

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Bryant (Briant) S16660

fn43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/13/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Missouri County of Boone: Sct.

On this 25th day of June 1833, personally appeared in open court before David Todd Judge of the Boone Circuit Court now sitting William Bryant a resident of said County & State aforesaid, aged seventy-nine 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 7th 1832 –

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

That he entered the service in Rowan County North Carolina on the 10th of February 1780 as a militia man, or rather a volunteer, for he was not drafted, under Captain Enoch Enochs, there was no Colonel then appointed for they left their immediately for the Army in South Carolina at Charleston, on his arrival there he recollects to have understood that General Irvine or Irwin, was to command them as there General, but when he arrived at Charleston the British were near that place and had made preparations to take it, he among other troops were immediately marched from there to a place called Moncks Corner, so that he did not to his recollection ascertain who was his Colonel. They were sent up there to guard some provision wagons & munitions of war, they were at the creek called Goose Creek about two miles from Moncks Corner and about 30 miles from Charleston, and while engaged in that service was captured by a scouting party said to belong to Tarleton's Dragoons, and was taken together with all the guard except those who were killed and placed on board the "*Swan*" prison ship where he was confined between five & six weeks, when on board the vessel as stated the British took Charleston, a short time after that he with those on board the ship, was removed to a building in the City of Charleston, called the Royal Exchange, where he was detained until October, about the 10th of that month, he was paroled by the British and returned home, having been in service as stated from the 10th February, making eight months as a private soldier.

In that then following winter on the last of January 1781, he again turned out under Captain Hemphill his given name he cannot recollect, and under General Davidson, he immediately started for the Army under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], after pursuing the British and Tories who were then very troublesome, through this country for some time, we fell in with General Greene just before the battle of Guilford C. H. which was sometime in

March, in which he was personally engaged having escaped in this battle, he was persuaded that as he had been paroled, and there was a great many British in the country, he might again be taken & then they would hang him, and that it would be best for him to join some other section or detachment of the American Army and accordingly about the 31st of March he enlisted as a private soldier in the regular Army under Captain John Dial under whose command he continued until the close of the war, after his enlistment he marched on after the British who had set out for Virginia shortly after the battle of Guilford C. H. and pursued them on to Cross Creek in North Carolina from there to Newbern [New Bern], their the enemy got to their shipping, we remained in that vicinity till after the enemy came out again, we then pursued on after them through Petersburg harassing them all we could on our march we could frequently have an opportunity of doing so by trailing on after them –, the British burnt a great many houses, tobacco barns etc. on their march, he recollects that a few miles from Williamsburg and had a skirmish of a few minutes with several on both sides got killed, we again overtook them while we were crossing the River at James Town & made an attack on them and intended to cut off the rear of their forces but we found them too strong for us we had to retreat [?], he here states that about that time or perhaps before, for from the great length of time he finds it impossible to state, that they fell in with General Wayne, this was some time in August or September, shortly after that the British took their station at York Town, or as it is called Little York – and about that time we joined Washington who took the command of us, we marched on to Little York and was in that engagement and was there when Cornwallis surrendered – the British prisoners were marched immediately from there to Frederick town Maryland where we took up winter quarters after that we marched with them to Lancaster Pennsylvania and remained there until peace was made then we were ordered to march with the prisoners to New York – which we did and delivered them over to the British authorities, which was in the winter of 1782. He cannot possibly now recollect the precise time but believes it was at least the last of December during all this time I was in the service as one of the guard, sometimes however under one Captain & sometimes under another according to the arrangement of the officers, he got no written discharge except for his last tour as a regular soldier, he got a written discharge for that tour and also a certificate for land but both have long since been consumed by fire in a man's house that was burnt shortly after the war. He states that all his services was performed as a private soldier and that the whole of his service was two years and seven months, he has no documentary evidence of his service and does not know of any living witness by whom he can prove the same and believes that such proof cannot be had, he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. He states that he was born in the County of Orange North Carolina in the year 1754. That since the revolutionary war, he has lived in the counties of Fayette, Madison, Estelle & Montgomery Kentucky and afterwards in the Counties of Callaway & Boone – his present residence in the State of Missouri.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court

S/ William Briant, X his mark

[Thomas Campbell, a clergyman and Richard Gentry gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Missouri County of Boone: Sct.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in & for the County of State of Surrey William Bryant who being duly sworn deposed & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his

service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For two years & seven months I served as a private soldier and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ William Bryant, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 25th day of June 1833

S/ Wm Woodson, JP

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid do certify, that it appears by a book of settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that William Bryant of said line was allowed the sum of 41 pounds 15 shillings and one penny for his services as a Soldier in said line, which allowance is No. 604, and drawn by Charles Dixon.

Given under my hand this second day of October 1833

S/ Wm Hill

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two years service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]