

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Bass: S1745

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee} On this 12th day of November 1832 personally appeared in the Open
Bedford County} Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions held for the County aforesaid before
James Brittain Samuel Philips & John B Armstrong Esquires Justices of the peace and members
of the Court aforesaid James Bass a resident of the said County aforesaid Aged Seventy two
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 the 7th of June (1832)
That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served
as he here declares

that he thinks it was about the year 1778 in the fall season he was in Norfolk County State of
Virginia and stood he thinks in the first class to be called upon[?] in the company he mustered in
but a call being made and a chance for the quota to be filled by Voluntary enlistment he thinks
he was one who entered the Service in that way but stood in the company as one of the ordered
class he recollects of being mustered into service in Capt. Moody's company and Lut. William
Porter in a Regiment commanded by Col. J Matthews Applicant thinks it was the first Regiment
of Militia in the Virginia Line [sic: see endnote] in Gen G. Washington's Army and clearly
recollects his term of service before he left the army that tour was nine months during which
time he was in the battle which was fought at the great bridge in Norfolk County in the state of
Virginia with the British [9 Dec 1775] in which battle he recollects of a noted British officer being
killed by the name of Fordice [Capt. Fordyce] and the British defeated. Applicant recollects of
being marched to several points and stationed but all in the same state and nothing of particular
note occurred that he can now clearly recollect until his term of service expired, and men being
brought on to fill the place of those whose time was out, applicant recollects of being discharged
by his colonel James Matthews but whether he got a written discharge or not he cannot recollect
but knows his colonel told them they were dismissed and to go home. Applicant further declares
about six months after his discharge from that tour he was called on again as he thinks drafted
or to fill his own class and entered the service under Capt. Green but cannot be positive what
the number of the Reg't was but probably the 4th in the Virginia Line commanded by Col.
Hudson[?] in Gen. Washington's Army in this tour he recollects of several little skirmishes with
the British but no general engagement he marched through Norfolk County Nancymond [sic:
Nansemond] and Prince Wm. in the State of Virginia and was stationed at different points he
thinks this tour was about six months when he was again dismissed or verbally discharged by
his colonel. - the last tour applicant served he has a more clear recollection of he entered the
service under Capt. Cormack in Norfolk County marched to Isle of white [sic: Isle of Wight
County] and Nancymond old town was in no battle was stationed near the mouth of James River
until discharged by his Captain he thinks this tour was three months and thinks his name will
be found on the muster rolls of the Virginia Line as he has declared he has no documentary
evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he could procure that could testify of his
actual service tho' he is confident he served Eighteen months as a revolutionary soldier in Gen
Washingtons army

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 or Territory in the
United States

Sworn to and Subscribed on this 12th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 in
open Court James hisXmark Bass

Interogatories

1st Where and in what year was you born.

An'r in Norfolk County State of Virginia August 1760

2nd Have you any record of your age

An'r I have not for it was wrote down in my Father's Bible and his house was burned many
years ago

3rd Where were you living when called into service where have you been living since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live
An'r at the time I was called into service I was living in the County of Norfolk in the State of Virginia I lived there until about thirteen years ago when I moved to Tennessee Bedford County where I now live

4th How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom
An'r I served three tours one of which I volunteered I think for nine months the other two I was drafted or served when my class was called on

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

An'r the first tour I served I think was in the 1st Reg't. of the Virginia line tho it has been so long I am not certain I also think I served in the 4th Regiment of the Virginia line I knew Gen. Washington the commander in chief

6th Did you ever receive a discharge if so who gave it and what has become of it
An'r I do not recollect whether I ever received a written discharge tho I was discharged three times

7th Give the names of some of your acquaintances who can testify as to your veracity as a man of truth.

J. Y. Green James Moseley James Patterson Esq'r. James Wellington Esq'r.

Sworn to in open Court 12th November 1832 James hisXmark Bass

NOTE: Bass confuses the Militia service in which he served with the Continental Line. In the 1830 federal census for Bedford County TN James Bass is enumerated as a "free colored person."