

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Nicholas Bickers S18178

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } Viz:

County of Orange }

On this 27th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the justices of the Court of Orange County now sitting Nicholas Bickers a resident of the said County of Orange and State of Virginia aged 89 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 was repeatedly in the service of the State of Virginia during the old war as a militia man into which service he was drafted on each of four tours of service that he performed – that he does not recollect positively the length of those tours – but he thinks the length of each tour was three months – that he recollects on one of these tours Belfield Cave was the captain of the company to which the declarant belonged. On another tour May Burton was his captain he thinks. On another occasion Garland Burnley was his Captain. On the other tour John Cragg [John Craig] was his captain. On each of these tours except the last was marched down to Williamsburg where his company was stationed during the term of service. The last tour he marched up to Winchester Barracks to conduct some prisoners – and when they were discharged they received no compensation for their services whatever. He does not recollect the date of the first service performed by him nor at what precise date he left the service – that he was when he served in the revolutionary war and has been ever since a resident of this county of Orange. That he never was engaged in battle. In going to Williamsburg his company marched through Caroline County – by the Court House – and also by New Kent Court House. During the last tour we met the prisoners this side of Williamsburg and march up to Winchester through Fredericksburg and falmouth and then through the County of Fauquier. He does not recollect the continental regiments or companies that served with him indeed he does not think there were any regulars – that he service – though there might have been a few regular troops occasionally at Williamsburg while he was there. Col. [Elias] Edmunds and Major Nathaniel Welch commanded the troops that conducted the prisoners to Winchester. That he has no documentary evidence of his service. Col Thomas Row [pension application R9044] of this county was with him in the service during one of the tours and also Jeremiah White [S6376].

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. Nicholas X [his mark] Bickers

The court then proceeded to propound the following interrogatories to the Declarant, and recorded the answers given by him as follows. Viz:

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Orange County and became 89 years of age the 16th day of this month. I was born in the year 1744.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it.

Answer. I have a memorandum of my age at home.

3. Where were you living when called into the service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer. I was born on the same tract of land on which I now live in the County of Orange within 300 yards of the spot on which I now live – and where I have constantly resided since the revolutionary war.

4. How were you called into the service.

answer I was drafted.

5. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service.

Answer. I do not think we ever received any written discharge. but when the tour ended we were dismissed and every man shifted for himself.

6. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Answer. George Orestin[?], William Mallory, Mallory Martin – Doctor Uriel Torill[?] Lawrence T. Dade and indeed many others might be named if necessary.

State of Virginia, Orange County to Wit:

On this 24th day of January one thousand eight hundred and thirty four, personally appeared before me Garland Ballard, a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, Nicholas Bickers, a resident of the said county and state, aged eighty nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration supplementary to the declaration made by him in the county court of Orange on the 27th of August 1833 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 he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection – indeed the fact has always been so deeply impressed upon his mind that he thinks he cannot be mistaken – he was drafted for and served three months, on each of the four occasions referred to in his declaration, and that he served out the three months on every occasion. He claims a pension for twelve months service. On this he is positive – that he always served till he was discharged, nor can he remember the Regiments to which he was attached, or the names of the Colonels except the last. In his last tour of duty he with his company, was on his march to York, in Virginia, when just above Williamsburg, they met some of the prisoners of the British Army; were informed of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] – and the declarant, with his company, was put under the command of Colonel Edmunds, who was guarding the prisoners, and marched as set forth in his Declaration to Winchester, in Virginia, where he was discharged. The Declarant further states that he was on march in the field or in camp during the twelve months if he is not mistaken – and he thinks he cannot be – as to the length of service. In the three first tours he was the greater part of the time in and about Williamsburg in Virginia; that he was neither employed or engaged in any civil pursuit whatever during any portion of either of the periods of time for which he was drafted.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Nicholas hisXmark Bickers