

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Bullock S8121

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

Virginia - Spotsylvania County to wit

On this 30th day of March 1833 personally appeared before me Hugh M. Potter a Justice of the peace for said County James Bullock, a resident of the said County aged Seventy two 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 the 7th 1832. That he was born in the year 1760 in the said County - and has resided therein from his birth to the present time. that he entered the service of the state of Virginia, in the Militia of Virginia as a drafted Militia man in the spring of 1780 under the command of John Holliday as his Captain - of Lewis Holliday as his first Lieutenant - and of John Chew as his second Lieutenant. that with the Company, he marched from Davenports Tavern in the said County to Richmond - and from thence to Hillsborough [sic: Hillsborough] in North Carolina where they joined the second Regiment of Virginia Militia Commanded by General Edward Stevens - Colonels [George] Stubblefield & [Joseph] Spencer being in Command under him - from thence they marched to near Camden in South Carolina, where they joined a large body of troops, under the command of General [Horatio] Gates.

Two or three days after joining General Gates and on the 16th day of August the battle of Camden took place, in which this affiant was engaged - there had been skirmishing through the night - and just before sunrise the general engagement began - it lasted but a short time - and this affiant had only fired one shot and had loaded for another fire when the North Carolina Militia gave way [see note below] and the whole Army retreated in great Confusion - Captain Holliday was killed in this engagement and the second Lieutenant John Chew had his left hand shot off. The Company to which this affiant belonged, got entirely dispersed - and this affiant being unable to walk fast[?], from having sore feet - he made but slow progress in the retreat than the rest of the Company - he and another militia man, however, named John Keeton [pension application S13614] made the best of their way to Hillsborough - and finding but few of the men and none of his officers there, they continued on to Virginia, where they [one or more words omitted at end of page] the latter part of September. From old age & consequent indistinctness of memory he does not precisely recollect whether it was the first of April or May when he entered into this tour - but he is certain that he was in service at least five months. In the fall of that year Colonel [Beverley] Winslow who was Colonel of Spotsylvania County considered it necessary to place a guard over the magazine in the town of Fredericksburg to guard the public stores & ammunition. this affiants father was drafted for this service & he being very sick this affiant entered this service and remained as a Guard for two months. he was under the command of a Sergeant John[?] Hildrup and there were twelve men in this duty he recollects John Sills, Jacob Young, [first name blank] Rose. he does not recollect the precise date & month of his entering in this service, but he feels confident he served as one of this magazine guard for at least two months.

In July 1781 he was again drafted under the command of Captain John Chew & Lieutenant Hezekiah Ellis - he was marched to Williamsburg where his company was attached to the Regiment commanded by General Edward Stevens & Colonel Meriwether, & Major Hardiman - they were marched from Williamsburg to a place below called as well as this affiant recollects called Green Spring - his regiment was kept constantly engaged in motion - and he recollects having been within hearing of the Enemy Guns [Battle of Green Springs Plantation on Jamestown Island, 6 Jul 1781], when they retired into Yorktown. Before the siege commenced [28 Sep 1781] this affiants company was relieved, and he was discharged verbally by Captain John Chew - this was the last of September - and this affiant had returned home but fifteen or sixteen days when he heard of the surrender of Cornwallis & his army [19 Oct]. he was in this last tour fully two months and had been appointed a Sergeant, before he entered into it. he was in the service in the three tours inclusive nine months.

He has not procured the evidence of a clergyman, because there is none living in his neighbourhood. he states that he is so infirm and feeble that he cannot attend personally in or before the Court of his County. He proceeds to answer the seven Interrogatories presented by the War Department as follows

1st That he was born in Spotsylvania County in 1760 the 18th day of December

2nd That in his family Bible there is a record of his age.

3rd That he was living in Spotsylvania when called into service, and has lived there all his life untill the present time.

4th That he was drafted into the first tour - that he was the substitute of his father in the second Tour as magazine guard - & that he was drafted into the third tour.

5 Gen'l. Gates & Gen'l. Sumpter & General Green at Camden were with the troops with whom he served [sic: see note] - General Stevens had the immediate command of his regiment. And in his last tour General Washington, General Lafayette, & many others whose names he cannot from the indistinctness of his memory now recollect.

6th That he never received any written discharge.

7th That he is known to Col. Thomas Minor in his neighbourhood to William Jackson Sen & Joseph Christy Sen'r of the town of Fredericksburg and Isiah White whose deposition is below who can testify to his character for truth & their knowledge & belief of his services

Here hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

[signed] James Bullock

NOTES:

By most accounts of the Battle of Camden, the Virginia Militia on the left gave way first, exposing the North Carolina Militia in the center, which followed. Gen. Thomas Sumter was not a Continental officer, as the 5th Interrogatory asks. Gen. Nathanael Greene was not at the Battle of Camden.

Sarah White, 67, of Stafford County VA, deposed in behalf of her brother, James Bullock. A note on the pension certificate states that Bullock died 10 Mar 1836.