

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Paul R8015

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }
Blount County }

On this 15th day of march, one thousand eight hundred and forty nine, personally appeared before the subscriber an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County & State aforesaid, James Paul a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged Eighty six 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 enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1780, and served as Liutenant under Col George Mattes in Capt. Madisons Company in the Virginia State Troops. Declarant further states that when he entered the service he lived in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and that shortly after he joined the Army in July 1780 the company to which he belonged left Lexington and march'd on to Stanton [sic: Staunton], and Winchester, and from thence to Long Island [sic: see endnote] where they took winter quarters and remained there for some three months, at which time there were but very little done in the service, and after leaving Long Island, he marched to divers places through the Country, and in the Fall of 1781, he marched through the State of New Jersey until arriving at Morristown where they were stationed during part of the next Winter, and thence to West point where the remainder of the Winter was past, after which time, in the Spring of 1782, he march from west point to Valey Forge, where they were stationed some short time after which time he marched to several places through the country until the expiration of two years, which was some time in July 1782 for which service he claims a pension.

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. — Declarant furher states, that the reasons he neglected to make application to the Department for a pension at an earlier period, is that he was in affluent cercumstances heretofore, so that he could live without the allowance of a pension from the United States and he futher states that he has lost or misplaced his Commission & other papers so that he cannot find them, to aid him in proof of his services rendered the United State in the War of the Revolution.

Declarant futher states that he knows of no one now living by whom he can make any proof of his services rendered the Untided as above stated.

He futher states that it is for the above reasons that he has so long neglected to apply to the Department for a pension, and respectfully refers the Department to the rolls of the State troops of Virginia.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written before me - [signed] James Paul
Alx O George Justice of the Peace for Blount County.

State of Tennessee }
Blount County }

Personally appeared before me Alexander O. George an acting Justice of the Peace for said County, James Paul and made Oath in due form of law, that he is the identical person who some time last Spring made an application to the Department for a pension, at which time he stated in his declaration that his papers relative to his services in the Revolutionary War, were lost or misplaced at that time, but that some days since, by diligent search, he has been enabled to find his discharge, certified by his Capt. which is hereto appended, and it being the only evidence that he is able to produce to establish the amount of service performed by him in the Revolutionary War. And he further states, as he stated hertofore in his former declaration, that the reason for not presenting his claim before so late a day, are, first, that he was in affluent circumstances, so that he could live without the allowance of a pension from the United States, and secondly, that he had lost or misplaced his Commission & other papers, but since he has become pennyles, he humbly submits his case to the consideration of the Department, presuming the additional evidence will

prove satisfactory for at least one year and nine months service —
Sworn to & subscribed this 30th day of October 1849.

[signed] James Paul

[Paper torn] hereby certify that James Paul of the County of Rockbridge and state of Virginia hath served as a lieutenant in my Company in the Regular service of the first American war against England. the Term of one year and Nine months and Behaved Him self as a true patriot
During s'd Term

As witness My hand this 22
Day of February 1781

Thomas Mattison C'pt
in the 23 Reagement

Pension Office Decem 17th 1849

Sir The paper which you have transmitted to this Office in the Case of James Paul purporting to be his discharge from Service in the Virginia State Line shows conclusively that he has no claim to pension.

This Certificate is signed by Thomas Mattesen Captain in the 23^d regiment, is dated 22^d Feby 1781 and states that James Paul served as a Lieutenant in said Capt Mattesens Company in the Regular Service of the first American War against England for one year and nine months.

This paper is an entire fabrication No Officer of the Virginia Continental or State Line could have given such a certificate as this. There was no such regiment as the 23^d, either in the Virginia Continental or state Lines and although it bears date 22^d Feby 1781 it refers to James Pauls service in the first war with England and must therefore have been written subsequently to the second, or war of 1812, with that Power

There is a great impropriety, to say the least, in presenting such a paper to this Department. It bears the appearance of an attempt on the part of those interested to establish a fraudulent claim against the Government. You are required, therefore, to give in the names of all who are connected with the case, in order that they may be called upon to answer for such conduct, and I request of you an explanation as to the presentation of such a paper.

Richard Lanning Esq Sevierville Ten

Sevierville Ten. 17th January 1850.

Sir, Yours of the 17th December last past was received and the contents examined,

In pursuance to the requirements of your letter bearing the above date. - You have in that letter required of me to give the names of all who are connected with the case of James Paul applicant for a pension. - In answer thereto I would say that I know of none connected with the case.

Some time last Spring or the latter part of last Winter as I was passing through the neighborhood of James Pauls residence some one of his neighbors informed me that Mr. Paul was a revolutionary soldier, and wished to have his claim laid before the Department. I accordingly went to his son in laws with who he resided, and on my arrival there he informed me that he had served the United in the Revolutionary war as a lieutenant, alledging at the same time that he had a discharge from his Capt. but that it was lost or mislaid. and some time since when on my way to Kingston, I called to see him & he informed me that one of his Grand Daughters had discovered the paper he spoke of as a discharge, which I sent on to the Department.

I never saw any thing manifested by Mr. Paul or any other member of the family, bearing any feature like fraud, & in fact all the neighbors that I heard speak of his varacity, spoke very favorably of him.

Your obt Servt R. Lanning

NOTE:

At the time Paul claimed to have served, Long Island NY was under British control, so he could not have been sent there. Few Virginians were sent to the North during this period in any case. At the time when the American army was at Valley Forge and other places mentioned, Paul would have been less than 15 years old.

Shown below is the alleged discharge of James Paul. Although the paper bears the general appearance of discharges, it is too white to be as old as claimed. I have superposed Paul's signature from his original pension application above his name for comparison.

address

James Paul

I do hereby certify that James Paul of the County
of Rockbridge and State of Virginia hath served
as Lieutenant in My Company in the Regular service
of the first American war against England. the
Term of one year and Nine months and behaved
Himself as a true Patriot during sd Term
As witness My hand this 22^d Thomas Matheyon Capt
Day of February 1781 in the 23^d Regiment