

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Bass S1745

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 June 2015.

State of Tennessee } On this 12th day of November 1832 personally appeared in the Open Court of
Bedford County } Pleas and quarter Sessions held for the County aforesaid before James Brittain
Samuel Philips & John B Armstrong Esquires Justices of the peace and members of the Court aforesaid
James Bass a resident of the said County aforesaid Aged Seventy two 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 the 7th of June (1832) That he entered the Service of the United States under the
following named officers and served as he here declares

that he thinks it was about the year 1778 [sic] in the fall season he was in Norfolk County State of
Virginia and stood he thinks in the first class to be called upon[?] in the company he mustered in but a
call being made and a chance for the quota to be filled by Voluntary enlistment he thinks he was one who
entered the Service in that way but stood in the company as one of the ordered class he recollects of
being mustered into service in Capt. Moody's company and Lut. William Porter in a Regiment
commanded by Col. J Matthews Applicant thinks it was the first Regiment of Militia in the Virginia
Line in Gen G. Washington's Army [see endnote] and clearly recollects his term of service before he left
the army that tour was nine months during which time he was in the battle which was fought at the great
bridge in Norfolk County in the state of Virginia with the British [9 Dec 1775] in which battle he
recollects of a noted British officer being killed by the name of Fordice [sic: Capt. Charles Fordyce] and
the British defeated. Applicant recollects of being marched to several points and stationed but all in the
same state and nothing of particular note occurred that he can now clearly recollect until his term of
service expired, and men being brought on to fill the place of those whose time was out, applicant
recollects of being discharged by his colonel James Matthews but whether he got a written discharge or
not he cannot recollect but knows his colonel told them they were dismissed and to go home. Applicant
further declares about six months after his discharge from that tour he was called on again as he thinks
drafted or to fill his own class and entered the service under Capt. Green but cannot be positive what the
number of the Reg't was but probably the 4th in the Virginia Line commanded by Col. Hudson[?] in Gen.
Washington's Army in this tour he recollects of several little skirmishes with the British but no general
engagement he marched through Norfolk County Nancymond [sic: Nansemond] and Prince Wm. in the
State of Virginia and was stationed at different points he thinks this tour was about six months when he
was again dismissed or verbally discharged by his colonel. – the last tour applicant served he has a more
clear recollection of he entered the service under Capt. Cormack in Norfolk County marched to Isle of
white [sic: Isle of Wight County] and Nancymond old town was in no battle was stationed near the
mouth of James River until discharged by his Captain he thinks this tour was three months and thinks his
name will be found on the muster rolls of the Virginia Line as he has declared he has no documentary
evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he could procure that could testify of his actual
service tho' he is confident he served Eighteen months as a revolutionary soldier in Gen Washingtons
army

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 or Territory in the United States

Sworn to and Subscribed on this 12th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 in open
Court James hisXmark Bass

Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year was you born.

An'r in Norfolk County State of Virginia August 1760

2nd Have you any record of your age

An'r I have not for it was wrote down in my Father's Bible and his house was burned many years ago

3rd Where were you living when called into service where have you been living since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live

An'r at the time I was called into service I was living in the County of Norfolk in the State of Virginia I lived there until about thirteen years ago when I moved to Tennessee Bedford County where I now live

4th How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

An'r I served three tours one of which I volunteered I think for nine months the other two I was drafted or served when my class was called on

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service An'r the first tour I served I think was in the 1st Reg't. of the Virginia line tho it has been so long I am not certain I also think I served in the 4th Regiment of the Virginia line I knew Gen. Washington the commander in chief

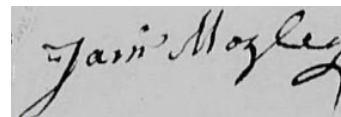
6th Did you ever receive a discharge if so who gave it and what has become of it

An'r I do not recollect whether I ever received a written discharge tho I was discharged three times

7th Give the names of some of your acquaintances who can testify as to your veracity as a man of truth. J. Y. Green James Moseley James Patterson Esq'r. James Billington Esq'r.

Sworn to in open Court 12th November 1832 James hisXmark Bass

State of Tennessee } this day James Mosely [James Mozley, pension application W25721] a Citizen
Bedford County } of the County and State aforesaid came personally before me James Billington
one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for s'd County and after being sworn in due form of Law
deposeth and Saith, he was a neighbor to James Bass and believed him to be a man of truth and that he
himself was a Revolutionary Soldier in the Continental line and was a pensioner himself now on the
pention roll. therefore this deponent further saith that from the conversation he has had with the s'd.
James Bass touching the Revolutionary war that he was a Soldier and Served as he has declared, that
there was a battle fought at the place call'd the great Bridge on Elizabeth River in Virginia at a Little fort
belonging to us, Capt. Cordise of the British was slain and from every Circumstance he does believe that
James Bass was their for ten years he has been acquainted with him Further this deponent saith from
age and bodily infirmity he is not able to appear personally in open court Sworn to and subscribed this
15th August 1832



NOTES:

George Washington was Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, not of the Virginia Militia.

In the 1830 federal census for Bedford County TN James Bass is enumerated as a “free colored person.”