

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

Bounty Land Claim of James Ball BLWt1464-200

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Mar 2017.

Stat of virginia }
County of Bedford }

I William Ball son & one of the Hairs at law James Ball do upon oath testify & declare to the best of my knowlledg & belief that James Ball Entered the army of the revolution In the year 1778 for the war and servd as an Ensign in the seventh Regiment under the command of Col Haws [sic: Samuel Hawes] of the virginia Line & that he continued in the servis afore said until the close of the war. I further declare that I hav never Recevd a warrant for the bounty land promised to the said James Ball on the Part of the united stats nor do I believe that he ever recevd it or transfered his claim to it in any manner whatsoever. [22 Dec 1828] William Ball

Dept of War. Bounty Land Office May 16, 1832

Sir In reply to yours of 14th inst I have to inform you that, the name of James Ball is returned on the list of officers of the Virg'a Continental line, as a Lieutenant of the 6th Reg't., and having become supernumerary [with insufficient troops for a command] on the 30th Sept'r. 1778. Land Warr't No 1464 for 200 acres issued 19th Jan'y. 1829 in the name of Wm Ball, Son, & the other heirs at law of the said Lt. James Ball Yrs &c/ Wm Gordon
Wm Lambert Esqr Richmond Virg'a.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The online image of one document is illegible.]

The petition of the Representatives of James Ball respectfully represents to the Governor and Council that the said Ball was an officer in the army of the Revolution and served several campaigns in the northern Army when on the 30th September 1778 he became a Supernumerary Officer. [See endnote] The army being at that time consolidated. His rank at the time he became Supernumerary was that of Lieutenant altho subsequently they always understood he was promoted to a Captaincy it is probable he [several illegible words] of Militia, as he was in service when the State was invaded [early 1781] and was always called Captain Ball.

Nearly all the officers belonging to Virginia who became supernumerary when the army was consolidated in 1778 have received their Land Bounty. The Executive are respectfully referred to the case of Col. Thomas Minor [W5374] in which the question was settled, there are many other cases – but Col Minor is the most recent. They pray that the Land Bounty promised to officers of his grade may be granted them.

I knew the Ball family of Chesterfield there were three brothers, James, William and Daniel [William Ball and Daniel Ball] who were in the army during the Revolutionary War and lived in Chesterfield after the war ended. I have seen the letter of William Gordon Esq. of the Land Bounty office stating that James Ball became Supernumerary on the 30th September 1778 These officers were considered in Service unless they resigned and most of them have received their Land Bounty as the Records of the Executive will shew.

July 28th 1832

William DuVal [S8362]

Dear General, I think you had better [several illegible words] about Ball's case [undeciphered word] from the fact of his being a Supernumerary of 1778. I know the Governor is right in his views on the subject as given in [undeciphered] & Lewis cases and others.

By referring to the papers in those cases you will see references to repeated [three undeciphered words], in favor of those officers. The subject of these land claims [two undeciphered words] enough to impress on the minds of the members of council the reasons of their decisions. After fully investigating point, they decide them favorably but before these same points are again presented, the reasons of the former decisions are forgotten & this I do candidly believe is the only reason for any subsequent hesitation in the case of the Supernumeraries of '78

The Gen'l. Government has always allowed them & the Executive of Va. has never in a single case, I believe rejected one of them, without subsequently allowing it on full investigation.

The decision of the Court of appeal, which is now confirmed by all the Departments of this & the Gen'l. Government, evidently is based on the consideration, that while an officer is Supernumerary, he is yet in service, tho' not in actual service. The distinction is between service in law & actual service. Those officers were in the service of the Government, tho they had no actual duties in the field to perform – they were in writing, to obey orders.

The claim to land has always been considered better than to money – & accordingly very many were allowed where the money claims were refused. But now all doubt is removed about the money claims – a fortiore the lands should be more readily granted I have not a shadow of doubt about the correctness of the Governors opinion on the subject & if you will get the papers in some of the old cases allowed he will not hesitate I am sure.

I write in haste having promised to go out – & therefore send you this. Yrs truly

T Green 9 oct 1832

NOTE: As a result of the reorganization of the Virginia Continental Line at White Plains NY on 14 Sep 1778, many officers became supernumerary. See <http://revwarapps.org/b138.pdf>.