were killed and the Company to which he belonged lost one man by the name of Robert Green. He has no documentary evidence in his favor. [He] hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any other state.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Sexton {Seal}

State of Kentucky, Lawrence County

[Interrogatories]

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: in Landon [sic, Loudoun] County Virginia on the 14th day of May 1758

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have a record of my age taken from the record of my father, which is here exhibited.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: in South Carolina, then shortly after the war, I moved to Virginia & in the year 1814, I moved to Floyd County Kentucky & in 1830, I moved to Lawrence County Kentucky where I now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: I volunteered first for nine months; second I volunteered for three months; third I was drafted for six months; & fourth I was a substitute for nine months in place of John Warring.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: there was Genl Greene, Genl Huger, Genl Caswell, Col Washington, Col Howard, Col Singleton, Genl Winn, Genl Marion, Col Lee, Genl Pickens, Genl [sic, Governor?] Rutledge, Col Akins, Col Young. I volunteered for nine months in 1779. I then volunteered for three months, and the next year I was drafted for six months, and then I substituted for nine months. I was in the battle of Log Town, in the battle of 96, in the battle of the Eutaw Springs, was in many little fights during my service with the Tories. I was whilst in the service in Augusta in service; I was in Charleston after it was we taken; I served during the whole time as a common private and in the militia of South Carolina raised by that state.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer: one from Captain Green, second from Captain Kenton, third [from] Captain Green, & fourth from Captain Frost. Lost them many years since, what became of them I do not know nor have any distinct recollection of seeing [them] since shortly after the war.

[fn9

Marriage bond for marriage of John Sexton to Susy Collins issued May 24, 1822, Pike County, Ky.]

[Veteran died September 4, 1835 in Lawrence County, Kentucky. His widow, Susy or Susan Sexton obtained a pension on her application executed March 23, 1853 while she was living in Carter County, Ky, aged 72.]