

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Black R892
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Ohio Adams County Court of Common Pleas

Be it remembered that on this 17th day of June 1826 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record having the power of fine and imprisonment & also a public seal Samuel Black aged Sixty four years, resident in the county and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the first May 1820 That he the said Samuel Black, in the month of May 1779 enlisted in the revolutionary war on Continental establishment for the term of eighteen months in Captain John Lee' Company in the Boat department on the Potomack [sic: Potomac] river to transport provisions for the army of the United States in the revolutionary war That he served his said term of eighteen months faithfully in the said Boat department and on the eighteenth day of November 1780 was discharged by the said Captain John Lee at Watkin's Ferry on the Potomack river That he kept his discharge untill he applied to the War department for a pension in the year 1818 when he forwarded his discharge with his other papers to the War department where he expects it will be found on file That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present application; That his name is not on the Roll of any State, and that he made application for a pension in the year 1818 but his application was rejected in consequence, he believes, of the depositions which he had taken not mentioning the time either of his enlistment or service

And in pursuance of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed – That when I made application for a pension in the year 1818 I did not forward on to the Department of War a schedule of my property, the law at that time not requiring it – That the only material alteration in my property since that time is that Constables have sold under execution all the property belonging to me except what is contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed – That during my residence in this county (to wit at June Term 1816 of this Court) I have been compelled to give up my property & take the benefit of the act entitled "An act for the relief of insolvent debtors" As by reference to the records of Adams County will more fully at large appear – I am now aged & infirm & unable to labour sufficient to support myself & wife & therefore absolutely stand in need of the assistance of my Country for support – My wife is 58 years of age and unable to do much for her support – My Children are all grown up & attending to their own business so that I derive no support from them

Samuel Black

Schedule of Samuel Blacks property

1 Table 1.50 – 1 Chest 2.00 – one Cupboard 1.00. . .	\$4.50
9 pewter plates 2.16 – 9 Earthen plates 56¼.	2.72¼
1 set of Tea cups & saucers.	37½
1 set of Split bottom Chairs.	75
1 - 7 Gallon Kettle – half price.	75
1 - 2 Gall. Pot 75 one Skillett 62½.	1.37½
1 fire shovel & tongs.	75

1 large shovel & one Weeding hoe.	75
1 dutch oven 75 – 1 stew pot 75.....	1.50
1 pr Steelyards.....	<u>2.00</u>
	\$15.47¼

[The following two discharges are certified copies.]

These are to Certify that Samuel Black Jun'r has been in the service of the United States eighteen month months in the Boat department he is hereby discharged the same

Witness my hand at Watkins' ferry Pat'c. this Eighteenth day of November 1780

Signed John Lee

Whereas Samuel Black a soldier in Captain Wm. Gerards company of Barkley [sic: Berkeley] County Virginia Militia in Col. William Darks regiment in General Stephen's [sic: Edward Stevens's] Brigade hath from the 16th day of July 1781 untill November of the same year faithfully and truely & is hereby honorably discharged by order of William Dark Col. by me William Gerard Capt. 15th Nov'r. 1781.

State of Ohio Brown County Ss

Personally appeared before me Benjamin Sutton one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County John Black [brother of applicant; pension application R887] who being Duly Sworn Deposeth and Saith to his Certain knowledg that Samuel Black Inlisted Reguarly into the Service of the United States of America on the Continental Establishment for the Term of Eighteen Months at one Time Which Term the said Samuel Black Served faithfully on the River Potomack in the Contintal Boats Service to Convey provisans up said River for to Suply the Western Army then Fighting the Indians in Revolutionary War and this deponent further saith that the Continental Boatmen had to Draw armes and ammuniton to guard the Boats and Contenental Stores of provisions and further this Deponent saith not Sworn and subscribed before me this [illegible] day of January 1826 [signed] John Black

Stat of Ohio Adams County

personally appeared before me Joseph Freeman one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said Countey Jessey Hawk who being Duly Sworn Deposeth and Saith that he see Samuel Black in the Continletel Bots Servies to convey provision up and Down Potomack River for to Suply the western Army, and further the Deponent Saith Not Sworn and Subscribed before me this fifteenth Day on June 1826 Jessey hisXmark Hawk

NOTE: The Pension Office denied Black's claim probably by interpreting his service as a boatman to have been under a civil contract. The pension act of 1832 was "construed to extend... [to] all persons enlisted, drafted, or who volunteered and who were bound to military service, but not those who were occasionally employed with the army upon civil contracts, such as Clerks to Commissaries and to Store Keepers, &c., Teamsters, Boatmen, &c."