

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to James Sullivan VAS4524  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Kentucky } Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for  
Shelby County } said County Doctor John Knight [W12051] who being duly sworn saith that he  
was a Sergeant in the 13th Virginia Regiment on continental establishment during the war of the  
revolution and was at a subsequent appointed surgeons mate of said Regiment and that he served in said  
Regiment from late in the year 1776 untill the close of the war of the Revolution said Regiment being  
changed as to No from 13 to 9th and then again to 7th and he says that Captain James C. Sullivan was a  
captain of said Regiment at its commencement in the fall of 1776 and served in it as such untill late in the  
fall of 1779 or the winter or spring of 1780 at which time he left the said Regiment and went down the  
River to Kentucky of one thing he is confident that Capts James Neale [James Neal S38257] & David  
Scott [S25425] & subalterns Arthur Gordon and John Hargus [VAS1397] all left the said Regiment and  
service before the said Capt. James C. Sullivan he says that the said Sullivan settled near to the town of  
Louisville in this state where he resided for many years and further he says not

Sworn and subscribed before me  
this twenty third of July 1828  
B S Newland JPSC



The affidavits of Capt. David Steel & Jacob Springer [S40495] state that Capt James Neal continued in  
service until early in 1780 – see voucher of 1806 – Thos. Green 18 May 1829.

State of Kentucky } Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for  
Shelby County ss } said County General Joseph Winlock [W3060] who being duly sworn saith that  
he was an Private & Sergt in the 13th Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment during the war of  
the Revolution having entered in said Regiment at or near the time of its commencement and continued in  
the said Regiment from that period to the close of the said war at which ttime he the said Deponent was a  
Lieutenant of said regiment having during said war undergon several changes as to the No of the Regiment  
to wit 13<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> and 7th Regt. he says that Capt James C. Sullivan was a captain of said Regiment at its  
commencement but at present he cannot say how long he continued to serve as such but is strongly  
impressed with the Idea that it was three years or more and is under the impression that Capts James Neale  
& David Scott & subalterns Arthur Jordan and John Hargus all left the Regiment and service before the  
said Sullivan he says that the said Sullivan settled near to Louisville in this state where he resided many  
years and furthur he saith not

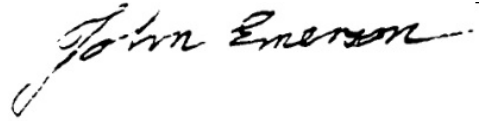
Sworn & subscribed before me  
this twenty third of July 1828 B S Newland JPSC



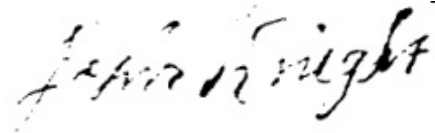
State of Kentucky } Sct.  
Cumberland County }

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said county John Emerson  
[W8694] who being duly sworn saith that he was an officer of the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental  
establishment in the war of the Revolution from its commencement until he retired under the act of  
Congress of the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1780 and he says that James Sullivan was Captain of said 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia

Regiment at the commencement and organization of said Regiment, but he is not possitive when he the said Captain Sullivan left the service or said Regiment but is confident he was in it as a Captain aforesaid as late as the winter or spring of the year 1780 and further saith not  
Sworn to and subscribed  
before me this 12<sup>th</sup> February 1830  
J M Emerson JPCC



State of Kentucky Shelby County Sct  
Dr John Knight this day [6 April 1830] personally appeared before me George P. Mills, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and Commonwealth aforesaid and made oath that in the fall 1776 he enlisted as a soldier in the 13 Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment and was afterwards appointed Surgeons mate to said Regiment, in which office he served until the end of the war, and he further states that James Sullivan commonly called Cobe Sullivan was appointed a Captain in said Regiment at its commencement, and that he served as Captain in said Regiment until the Winter or Spring of 1780 when he resigned his office and moved to the falls of Ohio. And he further states that the said Sullivan did not resign his commission in consequence of arrest or suspension, that he was an officer of good character and standing in his Regiment. And further this deponent saith not.



1830 July 24 Rejected

General Joseph Winlock who personally appeared before me and made oath that he enlisted in the fall of the year 1776 in the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, and served to the end of the war at which time he was first Lieutenant, that Capt James Sullivan commonly called Cobe Sullivan was a Captain of said Regiment at its commencement and served as such in said Regiment until the fall 1779 or Winter or spring of 1780 which of the periods the deponant cannot be certain, and he further states that the said Sullivan was an officer of good standing in said Regiment, and that he did not resign in consequence of arrest or any misdemeanor, And further this dponant saith not  
[6 Sep 1830]



1831 Apl 4 Rejected

[On 9 May 1831 in St Louis County MO it was certified that the following were the children and only heirs of Nathaniel Sullivan, late of St Louis County: "Polly, the wife of James J. Dozier of the State of Louisiana, Giles, Daniel, Nancy wife of Feelden Laird, Nathaniel, and John." It was also certified that the following were the children and only heirs of John C. Sullivan, late of St Louis County: "George Wilson, William Clark, John, and Mary S.," and that the following were the children and only heirs of the late George R. C. Sullivan: "Henry, Cornelia and Mary."]

Know all men by these presents that we the Undersigned do hereby constitute and appoint Henry Northrup of Louisville in the State of Kentucky our true and lawfull attorney... to ask demand and receive from the Register of the land office at Richmond Virginia a warrant for the quantity of acres of land due the said Capt. James Sullivan  
In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty second Day of July 1831

[signed] Daniel Sullivan                      Daniel Sullivan [as] Guardian of John C. Sullivan Jr  
N. R. Sullivan [Nathaniel R. Sullivan]    Rebecca J Tyler                      Susan Sullivan                      Jas. Sullivan  
R. Graham [Richard Graham] guardian to the heirs of J. C. Sullivan dec'd  
H Richards [Hugh Richards] Guardian of Henry S. Sullivan

To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Your memorialists Daniel Sullivan for himself and as guardian of Jno. C. Sullivan, N. R. Sullivan, Rebecca J. Tyler, Susan Sullivan, James Sullivan, and R. Graham & H Richard guardians of the children of J. C. Sullivan & Henry N. Sullivan, represent that their ancestor James Sullivan was a Captain in the 13th Va Regt on Continental establishment in the war of the Revolution. Your memorialists state that they have understood the affidavits of some of the most responsible officers of the army who were in the service with their ancestor is filed to establish the claim – [summary of the preceding and following evidence not transcribed]    Attorney in fact/ Henry Northrup who herewith files his power of Attorney

The Petition of the Heirs of James Sullivan

Respectfully state that he was a Captain in the Va. Continental line more than 3 years meritoriously, & that no land Bounty has ever been allowed for his services.

The claim has heretofore been rejected – but they now file Four additional affidavits of officers who knew him, & yr. Petitioners hope every shadow of doubt will now be removed. [Summary of the preceding and following evidence not transcribed.]

This evidence yr. Petitioners hope will be sufficient as they think no claim can be more positively proved & by officers of high standing in the Same Regiment – each of whom recollects Capt Sullivan well – that he was a Capt in the fall of '76 when the Regiment was first raised, & that he remained in service, until late in the fall of '79 or winter '80. Capt E is positive that it was in 1780 & the others seem almost equally certain.

Cols Russel [William Russell BLWt1849-500] & Gibson [John Gibson S41578] – Capts Springer [Uriah Springer R10017] & Biggs [Benjamin Biggs W1366] – Gen'l Winlock & Dr. Knight (these two witnesses) & others of that Regiment received their land Bounty for Seven years which shows that they must have been in service as early as the fall 1776 – the time they state of their entering the service in this Regt of which Sullivan was then a Captain.

Your petitioners therefore pray to be allowed the land Bounty to which they think themselves so clearly entitled.  
T. Green atto for the Petitioners

State of Kentucky    }    Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for  
Shelby County        }    said County Capt. Benjamin Roberts [S31343] who being duly sworn, saith that  
he arrived at the falls of Ohio in Kentucky with a part of his Company on the 28th day of February 1780  
having marched through the wilderness from the interior of Virginia to make arrangements for the balance  
of the Company, and the Troops about to arrive under Col Geo Slaughter [George Slaughter W8729], and  
he says that it was after his arrival at that place that Capt. James Sullivan arrived at that place and settled  
with his family in that neighborhood but at this period he cannot tell whether it was shortly after his arrival  
or not and further he says not

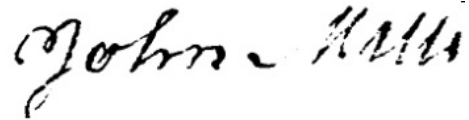
Sworn & subscribed to before me this 1<sup>st</sup>  
day of August 1831. Geo Bergen JPSC



Commonwealth of Virginia    }    Personally appeared before me, the subscriber a justice of the peace for  
Ohio County, towit                }    said County Capt'n John Mills [W5378] , a revolutionary officer, who  
being duly sworn, says that James Sullivan commonly called Cobe Sullivan, was a Captain of the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Regiment of Virginia on continental establishment, and as he beleeves at the commencement of said  
Regiment, and he says that the said Sullivan faithfully served as captain in said Regiment, until the

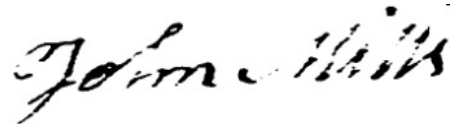
consolidation of Regiments in Nov'r 1778 and after the consolidation in the same regiment being Numbered nine, to the spring of the year 1780, or late in the preceeding winter, when he, said Sullivan resigned & removed to the falls of Ohio as deponent understood & further he says not.

Sworn & subscribed before me this third day  
of November 1831 Wm Haskins Justice of the Peace



Commonwealth of Virginia } Personally appeared before me the subscriber, a justice of the peace for  
Ohio County Sct } said County Captain John Mills a revolutionary officer, who being duly  
sworn, says that Valentine Thomas Dalton [W3610] acted as Garrison adjutant at Pittsburg in the summer  
of 1778 & believes that he was appointed Ensign in the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Con'l establishment,  
but cannot say at what time said Dalton entered or left the service and further he says not

Sworn to & subscribed before me this third day of  
Nov'r 1831 Wm Haskins Justice of the Peace



1832 Dec 1 Rejected J. F. [Gov. John Floyd]

State of Kentucky Fleming County Sct

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County, Maj'r John Finley [S31025 PA] an old and respectable Citizen and revolutionary officer, who being duly sworn saith that the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment to which he belonged, and 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment were raised in adjoining neighbourhoods, though in different states, the one in Virginia and the other in Pennsylvania, with only an amaginary line between them, that those Regiments were stationed in the West, at fort Pitt, Fort McIntosh, Fort Lawrence [sic: Fort Laurens] &c save and except 15 or 18 months, when they were with the grand army in New Jersey and a round Philadelphia that he was not better acquainted with any officer in the army than with Capt. James Sullivan of the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Ridgment of the state Line, commanded by Col John Gibson call'd Cobe Sullivan, that the said Capt. Sullivan was then at that time particularly conspicuas from his known abeilecty in running, being the swiftest on foot of any in the Two Redgements, that the said Capt. Sullivan frequently ran and carried a fence rail, he says that the said Sullivan was a Capt at the commencement towit in the fall of 1776, That he served as a Capt, in the said Ridgment, untill the latter part of the Winter or Spring of the year 1780, when he resigned and immediately removed to Kentucky, that he is thus positive of the periods by recounting the time this Ridgments returned to Pittsburg from the Grand army the time they built fort McIntosh [September 1778], and the time they built fort Lawrence on the Muskingum Waters [Nov 1778 - Jan 1779] and where they were on the celebrated hard winter [1779-1780], and what officers were with them at the various points, and further he saith not

[12 Jan 1833]



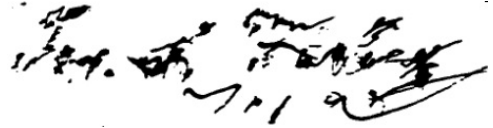
The State of Ohio Ss

Adams County

Personally came before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County Major Joseph L Finley [Joseph Lewis Finley W8814] an old and respectable Citizen and revolutionary officer, who being sworn in due form of law saith that the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment to which he belonged, and 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment were raised in adjoining neighbourhoods, tho in different

states the one in Pennsylvania, with onley an imaginary line between them that those Regiments were stationed in the West at Fort Pitt Fort McIntosh Fort Lawrance &c save and exsept 15 or 18 months when they were with the grand army in New Jersey and around Philadelphia. that he was well acquainted with Captain James Sullivan of the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment of the State line Commanded by Col. John Gibson (called Cobe Sullivan that the said Sullivan was then at that time particlullarley concpecious for his known activaty in running, being the swiftest on foot of aney in the two Regiments, that the said Capt Sullivan frequently ran and carried a fence rail that the said Sullivan was a Capt in the said Regiment in 1776, until the latter part of the Winter or Spring of the year 1780, when he resigned, and immediateley removed to Kentuckey

Sworn and subscribed before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 J Patterson Justice of the peace



State of Kentucky } Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for Fayette County SS }

said County Colo Benj Whaley [Benjamin Whaley S31472] who being duly sworn according to law saith that James or Cobe Sullivan was a Capt of the Thirteenth Virginia Regt on continental establishment located or Stationed at Pittsburgh in the war of the Revolution and served as Capt in said Regt three years or more and further he saith not.

[16 Jan 1833]



State of Kentucky } Jefferson County sct }

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for said County, Tunis Applegate, who made Oath that he is now in the sixty third year of his age; that with his Fathers family and Capt. James Sullivan's family, embarked on the Monongahela River and descended said River and the Ohio River, and landed at the Falls of the Ohio, now Louisville, in the year 1780 on the 10<sup>th</sup> March – and further, he understood from said Sullivan and others that, he had been in the Army of the United States, during the American Revolution.

And further saith not.

Given under my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> July 1833. G. J. Johnston J.P.J.C.

Additional evidence filed Aug't 23<sup>rd</sup> 1833.

Nov. 7, 1833. Rejected. Sullivan is not entitled land bounty. John Floyd

1835 May 15 Rejected

Report on the claim of the heirs of James Sullivan Captain [undeciphered] for bounty land for his services.

To the Governor/ Sir,

It appears, by endorsements on the different bundles of Papers relating to this claim, that it has been rejected four times – viz – on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1830 – on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1831 – on the 11<sup>th</sup> Dec'r 1832 – and the 7<sup>th</sup> Nov'r 1833. It further appears, by the Petition of the heirs of James Sullivan of June 9 1833, that this claim was rejected also on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1829, making five rejections. The Papers which were before the Executive, in May 1829, are not now before me, a reconsideration has been ask'd, on the old, and on new evidence; and on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this present month, August 1835, this claim was refer'd to me for my examination & Report thereupon.

It does not appear, that Capt James Sullivan ever settled his accounts with State auditors, or with the Continental Commissioner. His name is not on the Army Register of the Cont'l line. I have not found in the Journals of Congress, of 1776, that a Commission issued to him in that year. He resign'd his Commission, before December 1, 1778. Benjamin Biggs then succeeded him in his command as Captain & took rank from Dec'r 1<sup>st</sup> 1778 (see the Chesterfield arrangement, of Feby 20 1781 under the head of "The Rank-Roll of Captains of the Virginia line." [<http://revwarapps.org/b160.pdf>]) That Benjamin Biggs (who succeeded Capt. Sullivan, on his Resignation, was promoted Captain Dec'r 1 1778, appears, not only by the Chesterfield arrangement above refer'd to, but, by the Winchester, or Cumberland old Court House arrangement, of May 6<sup>th</sup> 1782. (I do not know which of the two is the proper name of the arrangement) This document consists in part, of a "Memorial arrangement of the Captains of the Va line – May 6 1782" with the dates of their Commissions &c. no. 28 is "Benjamin Biggs Commission'd Captain of the 7<sup>th</sup> Reg't Dec'r 1 1778" (in the document last spoken of, now on file in the 1<sup>st</sup> auditors office.) The same fact appears, in regard to Captain Benjamin Biggs, in the Report & "Proceedings of a Board of officers appointed by Brig. Gen'l Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850], for the purpose of adjusting & finally settling an arrangement of the Virginia line – Winchester Dec'r 17 1782." This document may be found in vol. 2 army Papers. It appears, from it, that Benjamin Biggs was commission'd Captain Dec'r 1 1778 and was then (in 1782) among the [undeciphered] Junior officers.

a Letter from Peter Hagner esqr 3<sup>rd</sup> auditor in the Treasury Department of the United States has been fil'd, in which it is said that the public records in his office furnish proof, that James Sullivan commanded a Comp'y in the 13<sup>th</sup> Reg't, which was muster'd Nov'r 20 1777 & May 4 1778 and that the records in his office furnish no information, in relation to the services of Capt. Sullivan, down to a later period. (see Mr. Hagner's Letter)

The following facts have been stated by living witnesses, on whose testimony the Petitioners have relied [summary of the above testimony not transcribed]

The foregoing facts, which are prov'd by Revolutionary Records & documents, and by the testimony of living witnesses, are all (that are important to be consider'd in the decision of this claim) which I am able to report to yr Excellency.

It appears from the Illinois documents that James Sullivan was a Conductor of store or Commissary, or Qr Master, in the Illinois Department, to the Troops under the Command of Genl G. R. Clark [see endnote]. His heirs do not claim bounty land for that service. Probably, none was due for it. He was not a Commission'd officer, of the Illinois Regt; nor was he ever in Commission, after his resignation in the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

This claim is strongly supported, by the testimony of witnesses, but the absence of proof of Record, of Capt Sullivans service for 3 years; and the positive proof, that he resign'd, on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec'r 1778, which is furnish'd by the "Chesterfield arrangement" of officers &c in Feby 1781, causes me to think, that the witnesses are mistaken in their statements of the length of Capt Sullivans services. I am of the opinion that the five decisions against this claim, which have been notic'd in the first part of this Report, were correct, and ought not now to be revers'd.\*

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &c/ August 13 1835

note\* There are two facts, not before notic'd in this Report, which ought to be considered in examining, and deciding upon, the claim of the heirs of Capt. Sullivan – viz – 1<sup>st</sup> Fifty years have elaps'd, since the termination of the Revolutionary war, and this claim for land bounty has not been, until within a few years past, presented to the Executive. 2<sup>nd</sup> Capt. Sullivan was never allow'd his depreciation of pay, nor ever, so

far as we know, applied for it. The delay, in the application for bounty land has not been accounted for. The failure of Capt. Sullivan to obtain his depreciation of pay, or even to ask for it, (not being satisfactorily accounted for) creates a presumption, or at least a strong suspicion, that he left the Army under circumstances, which depriv'd him of his title to depreciation of pay, and to bounty land. Captain Sullivan liv'd many years after the war; but did not apply for his bal[ance] of pay, or bounty land.

NOTES:

Leven Cooper S35866 stated that he served “until the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1779 in Capt. James Sullivan’s company.”

According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra (*A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the Revolutionary War*), the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. John Gibson “was temporarily under the jurisdiction of George Rogers Clark from 1780 to 1781.” James Sullivan is not listed as one of the five captains in this detachment, but Benjamin Biggs is.