## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Luke Bryan R1380 MD Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } Ss Randolph County }

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1833 personally appeared befour me John Harras one of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace in and for the County of Randolph and state of Virginia Luke Bryan aged seventy four 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 pased the July the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated

He entred the service as a Vollenteer in Captain William Wilkeson Company of Light Infentry attached to Major Sallors Battalion and to Col. Luck's Regiment of Baltimore Militia That said Company was Called in to service on the Last Day of May 1775 [sic] and that declarent was 4<sup>th</sup> Corporal to said Company and that they ware stationed at fort Henry [sic: Fort McHenry completed in 1800 on the site of Fort Whetstone, which was constructed in 1776] which was then called three Miles from Baltimore in the state of Mariland where said company was kept stationed for nine months declarent states that most of the time he was with most of the other companies kept at hard Laybour reparing and making new amendments to the fortress that the Fort was commanded by Captain Robert Wilmott [Robert Wilmot] a Captain of Artilery and that while there the government was engaged in constructing a chain of Iron to obstruct the Pasage of the British veseles from pasing to Baltimore that while they ware stationed there the British fleet hoove in sight that preparations ware made for an action. But the fleet left there and sailed up the delaware River and Landed at the head of elk [now Elkton MD; 25 Aug 1777] that there he with the rest of the company was marched from fort Henry to the Patapsco, and Back Rivers to destroy canneus Battows and all other small craftes &c to keep the negrows and Tories from going to the British that the officers who commanded the company in this expedition was William Wilkeson Lieutenant Nicholas Norrid Ensign Philip Woolery that all tho they ware attached to Col Tucks Regiment of Baltimore Militia the officers commanding the said Militia ware not in actual service but had a grand Perade nearly every month at which time the said Company to which declarent belonged joined them as also did the regulars and all the soldier at the city Point fort. This declarent states that he served on Back river and Patapsico river scouting about the residue of this Tower but never was in any ingagement that on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1777 they Marched from their station at Patapsico and on the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of March 1777 they ware discharged at the City Point fort which was then within one Mile of Baltimore in the state of Mariland this declarent dose not recolect of getting a written discharge from the service that while in the service he was well acquainted with Captain Robert Wilmott who commanded the fort Henry & who was a regular officer that he recolects well the Brave Captain Cox who was called to join Washington's army and was killed at the Battle of German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777]. He was also acquainted with Captain Groeble who was also called to join the Army of Washington that he was not acquainted with any of the field officers Personally that he served in ths tower one year and Ten Months constant and fettegeing service declarent further states that he was drafted afterwards to wit on the 14th Day of September 1781 in the Militia of Baltimore and was Plased under Sargent Young with a company of Militia of which said companies said declarent was 1st Sargent called orderly Sargent tho under the command of Sargent Young who was a Sergent of the regular Army sent to reseve the Militia of that city. that they ware marching to Wilmington and had got as far as the schoolskill [sic: Schuylkill River] when information was reseved of the surrender of the Kings troops under Lord Cornwallis [at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] when & where we ware discharged this took place on or about the 25th Day of October 1781 and this term of service was not less then three weeks and that he has no doccumentary evidence and that he knows of no Person whos testimoney he can procure who can testify to his service

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declears that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state Sworn & subscribed the Day and year aforesaid before me John Harras JPRC

We Simeon Harras a clergiman residing in the County of Randolph and state of Virginia and [blank] residing in the same place do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Luke Bryan of this County who has subscribed ans sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to have been a solidier of the That he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a solidier of the revolution and that we concur in that oppinion

sworn & subscribed the Day & year aforesaid before me John Harras JPRC

[signed] Simeon Harras [signed] J. M. Corley

The following interrogatories as prescribed by the War department ware put and ware answerd as follows to wit

- To 1<sup>st</sup> Born within 4 Mile of Baltimore state of Mariland in the year 1759
- To 2<sup>d</sup> has a bible record of his age kept by his father in his life time it is now in declarents Posesion
- To 3<sup>d</sup> Was living in Baltimore when Volunteerd into the service the 1<sup>st</sup> term, was living there when drafted the 2<sup>d</sup> term has lived in gun powder Baltimore county Md has lived in Aligainey [sic: Allegany] County Md. and now lives in Randolph County Virginia
- T 4th Volenteerd 1 year & 10 Month ware Drafted 3 weeks
- To 5<sup>th</sup> Ware acquainted with no regular officer except Capt Robert Wilmott Commandant of Fort Henry & Capt of Artilery
- To 6<sup>th</sup> Did never as he recolects receive a written discharge

To the 7th He is well known in his neighbourhood by the Reverent Simeon Harras by James M Corly and sundry other citizens. auke Biryan

Propounded by me

John Harras JPRC

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David w. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote "Doubtful" on his report on Bryan.] Luke Bryan, Applicant

On the 31st October 1834 Bryan gave the following statement of his age & services as a soldier in the War of the Revo. was born Near Balt'o. in the year 1759. When in his 17th year of age to Wit in 1776, he volunteered under Capt. Wilkerson as a minute man. Stood as such for one year & ten months – during the time he aided in building Fort McHenry, 3 miles below Baltimore, was there a little upwards of nine months as a soldier drew rations and worked part of his time. Captain Wilkerson commanded at the Fort. he was also drafted several other times but was only in actual service under such draftes only 3 weeks. Just before the Cornwallis surrendered he was drafted to join the army, got almost to Susquehannah [sic: Susquehanna] River. "then heard that Cornwallis had given up" and he was discharged and never never went into service.

G. D Camden [see endnote] drew his first Declaration. S Wyatt drew the second. he gave them the same statement now given except he went more into particulars.

In testimony of the truth of the forgoing statement I hereto subscribed my name Octo 31 1834 Witness/ N Goff [Nathan Goff] Luke Bryan

Note – this case is not furnished by the abstracts [i.e. Singleton had no record of what Bryan stated in his application]. We came across him accidently and took his statement – which to say the least of it – is somewhat improbable. I think proof ought to be required. W. G Singleton/ Nov. 26 1834 War Dept./ Pen. Office/ March 26, 1835.

Sir [Clk. Co. Court/ Beverly/ Randolph Co. Va]: The claims of the following named persons to pensions under the Act of 1832 have, upon the receipt of the report made by Wm. [sic] Singleton, on the case, been rejected, viz:

x x x x Luke Bryan

NOTE: A note in the file reads "Suspended – Letter 19 Augst 1833 (not found) S. Wyatt." The official reason for rejecting the claim is "Fraudulent," but nothing in the file suggests fraud or even that it was "somewhat improbable." Although Gideon Draper Camden was sometimes associated with agents who filed fraudulent pension applications, Camden was himself never accused. No second declaration was found in the file.