

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Curry S44230

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

James Curry now a Resident of Madison, Ohio deposeth and sayeth. That on the 24th day of June 1777 he entered into the Service of the United States in the Virginia line on Continental establishment in the revolutionary war as a first Lieutenant, his Commission dated as above, was then in Capt. Robert Higgins's Company in the 8th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. Abraham Bowman that on the Regiments being reduced by various cause, as being in Action, sickness &c the 8th & 4th Reg'ts joined or consolidated [on 14 Sep 1778], and denominated the 4th Reg't. and was commanded by Colo. John Nevill [sic: John Neville]. a number of Supernumerary Officers were then sent home; your deponent was still retained in service and on September the 23rd 1779 received a Captains Commission. that he was with the troops of the Virginia line in the neighborhood of Morristown, where their Hutts were nearly completed for wintering in; when orders were received for the line to march for Charlestown [Charleston] So. Carolina, that your deponent with the troops of the Virginia line left their encampment near Morristown on the 10th Dec'r. 1779 and reached Charlestown early in April and after about a months siege, we capitulated on the 12th of May 1780. your deponent with the other Officers were paroled to Haddrells Point where we were detained, until June 1781 when a cartel was settled for exchanging the prisoners in the Southern department, as far as Officers of similar Rank would apply and the remainder to be paroled to their homes liable to be called in by the British authorities on certain specifications expressly mentioned of those paroled to their homes, and of that number was your deponent, and became liberated by the close of the war. Your deponent states with regret, that he has, after the strictest search been unable to find his commissions; also two Counterparts of paroles; and certificate of an Oath of Fidelity to the United States, directed to be taken before the Generals of Division, that of your deponent taken before the Marquis de laFayette, and to which was his signature, done in Camp near Valley forge in the Spring of 1778 shortly before the armys quitting that place, and but a little preceding the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], in which Action your deponent was; I should have mentioned above, that the Officers and what remained of the Soldiers, was brought to James town in Virginia (after the Cartel was agreed on) in British Transports. Your Deponent further states that he has no pension allowed him by the laws of the united States, nor is his name on your pension list. And that from his reduced circumstances he needs the tendered aid of his Country, by the act of Congress of March 18th. 1818. [signed] James Curry

[The following letter in Curry's handwriting relates to an act passed 15 May 1828 providing half pay for life to surviving officers.]

I James Curry of the County of Union, State of Ohio, do hereby declare, that I was an Officer in the Continental line of the Virginia troops in the army of the Revolution, and served as such to the end of the war. – when owing to the reduced state of the Regiments, by Battle &c several were joined together, and a number of Officers were dismissed to their homes as supernumeraries, I was still continued in service. – my commissions are in Virginia, and of course not now all attainable. my first was for that of 1st Lieutenant, signed by John Jay; the 2nd as Cap't. was signed by Samuel Huntington, in Sep'r. 79.

I received a commutation certificate for a nominal amount of 5 years full pay as a captain, but it was still paper, and disposed of at a considerable discount. – a patent granted for land to those Officers who had served six months more than 6 years, and recorded in the general land office in Vol. 7th. page 474 will I trust be satisfactory evidence of my Rank and line &c. in which I served.

the principal part of my time, I served in Scotts [Gen. Charles Scott's] Brigade, Nevilles Regiment, General Lafayette commanded our Division of Virginia troops. – have been in most of the general actions to the Northward; Germantown [4 Oct 1777] Monmouth &c. – was at Charlestown S.C. when after a months

siege, the whole Virginia line were made prisoners on the 12th May 1780 and were detained there until July 81 when the cartel was agreed on, for exchange of prisoners in the Southern department, and we came round the coast in British vessels, and were landed at Jamestown in Virginia. – Cornwallis and army were shortly after captured at Yorktown, and this was almost the closing scene.

The president shewed himself friendly to our situation and recommended it to the consideration of Congress in his usual handsome manner but it has been delayed until now. – Most of the officers of the Revolution have joined the great majority underground but by the few survivors, the tendered relief will be gratefully received, and will help to smooth the passage of the evening of life – Should this appropriation be thought burthensome, the country will soon be relieved owing to the advanced age of the remains of that army. I am myself 75 years of age, and work hard on my farm for my subsistence – this boon comes late, but on receiving it, we may have enough to pay our passage over the Styx, and prevent any demurrage with old Charon about the use of his Boat.

On its being considered, that I am entitled to this gratuity of our country, suppose a certificate of my being entered on the list may be transmitted to me; and addressed to Colo. James Curry, near Columbus, Ohio will readily come to hand

James Curry late Cap
4th Virginia Regiment
24th July 1828

[The following in Curry's handwriting appears to have become detached from the rest.]

I had some pride – & had determined never to accept a pension I did not wish to burthen my Country – but a disorder swept off my horses, and did not leave me sufficient to work my Farm. I was unable to buy; I then felt I needed assistance; and I thought my six and one half years service gave me verily superior claims to my Countrys assistance, over those who were enrolled for only 9 months (who had seen no service, probably never in action, and might not have even seen an Enemy) & equal emoluments. – I though in this, I reasoned correctly – With these views, I applied for, and was inscribed on the pension Roll.

I drew for two years. – When apprehensions having arisen, that impositions were in some cases practised – an exposition of the law was required from some of the Judiciary, from whose Report it appeared, that the claimant must be in a state of almost pauperism, to have the benefit of the Act [of 1818]; and new terms were proposed [by the Act of 1 May 1820 requiring an accounting of pensioners' property]; by which I saw I could proceed no further. So the matter has rested until now: When Hope has arisen to cheer the Evening of the small remains of of the Old Revolutionary Officers.