

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

Pension Application of David Stephens R10111

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 July 2015.

State of Virginia Patrick County SS

On this 13th day of November 1840 personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Patrick County now sitting David Stephens a resident of Patrick County and State of Virginia aged seventy six 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 7th 1832– That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers; and served as here in after stated. That this applicant volunteered in the County of Pittsylvania on Caskade [sic: Cascade] Creek in the State of Virginia in the month of April in the year 1781 and he was placed under the command of Capt. Hutchins or Hudgins [probably Thomas Hutchins] at Sandy river in said County of Pittsylvania where said Hutchins's Company paraded in a day or two after he had volunteered as aforesaid, and marched off with said company immediately to the point on Dan river where Danville now stands and marched from there on across Staunton River at Place called Broken ferry then boundary between Halifax [sic: Halifax] and Charlotte counties Virginia, then through Charlotte County in said state and then on through the country to Old James Town in Virginia. That he was at this time under Genl Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] and hearing of the commencement of the battle at Little York [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep -19 Oct 1781] this declarant marched on by a force march crossing James River to Little York where this affiant joined Genl Washington some days before the surrender. That this declarant during the siege was principally engaged in throwing up entrenchments and aiding about the breast works, he however in the mean time witnessed the scenes which occurred during that service and saw Lord Cornwallis march out with his army and surrender to the allied armies of the United States and France. This affiant although very young and illiterate had his attention attracted by the imposing scene which he witnessed when Lord Cornwallis profered his sword to Gen'l. Washington [sic: see endnote] This declarant during the march from Dan river was frequently sent out after beeves, and he was frequently employed in foraging for the army that duty came to devolve on him almost constantly on account of his being a boy not more than seventeen years of age and on account his diminutive size. This affiants opportunity of getting acquainted particularly with the officers as well as the internal policies[?] of the army

This affiant enlisted with Capt. Copeland the day before the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis in the Virginia line for and during the War but his services not being longer required in the State of Virginia after the siege terminated, he was permitted to return home which he did, and reached home in Pittsylvania the 27th or 28th day of October 1781. This affiant did not receive his discharge his Captain having promised to furnish it when returned home. This affiant does not know the exact times he served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War but he is satisfied that the he was in actual service at least six months. The reason this affiant has not made application at an earlier period for his pension is owing to his helpless situation and to his being an illiterate man residing at a point remote from the court House and the difficulty of procuring the service of a draftsman or person acquainted with the mode of making out a proper declaration. He has no documentary evidence to which he could present nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present. He declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state.

David hisXmark Stephens

NOTES:

Lord Cornwallis did not personally surrender his sword to Gen. Washington. Claiming sickness, he delegated the duty to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara. O'Hara initially proffered his sword to the French commanding officer, who waved him toward Washington, and Washington then directed that the sword be offered to his own second-in-command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

The claim for a pension was rejected because of insufficient proof of at least six months service.