

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

Pension Application of John Hammons R26146

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Missouri } Ss.

County of Lincoln } On this 3^d day of November A.D. 1834 personally appeared before the Lincoln County Court within and for the County and State aforesaid in open Court John Hammons, a resident of said County and State aged seventy three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier in the militia, in the company commanded by Lieut [Fleming] Bates and Captain [Charles] Wall, in Halifax County, Va. he thinks the regiment was commanded by Col. William Terry, and marched to Petersburg, Va. and remained there a few weeks, and then marched to Cabin Point [on James River in Surry county] about thirty miles from Petersburg – when at or near that place there was a call for volunteers among the militia assembled at that place to go down upon the English lines at Portsmouth to watch the movements of [Gen. Benedict] Arnold and the British then there – it was said that there were fifteen thousand militia then at Cabin Point – he there turned out as a volunteer for that purpose, and was put into the Company commanded by Captain [Joshua] Powell, the Lieutenants name was Charles Wammack [sic: Charles Womack], and they marched immediately down close to the British lines at Portsmouth, and remained there till the following Spring – while there Capt. Powell died, and the Lieutenant being absent, the company was broken up, and he with three others belonging to Capt Powell's company was put into Captain Howell Eldridge's company, and remained in the same at the same place till he was discharged on the 8th day of April 1781, making in all a term of service at least six months, and that he has no documentary evidence of his services except a discharge, and knows of no one by whom he can prove his services

Question by the Court – Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Amelia County Va. in the year 1761 on the first day of January of that year.

Question by same – Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer – My age was set down in a bible about forty years ago, which bible is in the possession of one of my son's in Pike County, Mo. and besides I well remember when I was discharged from my apprenticeship at 21 years of age, which corresponds with the age as put down in my son's bible.

Question by same – Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer – When called into service I was living in Halifax County, in the State of Virginia, a few years after the Revolutionary War I went to Henry County, Va. and remained there about seventeen years, and then removed to Adair County, Ky, lived there nearly thirty years, and came to Lincoln County, Missouri, in March last, where I have three children living, and have remained in Lincoln County aforesaid ever since.

Question by same – How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?

Answer – I was drafted; or turned out in my turn, the militia being all numbered [and drawn by lots].

Question by same – State the names of some of the regular officers, who were with the troops, where you served, such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

Answer – Gen. Mulinburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] had the command all the time after I left Petersburg. I do not recollect the number of the regiment to which I belonged, but Col. Mayberry was the

acting Colonel. I well remember that at the news of the battle at Guilford Courthouse [NC, 15 Mar 1781], the cannon were placed in the centre of the army and fired thirteen rounds, and then three rounds of small arms.

Question by same – Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer – I received a discharge dated April 8th 1781 and signed by Capt. Eldridge, and which is hereunto annexed marked (A.).

(A) April 8th, 1781

This is to Certify that John Hammons a Soldier from Halifax County under Capt. Powell and his Comp’y Being Brok up said Hammon has Serv’d his tower under me. Howell Eldridge Capt

The reason, perhaps, that said discharge does not mention the time of service &c. more particularly, is that the Captain was in a great passion when it was wrote, for all his soldiers, except myself and the three others, who formerly belonged to Capt. Powell’s company deserted the night before, because as they said, that they had already served much longer than their term of service; and the Captain was very angry, and said he would let the four remaining go likewise.

Question by Court – State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Answer – I am acquainted with several Clergymen, and the Rev. David Hubbard among others; and Messrs. Obadiah Stephens and Perry Parke, who have been acquainted with me for several years, and many other persons.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. John hisXmark Hammons