

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Richard Pointer (Dick) VAS2021
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Greenbrier County]

To the Honorable Assembly of Virginia
The Petition of Dick alias Richard Pointer a Negro Man Slave
Most humbly sheweth

That in May 1778 [on the 28th] when a large body of Indians made an attack on the house of his then Master Colo Andrew Donnally in the County of Greenbrier [see endnote] early in the morning, your Petitioner was principally instrumental in repelling their first attack, by opposing himself to a large number of them, who had nigh forced open the Door, and by that means gave time to the Inhabitants who were collected there to arm themselves and defeat the attempts of those Invaders.

Your Petitioner humbly hopes that your Hon'ble house will with pleasure embrace every opportunity to reward every instance of Fidelity and Courage expressed by persons in his unfortunate situation; and that as expressive of your approbation of such his Conduct you will direct that your Petitioner now in the decline of life shall be at the public expense liberated, and enjoy by the bounty of the Legislature that freedom he has long sighed for; and thereby excite those of his Condition to give similar instances of Courage and fidelity to their Masters in time of Danger.

Your Petitioner trusts that the long period which has Elapsed since he performed this service will not operate as an argument against him to defeat the prayer of his Petition; since there are many living who were Witnesses of the truth of the Fact, and whose Testimony in his favour will he humbly hopes have its due weight with your Honorable house.

In humble Confidence that you will not think his case unworthy the consideration of your Honorable house, but that he will experience the benignity of the Legislature, and be a living monument of its readiness to reward merit in whatever condition it may be found: he rest &c &c

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed do hereby Certify that We were collected at the house of Andrew Donnally at the time specified in the within Petition, and the the matter therein stated is True.
[signed] John Flin/ W H Cavendish/ James gorden/ Richard Willams/ David Williams

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed, do hereby Certify that coming to the assistance of the Inhabitants who had assembled themselves at the place within mentioned on the evening of the said day, heard from the People so assembled that the matters within stated were true; and We think the Petitioner a proper object for the Consideration of the General assembly.
[signed] John Stuart/ wm Johnston/ Matthew Patterson/ John Lewis

12 Nov'r 1795/ Nov. 18th 1795 Reasonable/ Rep[orte]d

To the Honorable Assembly of Virginia

The Humble petition of Dick Pointer a poor Negro Sheweth That Your petitioner was the slave of Colo. Andrew Donally of Greenbrier Cty. in the year one thousand seven Hundred & seventy Eight. That during the revolutionary War in the month of May in the said year the house of the s'd. Donally was Crowded with Women & Children of the neighbourhood who had fled thither for protection from the Indians who were approaching in a hostile manner and who to the number of 200 actually made an attack on said House at Day Break, which was Defended only by Philip Hammon [possibly pension application S30452] and your Petitioner. The rest of the men in the other apartment of the house being in a profound sleep the said Hammon and your petitioner Sustained the whole attack & killed two of the enemy at the

Door and repelled the rest until men in the Garrison were roused to resistance. In Rendering this service Your petitioner believes he Contributed to save the lives of many Citizens of this Commonwealth at the risque of his own life, and after being worn out in Slavery and in old age was together with his wife another slave of the said Donally abandoned by their Master (the said Donally) who removed from this County and your Petitioner at an advanced period of his life thrown upon his own exertions & industry, to provide a support for himself & wife, which with much difficulty he has been able to effect for many years past until your petitioner has arrived to upwards of Eighty years of age.

He now Humbly hopes that your Honorable Body will consider his services which can be well attested by Gentlemen of the most respectability in the County and Grant him such relief for himself & wife for the remainder of their wretched days as in your Wisdom shall be deemed reasonable. And in Duty Bound will ever pray

I John Stuart do certify that Colo Samuel Lewis Capt Mathew Arbuckle & myself went with a party of men to the relief of Colo Andrew Donnallys garrison in the year 1778 and entered the same when surrounded with Indians and the people in the utmost danger of being destroyed, and who affirmed to us they were saved on the morning of that day only by the valour of Phil. Hammon and the above Negro Dick who kill'd two of the Indians at the door and repelled the rest
John Stuart

I James Hanna Do Certify that I Was a Resident in this County & that I Do Beleive the above Steatement to be Correct
[signed] James Hanna

I Sam'l Brown do certify that I was a Resedent in Greenbriar at the time aluded To & that I always understood by a number of people who ware in the fort at the Time of the attack that it was owing to the Exertions and Valour of Phi. Hamon and the preasent petitioner Dick that that the fort was saved
[signed] John Welch/ Sam'l Brown/ David Bright/ Sam'l Price/ Lewis Stuart

Dec'r 11th 1819 ref'd to Claim/ reasonable Dec'r. 15th/ reported Dec'r 17th/ Bill drawn Dec'r 20th

NOTE: Andrew Donnally's house was said to have been a fortified two-story, double log house surrounded by a palisaded wall about 10 mi N of present Lewisburg WV, either on Greenbrier River near present Frankford or near present Willlamsburg.