

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Bailey S2053

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 26 Feb 2017.

State of Tennessee } Ss.
Smith County }

On this 26 day of December 1836 personally appeared before Roland W. Newby and James Cothern Esquires two of the acting Justices of the peace in & for the County of Smith & State of Tennessee aforesaid William Bailey a resident of Smith County and State of Tennessee aged eighty 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 provisions made by the acts of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that he inlisted, in the Army of the United States in the year 1778 in the county of Amherst in the State of Virginia and was attached to the company commanded by Captain Christian and Lieutenants Byrns & Burrus & was marched to a place called Mobbin's hill [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] the place of rendezvous where he was mustered into service under the command of Colonel Merryweather [see endnote] and attached to the 4th Regiment of the Virginia line as well as he can remember, he cannot remember with precision the number of the regiment owing to the lapse of time, old age & the consequent loss of memory, the Brigade was commanded by General Sumpter [see endnote] and were marched into North Carolina & various other points not now recollected and thence to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] in Virginia after an active service of two years under the foregoing officers at that point the military forces were laid off into divisions as well as he remembers so that a part should remain at home attending to their agricultural pursuits while the other portion were engaged in the active duties of the field or camp. Affiant has a distinct recollection under some such arrangement as the above, he was permitted to return home after receiving a furlough from Colonel Merryweather at Petersburg in the early part of the year 1780 as well as he now can recollect, the then returned home to Amherst County aforesaid where he remained as well as he can recollect 12 or 14 months, during the furlough declarent was considered as a minute man & liable to be recalled into service upon minutes warning: In February 1781 he was again called into service and placed under the command of Captain Woodruff the officers of the Regiment to which he was attached he does not now recollect but remembers his company was a part of the main army under the command of Major General Washington and continued under the command of General Washington until the siege of York where Lord Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781]. Declarent was in this latter service eight months and until he was honourable discharged at Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg] in Virginia the day of the month he cannot recollect but was in the latter part of the year 1781 the name of the Officer that assigned his discharge he can not now remember, having lost or misplaced his discharge many years ago. Declarent inlisted as a private Soldier in the army of the United States for and during the war and was in actual service two years and eight months and continued in service until the close of the War. Declarent was born in Albemarl [sic: Albemarle] County in the State of Virginia on the 24th day of December 1756 according to family tradition he having no record of his age. he was living as before stated at the time of his inlistment in Amherst County in Virginia where he lived until 1817 when he removed to the County of Smith in the State of Tennessee where he now resides & has resided ever since Declarent has already stated that he is about eighty years of age Much enfeebled and the consequent loss of memory. And he cannot remember but few of his officers, but he remembers the names in addition to those already stated of Colonels Neal, Lacey & Cabel from the same cause he is unable to state the various movements of the army with accuracy or certainty, he knows of no living person by whom he can prove his services, except Bartholomew Stovall [pension application S1878] of Sumner County Tennessee who can prove that he was a soldier of the revolution in actual service, who will perhaps not be able to state with certainty of the length of time he was in service; he can refer the Honourable Department for his character for veracity and being reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution to the Reverend William Hughes a Clergyman, Harry Tuggle, John Gordon, Col Robert Allen,

Samuel Pugh & William Newby Declaimant is now confined to his bed by sickness and old age and is unable to get to Carthage the County town in which he resides to make this declaration in open Court and is therefore compelled to make it before two Justices of the peace in & for said County of Smith.

Declaimant would have made an application for his pension before this but for his inability to go to the Court of his County & was not apprized until lately of the law that he could make it before the Justices of the Peace out of Court. Declaimant feels confident that his name will be found on the muster roll of the Virginia line unless his memory has failed him of the number of his Regiment. This is the first application affiant ever made for a pension and he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present, he declares his name is not to be found on the pension roll of any agency in any State of the United States.

William hisXmark Baily

[Bartholomew Stovall stated that Bailey was away from Amherst County for several years during the Revolutionary War.]

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). A statement by Bartholomew Stovall dated 11 Jan 1837 could not be deciphered.]

State of Tennessee }
Smith County } [24 Dec 1836]

I William Baily do upon my oath declare & testify that I did enlist as a soldier in the Revolutionary War in the year 1778 or 1779 (the year he does not distinctly recollect from old age, sickness and consequent loss of memory) being now Eighty years of age) for & during the war & served in the Regiment 4 as well as I can recollect the number of the Regiment under the command of Colonel Merryweather of the Virginia Line. I inlisted in Amherst County in the State of Virginia & continued in the service until the War ended. I further declare that I have never received a Warrant for the Bounty of Land promised to me on the part of the United States or the State of Virginia, nor have I received the Sixty pounds bounty in money, nor any money by way of Commutation for my bounty lands either from the Govern't of the United States of the State of Virginia, nor have I transfered my claim to the same, to any person or persons in any way or manner whatsoever. Therefore know all men by these presents that I William Baily of the said county of Smith aforesaid do hereby Constitute & appoint my Grand Sone [grandson] Jonathan B. Stovall of the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia to be my true & lawful attorney for me & in my name... [the rest legal boiler plate not transcribed]

NOTES:

“Colonel Merryweather” was evidently Col. Meriwether, the only one known of that name and rank being a Militia officer. Bailey’s service as a Minute Man is also consistent with his having served in the Militia rather than Continental Line. The only known “General Sumpter” was Gen. Thomas Sumter, who commanded troops of South Carolina rather than Virginia.

Documents in the pension file state that William Bailey died on 4 Jan 1837 leaving no widow but the following children: Jonathan Bailey, Wyatt Bailey, Susan Shepherd, Lucinda Horsely, Saluda Walker, and Sarah Wilkerson. Jonathan Bailey stated that on 24 Dec 1836 William Bailey by deed of trust conveyed all his right to a pension to his grandson, Jonathan B. Stovall.