

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Charles Stourman (Stourman, Storum) R10240  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

NY

State of Pennsylvania }  
Warren County Ss } on this sixth day of June AD one thousand eight hundred & thirty six personally appeared in open Court of Common pleas of said County now siting at Warren, before the Judges of the same Court, Charles Storum, a mulatto man, a resident of Conowango Township, in said County of Warren & state aforesaid, aged about Eighty five years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benifit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That he entered the Service of the United states under the following named officers & served as herein stated. In the Spring or early in the Summer of seventeen hundred seventy six (1776) I enlisted as a private under Col. Hughs [sic: Hugh Hughes], who was then acting as Commissary of stores at Fishkill Dutches [sic: Dutchess] County N. York. I entered immediately in the Hospital service (situate about three fourths of a mile from Fishkill. I acted as assistant or waiter to Doct. McNight, who was the surgeon of the Hospital During all that summer & fall I attend on the sick The hospital & barracks were full of sick & dying I continued there during the winter cutting & preparing wood for the hospital &c. Some time in the next summer I went to Fort Montgomery [near Bear Mountain NY] & was there at the taking of said Fort [6 Oct 1777]. When the British besieged the fort so closely that we found we could not keep it – Gen'l George Clinton was in Command, told every man to make his way that could, & he himself plunged into the river & swam across safely. I took a Team & baggage waggon & drove it up the river & saved it from the British I went back to Fishkill & staid there that winter and attended to the same duties I had formerly been engaged in to wit tending the Hospital. The next Spring I was sent by Col. Hughs with a team to get Provision & forage & followed that business during that summer & fall. I staid there during the next winter & Spring when I was discharged having served at least three years. After that I went to Virginia & was at the taking of Cornwallis at York Town [19 Oct 1781], at this time I was acting as waiter to Capt or Col. Hopkins. I was in service at this time about eight months. The whole time I was actually in service was three years besides the Eight months I was in the service at the time Cornwallis was taken, which was as above stated. Col. Hughs gave me a discharge at Fishkill but when I went to sea I left it with a man I lived with before that time & have never seen it since. I was born in Dutches County N. York & lived there till the close of the Revolutionary war & then went several voyages to sea, & was gone on the different voyages five years or thereabouts. I then went to Windsor in Connecticut & lived there about twenty years I then moved to Rome Oneida County N. York lived there & then in New Hartford in the same County, about twelve years. I then moved to sugargrove [Sugar Grove] in this (Warren) Co. & lived there till this Spring when I move to my present residence in Conowango Township. He further states that when he lived in Dutches County He used to be called Stourman but he usually spells his name Storum.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory & have never made an application for a pension till the present application. I have no documentary evidence to prove my services & know of no person whose testimony I can procure to testify thereto. Linus H Miller Esq & Elisha Devereaux can testify as to my character for veracity. I am not much acquainted with any clergyman except Palmer Phillips who lives in Busti N. York & cannot well get him to come here & testify to my character.  
Charles hisXmark Storum

State of New York }  
County of Chautauqua } On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1854 before me a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared William Stourman a resident of Busti in said County and made oath according to law, that he is a legal heir of Charles Stourman who was a [blank] in the War of the

Revolution, and who has heretofore made application for the benefit of the Pension Act of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

That he is directly interested as a claimant in said pension, and makes this affidavit to be filed with such additional evidence or arguments as my Agent may use in prosecuting said claim. Countermanding and revoking all powers of Attorney and authority heretofore given, I hereby Constitute and appoint Amos W Muzzy of Panama NY my true and lawful Attorney to prosecute the claim of the said Charles Stourman for any amount of Revolutionary pension that may be due. [The rest legal boilerplate not transcribed.]

[signed] William Stourman

NOTES:

Stourman's claim for a pension was rejected on the dubious grounds that his service was "Not military service." The regulations for administering the pension law of 1832 includes the following: "This Law has been construed to extend, as well to the line, as to every branch of the Staff of the Army and to include under the terms 'Continental Line,' 'State troops,' 'militia,' and 'volunteers,' all persons enlisted, drafted, or who volunteered and who were bound to military service," excepting only "those who were occasionally employed with the army upon civil contracts, such as Clerks to Commissaries and to Store Keepers, &c., Teamsters, Boatmen, &c...." For a more extensive discussion of a person of color whose claim for a pension was rejected by the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards, because the soldier was relegated to being a servant or waiter, see the case of Primus (Primes) Hall (Trask) W751 <http://revwarapps.org/w751.pdf>.

William Stourman also signed a power of attorney on 27 Dec 1852 to prosecute the claim that might be due "the children and legal representatives of Charles Storam and Polly his wife in virtue of said Charles Storams service in the Revolutionary war."