

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

Pension Application of William Bates R623.5

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Amherst County } SS

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty five personally appeared in open court before the court of Amherst County now sitting William Bates a resident of Amherst County and State of Virginia aged eighty one 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: To wit that he was first draughted for a tour of three months, and went from the county of Louisa State of Virginia, under the command of Captain Garret [sic: Henry Garrett], he cannot state positively on account of failure of memory the exact time at which he entered upon his first campaign. he thinks however that it was about Christmas, and in the year or immediately before the British committed devastations in the neighbourhood of Richmond for the first time [Gen. Benedict Arnold and Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe, 5 - 7 Jan 1781]. This was probably in the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine. The declarant was only in his fifteenth year when first called into service, he was very large for his age, and having the appearance of a man, and no record of his age he was compelled to go into service before the usual time Col [John] Nelson started in command of the regiment to which the declarant belonged. he afterwards resigned and was followed in command by Col [William] White of Louisa. the regiment first marched to Richmond. before it arrived at that place the British had retired. from Richmond they proceeded through Henrico towards Williamsburg and before arriving at that place information was received that the British had embarked in their ships for the Rappahannock. The Americans then went by the way of Hanover Court house to the Bowling Green in Carolina, and were on their march to Fredericksburg, when they received information that the British had not gone up the Rappahannock as had been supposed. The Americans then returned to Hanover Court house, and after remaining there for a considerable time were discharged. The next tour was for the period of six months , served in the year seventeen hundred and eight one. he went from the County of Louisa under the command of Captain [William] Hughes, they were called out at the time the British troops came to the Point of Fork for the purpose of destroying the stores situated at that place [5 - 6 June 1781]. he thinks that he went upon his second tour in the month of May. When Lafayette and Wayne approached [mid June] the British retired down the [James] river. The Company to which Bates belonged joined the American Army below Richmond. The division to which Bates belonged was stationed at a place called Ware's Church in the neighbourhood of Gloucester, and was commanded by Col Ennis [sic: James Innes]. The division was alarmed by a sudden approach of the British and Col Ennis took flight. Col Taylor then took command of the division. Lafayette who had been stationed at the junction of the Mattapony and Pamunky Rivers [sic: West Point at Mattaponi and Pamunkey rivers] then joined their division. The declarant about this time was taken sick and carried to the hospital he was discharged from service a few days before the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. The declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence to establish his service, and that he knows of no fellow soldier who can prove the fact of his services. There is living in Louisa County one John Sargent who might have been able to testify to his services if he were not deranged. He hereby relinquishes every claim to an annuity or pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] Wm Bates

Interrogatories propounded to William Bates an applicant for a pension, by the Court of Amherst County. [Not transcribed here.]

Answers to the Interrogatories contained on the preceding page

Answer 1<sup>st</sup> I was born in Stafford County in the State of Virginia and I think in the year seventeen hundred and sixty four

Answer 2<sup>nd</sup> I have no record of my age, being born in Stafford County where the record of Birth was kept by the Parson, my Parents neglected to keep any record of my age

Answer 3. When called into service I lived in Louisa, and have lived in this county forty five years

Answer 4<sup>th</sup> I was a draughted Militia Man.

Answer 5<sup>th</sup> I knew Gen'als Lafayette and Wayne, and Colonels Ennis and Taylor, and do not recollect any regiments except those to which I belonged, and refer to my declaration as a full answer to the fifth question [on general circumstances of his service]

Answer 6<sup>th</sup> No discharges were given to the company in the first tour. I received a discharge from Capt Tompkins at the end of the second tour, and gave it to my father in Law.

Answer 7<sup>th</sup> I refer to Dr James Powell and William Christian [as neighbors who can testify to his veracity and reputation as a soldier of the Revolution] [signed] Wm Bates

State of Virginia }  
Louisa County } SS

The affidavit of Frances Sargent made before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County  
The affiant having been first duly sworn according to law deposed as follows to wit that she is seventy six years old, and has for many years past been well acquainted with William Bates who now resides in Amherst County Virginia. She first became acquainted with the said Bates during the Christmas holidays immediately succeeding the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. She recollects that her husband John Sargent, who had been in service, and the said Bates spent the Christmas holidays with her and some other young persons in the County of Louisa, at that time, she heard the said Bates talk a great deal of his military services in the war which had just terminated She does not recollect any campaign in particular which he spoke of being engaged She recollects however that whilst the war was going on, a sister of her husband married a brother of the said William Bates, and that she went with them to the Parsons to witness the marriage ceremony. The wedding party passed by the house at which the father of said William Bates resided, and the affiant heard the mother of said Bates speak of her son William whom she stated to be at the time in service. This was probably a year or two before the surrender of Cornwallis. The affiant had not seen the said William Bates, nor become acquainted with him at the time. She recollects however distinctly to have heard the mother of said Bates say that her son was absent in service, and she lamented that he was not at home to attend his brothers wedding The affiant has now [no?] doubt that the said Bates was a Revolutionary soldier, and she as certain of the fact as she could be of any event of which she had not personal knowledge. She believes the said Bates is a man of veracity; when she first saw him he was fully grown, and had the appearance of being a full grown man. The said Bates was once in very comfortable circumstances but the affiant has been informed that he is now very much reduced in his pecuniary affairs Frances herXmark Seargeant

NOTE: Bates's claim to a pension was denied for the following reasons: "The first tour is discounted from the fact that he was but 15 years old and consequently not liable to be enrolled in the Militia nor subject to a draft. And the second cannot be allowed, there being no such service as a 6 months tour in the militia of that state. If he performed any service in 1781 it could not have amounted to 3 months, as he he says he was taken sick and returned home before the time for which he was drafted expired. It is very clear that if Bates served at all it did not amount to 6 months and consequently he has no claim."