

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

Pension Application of Custis (Curtis) Bull S18338

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[In many of the papers in this file the lower-case r and s are indistinguishable. On other documents the first name is written as either Custis or Curtis, but Custis Bull appears to be the correct spelling.]

State of Virginia, Accomack County S.c. On this 1st day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court now sitting Custis Bull a resident of said County and parish of St. George aged seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his corporal oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That he served in the Militia of Virginia in Accomack County from the time he was fourteen years of age, till free from duty by reason of his age – that during the War of the revolution the Militia were frequently called out to keep guard and were in actual service a considerable portion of the time for several years – that the companies were divided and a part of them performed duty regularly & alternately. That Col. [Southy] Simpson had a command of the Militia of Accomack County during the first of the War – afterwards Col. [George] Corbin & afterwards Col. [John] Cropper. That this deponent was a Drummer during the whole of the war in the Militia. That the Militia were often called out upon alarms and to keep guard during the war & performed service a great portion of each year during the war and that this deponent acted as Drummer on those occasions & attended the alarms regularly. This deponent was furnished with a Drum and encouraged to act as Drummer – and did so a year or two before he was liable to do Military duty. This deponent was principally engaged as drummer when the Militia kept guard at Col. Cropper's block house, and at the barracks at George Parker's Mill. This deponent served in Thomas Copes' & Elisha Garrett or Fitzgerald's companies during the war. This deponent says that from the exposed situation of Accomack County the people were constantly alarmed and had to keep guard almost continually to prevent depredations being committed. This deponent says he has no hesitation in saying that he was in actual service doing duty as Drummer as much as four or five years, as he attended all alarms & during all the time guard was kept. The Companies were divided and some of the soldiers kept guard at one time & some at another, but this deponent had to attend constantly as there was no other Drummer to relieve him, all the other drummer's having gone into the continental service. This deponent states the fact that he was as he believes the only Drummer in the Reg't. of Militia – after the 9th Regiment went away, as Drummer's were scarce & that Regiment required several & from this circumstance it was that he entered service so young. this deponent was born & has always lived in this County from the Revolutionary War to this time and still lives here. He was well acquainted with Cols. Cropper & [Levin] Joynes of the continental army & he is now well acquainted with Bowden Snead [pension application W7196], John Bull [his brother, about 65] & Custis Bull & almost all the citizens of St. George's Parish. This deponent cannot state the particular times of his performing the tours as no account was kept in regard thereto. This deponent hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to any other pension or annuity then the present & declares that his name is not any pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Custis hisXmark Bull

The deposition of Custis Bull an applicant for a pension under the act of June 7, 1832 [made 4 June 1833] This deponent in answer to the 2^d, 4, 6 & 7th interrogatories omitted to be answered in his first application says, as to the 2^d interrogatory that he has no record of his age but that the age of his sister Rachel Gray is set down in a family bible in which it appears she was born in 1760 & this deponent always understood from his parents that he was 23 months younger than his said sister & was of course born in 1762 – and as to the 4th interrogatory he says that he volunteered as a drummer at 14 years of age in Thomas

Copes's Company & regularly performed service as drummer voluntarily until he was 16 years of age at which time he was enrolled in the said Copes's company according to Law – that he was encouraged to perform this duty as boys usually are who are drummers & fifers by small presents & good treatment – that he well recollects that he entered said Company as a drummer in 1776 at the time the 9th Virginia Continental Regiment marched away – and in answer to the 6th interrogatory he says that no written discharges were ever given to militia soldiers at that time & that he was discharged at the end of each tour of duty as militia usually are by an oral declaration from the commanding officers – and in answer to the 7th interrogatory he says he is known to Thomas R. Joynes, John Finney, Wm Gillett P.M Wm R Custis J.P. John W Custis J.P. Wm. Parramore Wm P. Custis (Collector) G. P. Scarborough Atty. P. P. Mayo Atty. & in fact to all the citizens of Drummond town & its vicinity.

In regard to the 4th objection made by the War department to his Claim this deponent says that he served from the year 1776 during the whole of the War and continued to service till exempted from duty by age – that during each & every year from 1776 to 1783 inclusive the militia of this County were classed & each class performed tours of duty of wither 8 or 10 days each tour (& this deponent does not recollect which) alternately which tours came round about once a months – and besides these tours there were frequent alarms in consequence of which the militia were constantly on the watch – that this County lies between the Atlantic ocean & the Chesapeake by and was more exposed than any other County in Virginia excepting Northampton & that the British & Tories were constantly making attacks & robbing & plundering the Country.

In answer to the 5th objection this deponent says, that he can give no other or more definite account of the tours than that given above – that it is utterly impossible for any man to recollect the precise times of commencing or finishing tours of duty performed so often & for so many years – but that as to his grade he was a drummer during the whole period from 1776 to 1783 & for twenty years afterwards. This deponent has no hesitation in saying that his company generally was in service from one third to one half of the whole time in each & every year during the whole War & that he himself was in service more than two years & he confidently believes more than three years in the time of the War – that he was the only drummer in his company after Wm. Oats[?] enlisted in the 9th Va Regiment in 1776 and attended regularly to his duty during the whole period from 1776 to 1783. – And in answer to the 6th objection he says that he served under Captain Copes & Garrett & under Colonels Simpson, Corbin, & Cropper in succession. He further states that after the 9th Regiment went away in 1776 there was no drummer in the County besides himself for several years & at all alarms musters & tours of duty he performed duty as drummer not only for his own Company but for squads belonging to other Companies.

Custis Bull hisXmark

[Bowden Snead and Daniel Bull (pension application S18337), a distant relative, made supporting statements.]