

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Day R2784

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia Mecklenburg County to wit

On this first day of March 1831 personally appeared before me F Finch a justice for the County Court it being a court of Record, James Day a resident in said County aged 80 years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818, and the first of May 1820. That he the said James Day was enlisted into the Continental service of the State of Virginia [see note below] into the Company Commanded by Captain Daniel at Richmond about the Commencement of the Revolutionary War. That he does not remember the day of the month nor year and was marched by the said Cap. Daniel to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina where the said Company joined the Southern Army Commanded by Majr General [Horatio] Gates when the said Company was attached to the 2nd Reg't. Commanded by Col. Falkner, that he was enlisted for three months but he continued to serve untill the Army was defeated by the British Troops under the Command of Lord Cornwallis [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] and after the defeat he was marched to many other places for some considerable time & was finally discharged by Col. Falkner at Guildford Court House [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC] in consequence of a wound received in his left leg occasioned by a fall from a waggon horse he being detailed to the service of wagoner to the commissary that the wound thus received was attended with a very bad fracture in the principal bone of his leg insomuch that the Doctr (Lancelot Johnson) was compell'd to take out a part of the bone about two or three inches long in order to prevent amputation, that from first to last he served nine months or upwards against the common enemy before he reached his home in Henrico County in the State of Virginia, he desired Col. Faulkner to give him a regular written discharge but he did not and said to him you are discharged get home if you can & after a length of time his leg so much mended that the Doctr was of opinion that he might venture to try to get home which he did after a considerable space of time through the Charity of the good citizens on the way, that it was with much pain & difficulty that he finally reached home, the fracture has been the occasion of an Ulcer ever since. That he is in indigent circumstances insomuch that he is unable to support himself & wife occasioned by age & infirmity that he has no other person in his family than himself & wife whose name is Mary aged Eighty six years & has been blind about sixteen years & she is now on the poor list of this County & but for the help afforded his wife by the County himself & wife must suffer for the necessaries of subsistence that he has no other property than a horse, & cow & calf, that he has no land & but for the charity of one of his sons should be without a home his son having given him the use of a small piece of land during life which is poor & he not able to cultivate it, he has been afflicted with a rupture between his sthombach & Bowels for two years — That he hereby relinquishes his every claim to a pension whatever except the present; That his name is not on the pension Roll of any State & the following are the reasons for his not making earlier application for a pension to wit. That he is an illiterate man & never knew untill lately that Government had made such provisions for her soldiers that served in the Revolutionary War. The declarant further states that previous to the foregoing services that he had served as a minute man against the enemy who was attempting to get to Williamsburg, but was discharged in about a month owing to the disappearance of the enemy & that he never has received a cent from goverment for any of his services — And in pursuance of the Act of Congress of the first of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it so as to bring myself within the provisions of the Acts of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War,” passed on the 18th March, 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts, or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the foregoing statement - as well as he now remembers the property he had on the

18th March 1818, was one horse, five head of cattle, & about fifteen hogs, and the change that has been in his property since is that it has been reduced to what he has before stated by his necessities to make out a support for himself & wife & his not being able to work. that he is in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support himself without the assistance of his Country — his Occupation is farming & he is not able to pursue it

James hisXmark Day

State of Virginia Mecklenburg County (to wit)

On this 7th day of August 1832 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for this County Court it being a court of Record James Day resident in said County aged about Eighty one 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 & hereto attched contains all the accounts of the manner in which he entered the service of the Continental line of Virginia in the Revolutionary War & of his quitting the same & he herein begs leave respectfully to refer the Honbl. Secretary of War to the same as also to the evidence thereto subjoined & that he has no other evidence at this time to offer; He however states as in his former declaration that he was drafted into the Militia service previous to his enlistment into the Virginia Continental service & was detained in service as a minute man for about a month, that from first to last he served between ten & eleven months in the Revolutionary War. He deems it unnecessary to herein again repeat what is contained in that declaration & hopes the Honbl. Secretary of War will be satisfied with the contents of the said declaration so as to grant unto him all the benefits of the above recited Act.”

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State whatever

James hisXmark Day

NOTE: It appears from the three-months enlistment and the fact that Day served under Lt. Col. Ralph Faulkner that he was in the militia rather than the Continental service. On 11 Sep 1832 one John Bing deposed that Day told him that the fractured leg resulted from “a fall from a waggon horse in retreating from the enemy at Gates Defeat, he being waggoner to the commissary.”