

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Paul Dismukes S3290                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Tennessee } Ss.  
Davidson County    }

On this 31 day of March 1834, personally appeared before the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals for the State of Tennessee at Nashville Paul Dismukes, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

In the beginning of the year 1780 Charleston in South Carolina was besieged by the British forces. The Legislature of Virginia, in order to aid Charleston as much as possible, ordered troops to be levied, and sent out to the main American Army, then in South Carolina. Applicant at this time seventeen years of age, resided in Spotsylvania County in Virginia, and was one among the number drafted to join the Army. All of the men from Applicants County rendezvoused sometime in May 1780 in Richmond and marched from thence through Petersburg to Hillsboro [sic: Petersburg to Hillsborough] in No. Carolina, where all the regiments from Virginia, consisting of four, were assembled. The field officers of each regiment were appointed by the Act requiring the troops to be enlisted. Gen'l. [Edward] Stevens commanded the Brigade from Virginia. Col. [George] Stubblefield our Regiment & Capt. [Thomas] Minor our Company [see endnote]. The Maryland regular troops, under Gen'l. [William] Smallwood, joined the Regular Army at Hillsboro, the Brigade of Virginia having arrived at Hillsboro sometime previous to the Maryland troops. The whole of the American Army under the command of Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates marched for the British encampment on Pedee River [see endnote], they having previously taken Charleston. On the approach of our Army the British retreated and the Americans pursued [see endnote]. Lord Cornwallis the British commander by a sudden back movement, and whilst the Americans thought he was still retreating, came upon the Army of the latter, and defeated it with considerable slaughter. This battle is known by the name of the "battle of Cambden" Applicant was in it & exerted himself to the utmost So soon as our Army was defeated all was confusion & disorder among the ranks. By precipitat[e] movements & considerable suffering, part of our Army arrived at Hillsboro – from which place the Virginia Brigade started for Guildford Courthouse, No. Carolina, arriving at which they were discharged. Capt. Daniel had been promoted to the rank of Captain, one of applicants Captains having been killed in the battle of Cambden, and another, the first under whom he enlisted, resigned his command from old age & other infirmities [see endnote]. Capt. Daniel took a list of Applicant Company, but gave none a written discharge

The Regiments from Virginia were to continue service for six months after reaching the place of destination. Applicant fulfilled the requisition of the Act, by staying the whole time required and some few days more. Perhaps applicants name will appear in the list returned by Capt. Daniel of the State troops of Virginia.

In April 1781 Applicant was drafted a second time, and was placed in the Company of Capt. [James] Taylor, & said Company together with one commanded by Capt. Lague [sic: John Legg], both from Spotsylvania County, marched up to Richmond, where they joined the Army under Gen'l. Lafayette. When they had joined the Army, Applicants Company was placed under Col. [James] Meriwether & Maj'r. Hardeman [sic: Henry Hardman]. From Richmond Gen'l. Lafayette retreated from Cornwallis up into Orange County & was there reinforced by Gen'l. Wayne [Anthony Wayne, 10 Jun 1781]. Gen'l. Lafayette detached a company of men taken from the different regiments of the Army to guard some baggage at Brocks bridge in Orange County, belonging to the American Army. The Company so detached remained guarding the baggage till the enlistment of the greater part of the men had expired.

Applicant was discharged with the rest, tho' he not served his time of two or three months by three or four days. Major Higgins the Commanding officer of the detachment sent an express to the Governor of Virginia (Thos. Jefferson) with the information, that the time of all the men were out. he (Higgins) was directed to discharge the detachment, & a new recruit of men was placed by order of the Governor in its stead.

In the month of August 1781 the Governor of Virginia made a general call upon all the Counties in the State for men. Applicant enlisted the third time for three months. Major Tolles & Capt. Tankesly [sic: Maj. Thomas Towles and Capt. John Tankersley] marched Applicants Company from Spotsylvania County to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg], where was stationed the main regular Army under Gen'l. Lafayette – we joined it here, and remained stationary for perhaps a month, doing nothing save exercising the troops & keeping out scouting parties.

Gen'l. Washington in the mean-time took command of the Continental Army at Williamsburgh [15 Sep], & at the end of the aforesaid period of one month marched down to Little York [Yorktown] & besieged the British General Cornwallis. Applicant continued with the Army during the whole of the siege [28 Sep - 19 Oct], taking an active part in the same. After the surrender of Cornwallis, the Regiment of Col. Meriwether in which applicant was, was ordered to conduct and guard the captive forces of Britain to Fredericktown [Frederick] in Maryland. Applicant was one among the sick and was in consequence discharged. He received no written discharge.

Applicant is known to the Honble John Bell & the Honble Felix Grundy, Representatives in Congress he is also known to Gen'l. Jackson – he refers to them for his character and standing in society. The best testimony to wit the Certificate of James Cayson, a Revolutionary pensioner [ sic: James Cason; see endnote], as to the services of Applicant shall accompany this Declaration.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and declares his name is not on the Roll of any Pension Agent in any State.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

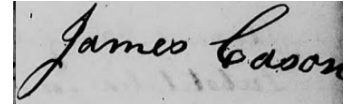


State of Tennessee } sct  
Jackson County }

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 1834 personally appeared before me William R Kenner an acting Justice of the Peace for the county & state aforesaid, James Cason a citizen of Jackson County Tennessee aged seventy six years in July 1834 and made oath that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, then a citizen of Spotsylvania County state of Virginia. In the year 1780 he substituted for one Spencer Coleman to go to South Carolina, in this tour he was acquainted with Paul Dismukes the present applicant for a Pension and knew of his services during this tour & was in the same company with him & commanded by the same officers, & was in the battle of Camden with him. The officers commanding were Genl Stephens, Col Stubblefield, & Capt Minor of our Brigade. Affiant has seen Applicants Declaration & the general circumstances as detailed by him are correct as for the particulars he cannot now enter into, but is personally knowing to the services performed by said Dismukes during this tour of the Virginia troops to the South

In the year 1781 Affiant was in the service as soldier & was in Genl Lafeyetts army when they retreated before Cornwallis up the country. In this expedition he again saw & was in service with said Dismukes, but they were in this expedition attached to different companies commanded by different officers & consequently had not the opportunity of seeing him so frequently as he did in the South Carolina expedition, but knew of his services & was with him at the seige of York which was the last time affiant saw said Dismukes in the army. Cannot state particularly the length of time applicant was in service during this expedition, but from seeing him frequently during the time & at the Seige of York he has no doubt but he served as he states in his declaration. Affiant was acquainted with Capt Taylor Capt

Lague to whose companies Dismukes belonged, was also acquainted with Col. Merriwether, in a part of this expedition affiant was in Merriwether's Regiment. Said Dismukes was a man who sustained the character of an honest man & a good soldier, his family were of good character & Respectable

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Cason".

NOTES:

Capt. Thomas Minor of the Spotsylvania Militia was actually in Lt. Col. Charles Porterfield's detachment. According to the pension application of John Keeton (S13614), Minor was dismissed at Hillsborough and replaced by John Holliday, who was probably killed in the battle. Just before the Battle of Camden the British were encamped at Camden on Wateree River about 50 miles from Pee Dee River. What Dismukes characterized as a "retreat" by the British was more likely the return of the British vanguard to the main army after it unexpectedly encountered the American vanguard in the early hours of 16 Aug 1781.

In his own pension application S3124 made on 15 Aug 1832, James Cason did not claim to have served in the South or at any time after March 1780.

A Treasury-Department document states that the widow of Paul Dismukes received his final pension payment up to the date of his death, 23 Feb 1838.