

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Byrd S12403

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Although the file jacket is labeled "N.C./ Va.," Byrd was under the immediate command of North Carolina officers.]

Virginia County of Nansemond Sc.

On this 10th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Josiah Riddick, Edward R. Hunter, Wm. H. Godwin and Hugh H. Kelly the Court of Nansemond County now sitting William Byrd a resident of Nansemond County and State aforesaid aged 70 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. He says that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered as a militia-man on his own account on the [blank] day of February 1781 under Captain Dempsey Cook, Lieutenant Wm. White [William White] and served 3 months at the northwest landing in Norfolk County Va. James Blunt Colonel [sic: Col. James Blount of the NC Militia], and Josiah Parker Colonel [VA Militia], and others were there – Isaac Gregory was the General; he was then discharged, and the paper he received, (which he supposes was his discharge, he threw away) and he very shortly thereafter enlisted under one Captain William Walton [pension application W1518] in the regular army (June or July) Lieutenant [blank], Ensign [blank], and that he served from that time until the close of the Revolutionary war; that upon his hearing of peace, he now thinks he was near the mountains (he does not recollect whether on the North Carolina, or Virginia side, that he had been marched about from the time of his enlistment and had never been embodied, that he does not now recollect the Counties through which he marched, that in consequence of not having been embodied, he now has no recollection of any of the regular officers, save Captain Walton; that he has no documentary evidence, that he knows of no one by whom he can prove this; that he has no discharge (if ever he had one it is lost); that he was born in Bertie County North Carolina, that he has no record of his age; that he has lived in Nansemond County Virginia, ever since the year 1780; that he has stated all he knows about the matter, further he cannot recollect. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except he 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) William Byrd

State of Virginia, }
County of Nansemond, } Ss:

I, William Byrd, of the aforesaid County and State, aged Seventy-one years, being duly sworn according to law, doth, on my oath, make the following amended declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, I cannot swear positively as to the precise length of my service during the Revolutionary War; but according to the best of my recollection I served during that war a period not less than eight months, and for which service I claim a pension. That I first entered the service of the United States in the month of February 1781, in Norfolk County, Virginia, under the command of Capt. Dempsey Cook, and served a tour of three months at the North West landing in said County – General Isaac Gregory, Colonels Josiah Parker and James Blunt were the field officers who commanded and that I was stationed at the North West landing during the whole term of that engagement. – That in June or July of the same year, (1781,) I again entered the service of the United States, under Capt. William Walton in the County of Bertie, North Carolina, and continued in service

under the command of that officer until December 1781, when I was discharged. That whilst I was under the command of Capt. Walton, we marched in a South West direction through the intermediate country between Bertie, N. Carolina and the Blue Ridge of Mountains – and we were near the mountains when we received news of the battle of York [sic: Siege of Yorktown, ending 19 Oct 1781], which, to the best of my recollection, we received about the middle of the month of November, and in twelve or fifteen days afterwards we were discharged. That I received a written discharge but it has been lost or mislaid – and that I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of this service. That I said in my original declaration, (made in open Court on the 10th day of June 1833, and now filed in the pension office,) that I served under Capt. Walton to the end of the war; by which I meant, until we received news of the battle of York, which virtually ended the War. I also said in the same declaration, that I never was embodied; by which I meant, that I never was encamped or stationed with any Army or body of troops during the time I served in Capt. Walton's Company. – Sworn to and subscribed this 28 day of April 1834.

[signed] William Byrd