

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Zephaniah (Seth) Bryan W2061

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Pennsylvania } SS.

County of Allegheny }

On this Fifteenth day of April, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, Zephaniah Bryan, a resident of Plumb Township, in the County of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, aged about eighty 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832:

That he enlisted in the service of the United States in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six, with Captain John Stevenson, and served in the Eighth Regiment of the Virginia State Troops, under the following named officers, to wit: General Charles Lee, Colonel [Peter] Muhlenberg, Captain John Stevenson, First Lieutenant Robert Bell [sic: Robert Beall], and Second Lieutenant Edward Rice:

That he left the service in one year from the time he enlisted, which time, to the best of his memory (which is very frail and much impaired) was the year 1776, as above stated:

That at the time he entered the service he resided near what is now the village of Connelstown [Connellsville?] in Fayette County, then Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania [at that time claimed by VA]:

That from said place he marched to Winchester in Virginia - thence to Williamsburg in the same State - thence to the Great Bridge [now in Portsmouth City] in the same State - thence through North Carolina to Charleston in South Carolina - thence to Sunbury in the State of Georgia - thence to Savannah in the same State - and thence back again to Winchester in Virginia:

That he was in Sullivan's Island at the time when the engagement took place there [Battle of Sullivans Island, 28 - 29 Jun 1776], and participated in said engagement [at Breach Inlet]:

That, his memory, as before stated, being very frail and much impaired, he may not have stated with accuracy the details of his service in the war of the Revolution, and may have been incorrect in saying that the Regiment to which he belonged, commanded by Colonel Muhlenberg, formed a part of the Virginia State Troops, although such is his recollection:

That he now is, and at the time of his service and enlistment, was, commonly called Seth Bryan, and that under this name he may have been enlisted and entered upon the muster rolls of his Company:

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state, or, if any, only on that of the agency in the State of Pennsylvania. Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. Zephaniah hisXmark Bryan

[Certified by Samuel Murphy, pension application S22413.]

NOTE: On 4 Oct 1853 Jane Bryan, 85, applied for a pension stating that she married Zephaniah Bryan on 16 or 17 Aug 1799, and he died 9 May 1838. She applied in Westmoreland County for the following reason: "she is old and infirm and living only one quarter of a mile of the County line Between Allegheny County and Westmoreland and not being able to get a Judge to come from Pittsburgh through Necessity Applies to the Judge of Westmoreland County." One James Murry Esq. deposed that Jane Bryan was the second wife of Zephaniah Bryan, who had "several children" by each wife. Christiana Dice, a neighbor, deposed that Zephaniah Bryan's oldest child was a young man at the time of the marriage to Jane. Another document states that the oldest child was born 21 Jun 1780.