

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

Pension Application of Martin Hammock R4529

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Hammock's application is missing from the file, probably taken and not returned by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many pension applicants from present West Virginia. For details, see my appendix to the pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. The following is the report of the investigation of Hammock in Singleton's handwriting. See the endnote for discussion.]

Martin Hammock. – Applicant.

I the undersigned Martin Hammock having been called on by W. G. Singleton, Agent of the War Department, for a statement of my age & Revolutionary Services do give give the following to wit.

I cant tell my age, I was 21 years old when Cornwallis was captured at Yorktown, which I believe was in 1781 [19 Oct]. – I was raised in Albemarle County Va. & lived in that county during the war of the Revolution. Whilst Burgoins Prissoners were at the Albemarl Barrocks. (I cant tell in what year this was, I enlisted under Ensign Taylor, & received \$10 bounty – was attached to Capt Burnells [unclear; see endnote] company “and remained at the Albemarle Barracks two or three years guarding Burgoins Prissoners. there were several Captains companiess in the guard. the whole under Col. Fountain [sic: William Fontaine] – my enlistment was for no fixed period. – by its terms I was to remain in service as long as the Prisoners remained at the Barricks and no longer. when the Prissoners were removed I got my discharge after serveing two or three years as before stated guarding the Prissoners at Albemarle Barracks. – after this service (I cant tell in what year) I was drafted for three months. Went from Albemarl under Capt Haskins to Richmond, Williamsburg, and the Raccoon Ford [on Rapidan River] at the latter place joined Genl. Waynes army [Anthony Wayne's, 10 Jun 1781] and went on with it to Yorktown. was there when Cornwallis surrenderd his Army to Gen'l. Washington. – I got discharges for my services which are lost or mislaid – the foregoing comprises all the service I done. Ezra Walker wrote my Declaration, to which I gave the same narative in substance that I now give, perhaps not so particularly. I know of no one living by whom I can prove my services nor did I at the time of making my original declaration. In witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name Jany 6, 1835

Witness/ Thos. J. Buster.

Martin hisXmark Hammock

A copy. W G Singleton

Note – the statement given by this man is in my opinion sufficient of its self to prove that he is an imposture. – his manner, and countenants, of detailing, satisfied me that he never was in the war of the Revo. [two illegible words], – his character I understand is by no means good. W. Singleton

Copy. War Depart./ Pen. Office/ March 16, 1835

Sir: The claims of the following named persons, two pensioners under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, the merits of which, have been thoroughly investigated by Mr W. G. Singleton, a Special agent, appointed by this Dept. for that purpose, have upon the receipt of his report been rejected, to wit –

Martin Hammock and Thomas Smith [pension application R9865], both of Kanawha County Va.

You will please inform them of this decision on their claims. I am

Clerk of Kanawha Co./ Kanawha C H/ Va.

the original draft of this letter is on file in the pension claim of Thomas Smith Va. R. 9865.

NOTE: There is no inconsistency in Martin Hammock's statement, and Singleton's conclusion that he never served is disproved by Hammock's name on a roster of the company commanded by Capt. Garland Burnley in the Convention Army Guard Regiment from 1 Jan 1781 untill he was discharged on 18 Apr

1781 (<http://revwarapps.org/b84.pdf>). The Convention Army Guard Regiment was organized for the specific duty of manning the prison barracks near Charlottesville in Albemarle County VA, which were constructed to house the Hessian and British soldiers of Burgoyne's army who were surrendered to Gen. Horatio Gates at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777. Under a convention worked out by Burgoyne and Gates the prisoners were to be sent back to England, but Congress rejected this lenient arrangement. After being kept near Boston MA for about a year they were marched south and arrived at the still-unfinished Albemarle Barracks in Jan 1779. They remained there until Feb 1781, when the imminent invasion of Virginia by Cornwallis necessitated their removal to Winchester Barracks and eventually to Pennsylvania.