

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

Pension Application of James King R5952

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Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 22 June 2015.

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions  
Cumberland County } December Term 1848

On this sixth day of December in the year of our Lord one Thousand and Eight hundred and forty eight personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Cumberland now sitting James King a resident of the County of Cumberland and State of North Carolina aged eighty eight years on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October last, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. He served under Colonel [David] Hall at Lewis town [sic: Lewes] Delaware, under Major, afterwards Col. [Joseph] Vaughan at the same place during nearly the whole time of active service – about a year before the close of the War Col. Hall resigned and Major Vaughan took command in his place.

He thinks that he volunteered in March 1776 and proceeded to Lewistown, Del. of the year and month he is certain but does not recollect the day. His officers were Capt. Philip Collock Lieut Cary & Searg Robert Prettyman.. He remained there he thinks one year and six months, at the end of which period he went to Dover, Del. and entered the regular service as a private. Here he was weighed and measured by Col. Hall and recollects distinctly his weight being 135 and height 5 feet 6 Ins. He was discharged from service in the month of October 1783. He is not positive about the month, it may have been November or even December.

He was in the Battle of Monmouth, which took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, he thinks the year was 1777 [sic: 28 Jun 1778]. he knows it was the same year in which he entered the regular service and recollects very distinctly that it was the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June under Col. Hall, Major Vaughan, Capt. George Purvis, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. James Queenall [probably Paul Quenowault], 2<sup>d</sup> Lieut he thinks was Charles Kid [sic: Charles Kidd]. There was a Seargeant in the Company named Mitchell Kershaw and one named Dennis McKinnis who was after that battle promoted to a Lieutenancy. Thomas Natting [sic: Thomas Mattingly] was also a Seargeant and afterwards killed at Gates defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. His company was the first company of the Delaware Regiment. He was also in the Battle of Camden which took place in the month of August more than a year after the Battle of Monmouth. He recollects that an entire campaign took place between the two Battles. He served under the same officers at Camden. His Capt. Purvis was at this Battle taken Prisoner. He was an Englishman and discharged upon his parol. During the eighteen months he was at Lewistown he bore arms. When he entered the regular service at Dover he was ordered by Col. Hall to drive a baggage wagon, which he drove to Philadelphia. At Philadelphia he was ordered to drive a Magazine Wagon to Monmouth and during the engagement at this place he was in charge of his wagon and driving from point to point as he was ordered. There were eight men in his wagon making cartridges. After the Battle of Monmouth the army quartered at a place called the Scotch Plains about ten miles from Monmouth, where they remained until the next Spring, when the army was placed under Gen'l. Gates and marched to meet Cornwallis which they did near Camden. during all the time he had charge of a Magazine Wagon.

After the Battle of Camden the army was scattered and he returned with three others to Sussex Co. Del. At this Battle he was knocked down with a Pistol while he was retreating and thinks he was left for dead. After the Cavalry passed he crawled into a Reed marsh where he lay concealed in the hollow of a tree until night, when he escaped. the marks of the blow of the Pistol he still bears on his head. He arrived in Sussex the latter part of August. And in the latter part of November he thinks, he joined the army again being mustered by Capt Purvis who had been exchanged, and joined the Army near the New York line

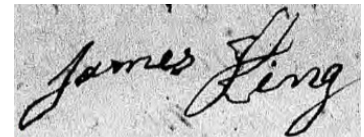
(but does not know the place) under General Putnam. General Putnam always wore a wig – it was said he had been scalped by the Indians [see endnote]. At this place the army remained for a year. Then they marched to meet Cornwallis at York Town [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. To the latter place he drove a Magazine Wagon. Col. Hall had before this died or resigned, & Col. Vaughan had command from the New York line to York Town. George Purvis was Captain. He does not recollect who was Major. He thinks he was at York Town about three weeks and during this time was employed digging trenches with his hoe and under arms. He was engaged in this Battle and fired his gun very frequently. He saw Lafayette demand the sword of Cornwallis. He refused to give it up to him but said he would deliver it to him who was entitled to it & delivered it to Washington [see endnote]. After this Battle he returned to the New York Line with the army where they remained watching the movements of Genl. [Henry] Clinton, until the army was discharged in 1783.

The Battle of York Town was fought on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1781 [sic]. He does not think it could have been on any other day. On the line of New York where we remained until November he thinks 1783 many of the soldiers were permitted to go home upon parol and furlough. He wanted to return home but had charge of his Magazine Wagon and could not get off. The name of the Wagon Master while the Army were at this latter place was Sinclair he was a Scotchman.

When he entered the service he resided in Sussex County Delaware. He thinks he first volunteered and went to Lewistown. There was a draught but he thinks he volunteered and entered the regular service as before stated at Dover as a substitute for his Brother John King. John King his Brother had enlisted and was at this time at home sick. He (James King) was only 16 years of age when he volunteered. His Brother previous to this had been in the engagement at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] where from swimming a creek he took cold and was very ill. He wrote to his Father who went for him and brought him home. He was with the Delaware Regiment during all his service. He knew Washington, LaFayette, Gates, Putnam and a General by the name of McLean [probably Allan McLane] who resided in Delaware. Col. Gundy [sic: John Gunby] who belonged to the Maryland Regiment. Col Duval who belonged also to the Maryland Regiment he thinks.

His discharge he gave to his Brother John King who has been dead 58 years and he does not know what has become of it. He has no documentary evidence of any kind whatever. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity, except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.



State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions  
Cumberland County } December Term 1848

Interrogatories propounded in open Court on Wednesday of said Term to James King an applicant for a Pension for services in the Revolutionary War under the Act of Congress June 7, 1832

1. Where and in what year were you born.

Answ: I was born in Sussex County Delaware on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1760.

2. Have you any record of your age and where is it?

Answ. I had a record of my age in a Bible but left it in Sussex Co. Delaware and do not know what has become of it.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War; and where do you now live?

Answ. I was living when I entered the service in Sussex County Delaware. After the Revolution was over, I returned to the place of my nativity and remained there one year. after that I came to Norfolk County [illegible] where I remained Twenty eight months. I then returned to my native county where I remained four years. I then came to Pitt County North Carolina and remained

there two years. I then went to Edgecombe County North Carolina where I remained twenty years. I then moved to Robeson County in North Carolina, where I remained until December 1846 when I moved into Cumberland County of said state where I now reside. I moved into Robeson County in the year 1811

4. How were you called into service; were you draughted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answ. I think I first volunteered at Lewistown and afterwards enlisted at Dover as a substitute for my Brother John King who had enlisted but was taken sick at the Battle of Brandywine.

5. 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 service.

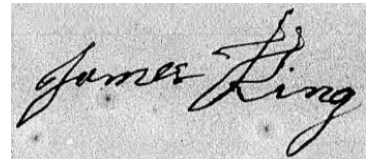
Answ. General Putnam took command of the Brigade at Philadelphia. Col. John Gundy commanded one of the Regiments from Maryland which marched to Philadelphia. Genls. [Charles] Lee and Washington were present at the Battle of Monmouth and Lee was arrested and put under guard. I served under Col. Hall and Major afterwards Col. Vaughan. At Philadelphia I was ordered by Col. Hall to drive one of the baggage wagons and continued to be so generally employed until the Battle of Yorktown when I resumed my musketry as a common soldier.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Answ. I did receive a discharge from the Army, by the hands as I believe of Colonel Vaughan, who was the Colonel of the Regiment in place of Col. Hall who about two years before that time resigned his commission. The discharge was given me I think in the name of John King which makes me think I was considered as a substitute for him. I gave it to my Brother John King. He has been dead for nearly sixty years and I know not what has become of it. I was called in the army by my proper name of James King.

7. 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.

Answ. I am well known to Shadrack Howell the Clerk of the County Court of Robeson. Neill Regan the present member for the County in the Legislature. Mathew Powers. William Glover. Neill Sinclair. Reverend William H. Willis. Absolom Davis Jr. and Joseph Regan all of the County of Robeson. and William McMillan Esqr one of the Cashiers[?] of Cumberland and John McMillan of the same County. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1848



State of Delaware Ss: I Daniel M Bates, Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, do certify, that upon an examination of the original Revolutionary Rolls of the State of Delaware filed in my office, I find the name of James King enrolled as a private upon a paper among said Rolls, bearing the following caption: viz; "Pay Roll of Capt. George Smith's Company in the 2d Delaware Regiment Militia while in the service of the United States of America commanded by Lt. Col. Henry Neal Octr 31<sup>st</sup> 1780." That I also find the name of John King enrolled as a private on sundry of said Revolutionary rolls bearing respectively the following captions, to wit: [some of the following probably refer to John King, pension application R5956 or to a John King whose application is labeled simply "R—"]

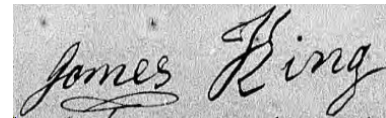
1<sup>st</sup> "Pay Roll of Capt Thos. Holland's [Thomas Holland's] Company of Foot in the Del. Regm't. commanded by Col. David Hall for the month of April 1777"

2<sup>d</sup> "A Muster Roll of Capt Thos. Holland's Company in in the Del. Regm't of Foot in the service of the United States of America commanded by Col. David Hall 16th May 1777."

- 3<sup>d</sup> "Pay Roll of Capt. Thos. Holland's Company of the Delaware Regm't commanded by Col. David Hall, for the month of September 1777"
- 4<sup>th</sup> "Pay Roll of Capt. James Moore's Company in the Del. Regm't commanded by Col. David Hall for the month of December 1778"
- 5<sup>th</sup> "Pay Roll of Capt James Moore's Company in the Delaware Regiment for February 1779 commanded by Col. David Hall."
- 6<sup>th</sup> "A Muster Roll of the non commissioned officers, and privates of the Delaware Regiment taken on the 10th Oct 1780, at Hillsborough, North Carolina"
- 7<sup>th</sup> On a paper dated March 1st 1782 and signed "W M Kennan, Capt D. R.," having no caption, but which is manifestly a Muster Roll of the Delaware Regiment, of the same character as the last mentioned [Certified 21 Sep 1849]

State of North Carolina } Petition of James King for Pension.  
 county of Cumberland } [4 Apr 1850]

This affiant maketh oath, that he did not apply for a pension for a long time, because his circumstances were not such as to render it necessary, and the accumulation of wealth was never an object of pursuit with him. That having been largely defrauded by a man by the name of Sullivan, and his circumstances thereby considerably reduced, he did some 20 years ago apply for a pension, but ignorant of such matters, and living in retirement and obscurity, he was unlucky in the selection of an agent to attend to it for him, whose incapacity, he believes was the cause, or the main cause of his failure. He, now, again asks it, because he knows it to be his due, and because old age, and narrowed circumstances make it very desirable, and he hopes his Country will hear and answer his prayer.



NOTES:

The Gen. Putnam referred to would appear to have been Israel Putnam, who had narrowly escaped torture by the Indians during the French and Indian War. However, that Gen. Putnam resigned from service after suffering a stroke in Dec 1779.

Cornwallis, being "indisposed," did not appear at the surrender ceremony at Yorktown. He delegated the surrender of his sword to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara, who is said to have first offered the sword to Gen. Rochambeau of the French Army. Rochambeau directed O'Hara to give the sword to Washington, who delegated the receipt of the sword to his second-in-command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

The reason given for rejection of James King's application is: "No claim--no service--April 10, 1850, E. C. Cabell."