Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Sledge R9657 f33VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/5/12

[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.]

State of Tennessee Hardeman County: SS

On this the [illegible, could be either "4" or "6"] day of August 1840 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of said County now sitting Jesse Sledge a resident of Hardeman County aforesaid and State of Tennessee aged Eighty 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 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following circumstances. In 1778 in the company of Militia commanded by Captain Nat Newsom Sussex County Virginia his Lieutenant was Thomas Newsom we went out on this tour two weeks, a month or so afterwards I was under Captain Powell who took the place of Newsom and were marched to the vicinity of Norfolk, where we continued twelve weeks – we were then dismissed and a short time after we again called out under Captain Powell and served a tour of duty at Cabin Point. This tour of duty lasted six weeks. Again we were called out under Captain Powell and marched to Petersburg Virginia and were there under the command of General Muhlenberg and fought an action at Bolingbroke Ware House we were defeated and retreated to Richmond City in this tour I served four weeks. The last tour the Declarant was out in service was under Captain Powell. Lord Cornwallis and the British Army had marched and obtained possession of Portsmouth, we marched in that direction and the British evacuated the Town. We afterwards marched to Beaver Dam Church and this Declarant was there mounted as a horseman and served two weeks as such. We were then dismounted and sent back again in the Infantry, and we were then marched to Williamsburg. I was detailed as a picket man under Sergeant Stephen Stacy. We were stationed six or seven miles from Williamsburg and about four miles from James Town, on James River at the mouth of a Creek the name of which declarant cannot remember, but it was considered a proper point to guard against surprise. On this service I was about two weeks: was then marched to the hospital at Williamsburg or its vicinity where I was on duty two weeks. Lord Cornwallis surrendered on the 18th day of October 1781 [sic, October 19th 1781] and shortly after I was discharged. I saw General Washington when the prisoners lay down their arms. Declarant has never applied for a pension before because he did not believe he would be compelled to throw himself on the bounty of his Government, but he has now reached that period in life when he is unable to work for his own support and if he has a meritorious claim he feels the necessity of it in this the evening of his days. 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 any Agency of any State.

S/ Jesse Sledge

[E. H. Nixon and John Clark gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

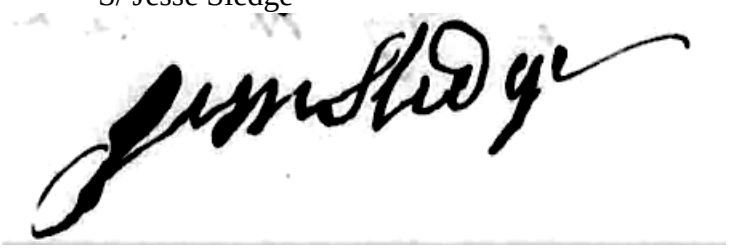
State of Tennessee Hardeman County: SS

On this 21st day of July A.D. 1841 personally appeared ~~in open Court~~ before me Edward R Belcher a Justice of the Peace and member of the County Court [illegible interlineation] Jesse Sledge a resident of Hardeman County and State of Tennessee aged Eighty-one years and 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 in the year 1778 in the Company of militia commanded by Captain Nat Newsom County of Sussex State of Virginia his Lieutenant was Thomas Newsom his brother we marched to Smithfield on duty and in guarding the place and the enemy were defeated we were on this tour of duty [word written over, could be either "two" or "three"] months and was then dismissed. A month or so afterward I was out with Captain John Powell who took the place of Newsom and were marched to the suburbs of Norfolk we were stationed at Meads old Mills looking out for the Enemy as they had been in the Bay and burnt property, on this tour of duty we were engaged twelve weeks. We were then dismissed. Shortly thereafter we were again called into the field under the command of Captain Powell and served a tour of duty at Cabin Point as a guard, the enemy being daily expected. On this duty we were engaged six weeks. Late in 1779 we were again out under Captain Powell and we were marched to Petersburg Virginia and were there attached to the Battalion commanded by Major DeCloman [sic: Christian Charles de Klauman] and I think our Colonel's name was Stevens, General Muhlenberg was in command and we had an action with the Enemy at Bolingbroke Ware House we were defeated and retreated to Richmond. We were then discharged. On this tour we served four weeks. The last tour of duty performed by this Declarant was in 1781 and was then under the command of Captain Powell. The British Army under Lord Cornwallis had marched and obtained possession of Portsmouth having previously come up the Bay, and we were marched in the direction of said Town under the command of Captain Powell, halted at Colonel Tabb's a short time and we then marched to the Beaver [?] Adams. We were stationed there to guard the Country. We were then marched to Williamsburg. We remained there some time having been dismounted and now serving as Infantry. We served as picket man, and acted as a guard over the sick and wounded. We were dismissed in October shortly after Lord Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781]. This Declarant distinctly remembers General Washington and said Lord Cornwallis and the British Army as prisoners pass on to Fredericksburg. Stephen Stacy was my Sargeant of the guard on this tour of duty we were engaged five weeks. My father's name was Charles Sledge. He lived and died in Sussex County Virginia about 18 miles from Sussex Court House. There is no surviving witness that declarant can apply to within his knowledge to strengthen this application he is old and suggests that he was called out at different periods in times of alarm on the Rivers of Virginia and was necessary frequently without a field officer.

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 State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ E. R. Belcher S/ Jesse Sledge



[R. J. Crawford, a clergyman, and J. P. Winget gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

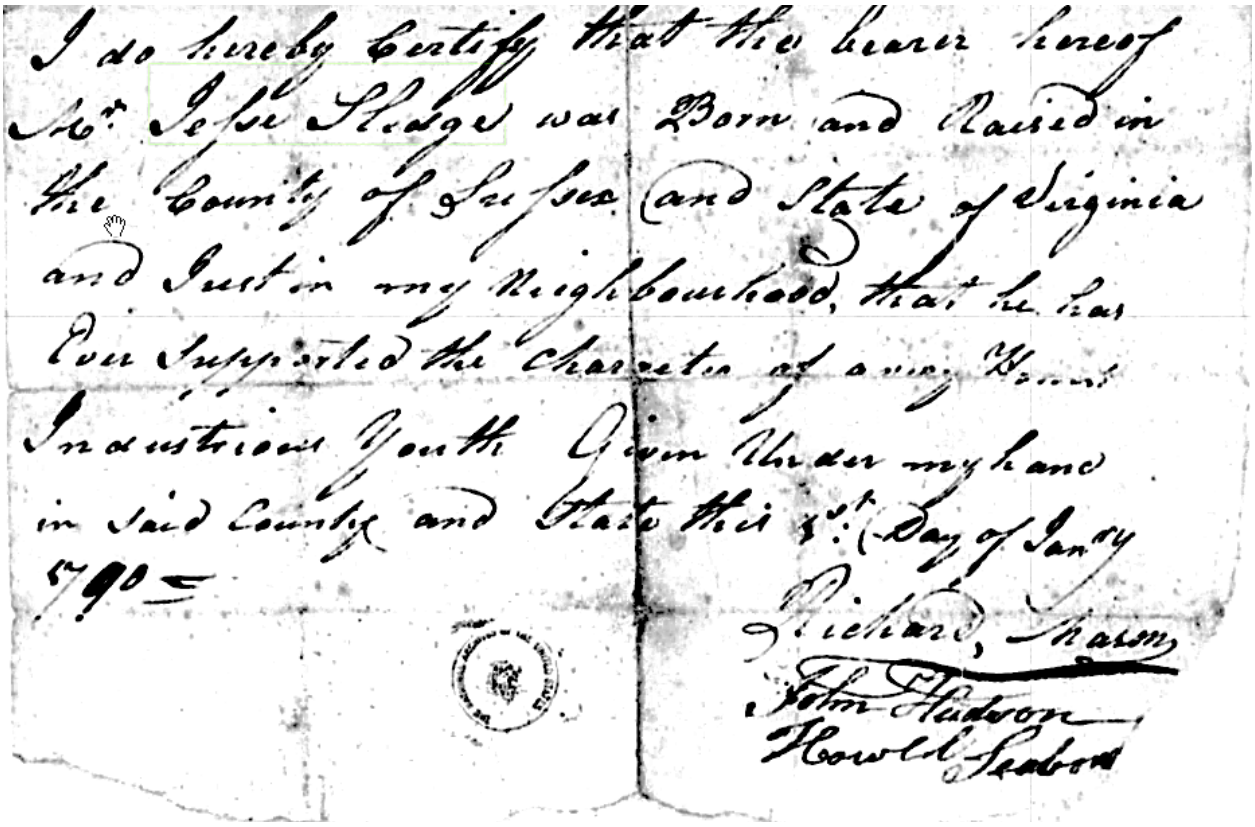
Interrogatories propounded to Jesse Sledge by Edward R Belcher Justice of the Peace for Hardeman County Tennessee

1. Where and in what year were you born?
Answer. I was born and raised in Sussex County Virginia – 1760
2. Have you any Record of your age and if so where is it?
Answer. There was one but it was burnt up in my House in South Carolina in 1832 or 3
3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?
Answer – I was called into the service in Virginia I afterwards lived in South Carolina and now reside on Spring Creek Hardeman County Tennessee
4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute: and if a Substitute for whom?
Answer – I was called out in the Service under my Captain, to perform tours of duty by regulations among the officers.
5. 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. I refer to my Declaration for what I knew on this subject. I have no remembrance of Continental officers not having served with them. My memory is not good and I do not recollect regiments, though I know who my commander was.
6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it.
Answer. I never received any written discharge.
7.'s date the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.
Answer. I am known in my neighborhood to the Reverend McCrawford, Doctor W D Jones, Samuel Neely, John Cox, Caleb Cox, J P Winget and others.

[f p. 11: power of attorney dated June 24, 1854 signed by Mary Sledge as the widow of Henry Sledge. The power of attorney was filed in Hardeman County Tennessee. She signed her power of attorney with her mark.]

[f p. 12]
I do hereby certify that the bearer hereof Mr. Jesse Sledge was born and raised in the County of Sussex and State of Virginia and Just in my neighborhood, that he has ever supported the character of a very Honest Industrious Youth. Given under my hand in said County and State this 1st day of January 1790

S/ Richard Mason
S/ John Hudson
S/ Howell Seaborn

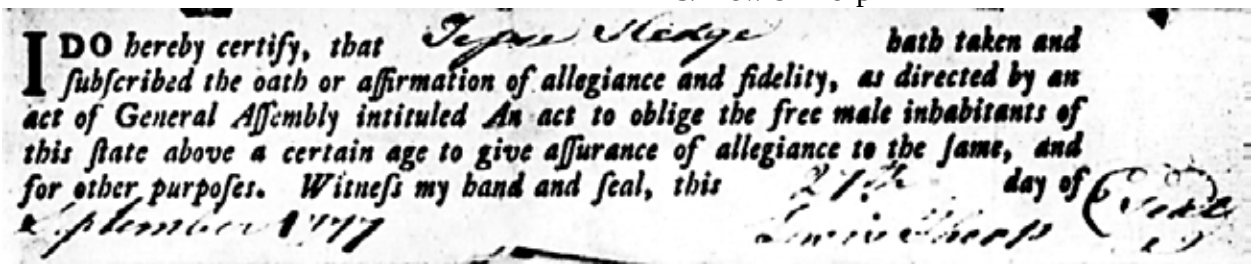


I do hereby Certify that the bearer hereof Mr. Jesse Sledge was Born and Raised in the County of Sussex and State of Virginia and Just in my Neighbourhood, that he has ever Supported the Character of a very Honest Industrious Youth. Given under my hand in said County and State this 27th Day of Sept 1790

Richard Thorn
John Hudson
Howell Seabrook

[f p. 15]
I do hereby Certify, that Jesse Sledge hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by the act of General Assembly entitled an act to oblige the free e-mail inhabitants of this State above a certain age to give an assurance of allegiance to the Same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal this 27th day of September 1777

S/ Lewis Thorp



I DO hereby certify, that Jesse Sledge hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly intituled An act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal, this 27th day of September 1777