

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Declaration of William G. Bryant, S3049

f31VA

Transcribed and annotated by Roy Randolph, March 2, 2012.

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading. A bracketed question mark [?] indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Not all the material in the Pension File is included in the transcription.]

Declaration

William G. Bryant for a pension

State of Indiana, Ripley County

On this 7th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four [1834] personally appeared in open court before the Honorable the Commissioners of the county of Ripley and state of Indiana now in session, William G. Bryant, at present a resident of the said county of Ripley and state aforesaid (but late a resident of the county of Marion in the said state), aged sixty nine years past [?] 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. In the month of February (near the middle) he entered the service as a volunteer in the service of the United States and served for three months under General Lawson, Colonel Randolph, Major Hubbard, Adjutant James Taylor, Captain Hughes Woodson, Lieutenant James Thompson or Taylor, Ensign forgotten. He left the service of the United States the middle of May 1781 after having faithfully served for three months having entered the service the middle of February 1781. He then again immediately /to wit-/ the middle of May 1781, volunteered a 2nd time and served for four months under colonel Robert Goode and also Colonel Harris [possibly John Harris] (who received orders he thinks from Lafayette.) Major Thomas Harris, Adjutant James Taylor Capt Isaac Porter, Lieut. LeCeur [sic, possibly Marti or Martel Lesueur, pension W8035], 2nd Lieut. George R. Smith, Lieut. Louis Shauloman. [The copy of these three words is very difficult to decipher due to poor penmanship and poor digital copy. It is conceivable—given I have made a reasonable guess of the text—Mr. Bryant is referring to officer Paul Louis Celoron (pension X941), also known as Lewis Celeron¹, a Canadian serving in Lafayette's corps in Virginia.] He left the service the middle of September 1781 after having faithfully served for four months, which added to his former tour of three months, makes the term of seven months. He then again a third time volunteered and served for four months under Col. Heath [William Heth] and Captain Spottswood [Spotswood] the rest of his officers he has now forgotten. He left the service at the Albemarle Barracks where he was duly discharged the latter part of the month of November 1781. After faithfully serving for the space of two months at least which added to his former tours of four months and three months makes the term of nine months for which he claims a pension.

Here he lastly remarks to the Department before he proceeds further that he was then appointed by Col. Goode and Genl. Lawson to carry the expresses from one military post to another and he was engaged in this business from the latter part of November to the last of January 1782. In this service he was employed as he understands at the

expense of [the] government and was promised by his officers to be paid accordingly but he never rec^d a penny for that service from any quarter. The horse which he rode belonged to [the] government. He has thought fit to mention these services and hand the matter to the Department to say whether he is entitled to receive a pension for these services, if not he cheerfully waives these and asks the Department of a Bountiful country to grant him pay for the nine months active service under arms. If however these two last months are allowed in the computation of time he will be entitled to receive a pension for eleven months.

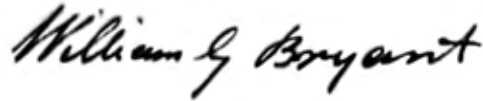
At the time [he] entered the service and during the same he resided in Powhatan County, Va. and continued to reside there until the conclusion of the tour. He was in the Battles of Guilford Courthouse, Petersburg Va. and also at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis.

Volunteered—during his first tour he marched from Powhatan County, Va. to Taylor's Ferry on the Roanoke from there to the Cross Roads from there directly Guilford Courthouse where he was engaged in the battle from there the American troops retreated to what was called Troublesome Ironworks where he remained for some time when he marched back to Virginia and was discharged. During his 2nd tour he marched from Powhatan Courthouse to Manchester from thence after remaining there some time he marched from thence to Warwick from thence to Osborn [refers to Osborne's on James River east of Chester in Chesterfield County] from thence to Ware Bottom Church. Here he remained for a considerable time when he marched to Petersburg Va. where he was in the battle [Battle of Petersburg, April 25, 1781]. From thence he marched again to Ware Bottom Church where he was discharged. During his 3rd tour he marched from Powhatan County to Westham on James River. From thence to Richmond from thence to Williamsburg from thence to York Town where he was engaged in the siege at the time Cornwallis surrendered. From thence he marched to the Albemarle Barracks as a guard to the British prisoners where he remained until the last of November 1781, when he was duly discharged. During his service as an express carrier he went from Col. Goode's to Prince Edward Courthouse where Genl. Lawson was stationed at that time from thence to City Point on James River from thence to Williamsburg from thence to Richmond from thence to Col. Goode's from thence he went to Prince Edward where he was told by Genl. Lawson to persevere in his business as government would compensate him handsomely [handsomely]. He then went to the governor of North Carolina who at that time was at a place called Cross Creek the site on which Fayetteville now stands, from thence to Prince Edward from thence to Richmond from thence [to] Alexandria, from thence to Monticello -- from thence to Prince Edward from thence to Winchester over the mountain and so on alternately from one place to another until the latter part of January 1782--

He recollects particularly of serving with Maj. Hubbard who commanded a Battalion of Regular Troops² and Col. Washington [Lieut. Col. William Washington] who commanded the Horse of that Battle of Guilford, Genl. Washington, Genl. Lafayette, Col. Campbell, Genl. Lawson, Col. Jones, Genl. Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg], Genl. Greene [Nathanael Greene], Genl. Steuben [Baron Friedrich von Steuben], Col. Edmonds, Genl. Wayne, Capt. Jamison [Jameson?], Capt. Williamson, Capt. Woodson, Capt. Purval [?] [Povall? John Povall was an officer in the Powhatan County Militia], and many more. He has no written or documentary evidence and he knows of no person

whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he 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. S/ William G. Bryant



[Meshach Hyatt, a clergyman, and A. D. Harding gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Answers to the 7 Questions presented by the War Department which questions were answered in open court. Answer to 1st Quest.: I was born in the year 1765 in Cumberland County (now Powhatan Co. Va.). Answer to 2nd Question: I have a record of my age in my Bible in Kentucky. Answer to 3rd Question: At the time I entered the service and during the same I resided in Powhatan County, Va. Since the Revolutionary War I have resided in the state of Virginia and Kentucky and Indiana. I now reside for a short time only here in Ripley County Ind. as my business will keep me here for a short time. My late residence has been in Marion County Ind. Answer to 4th Question: I was a volunteer all of my tours. Answer to 5th Question: I can recollect the names of Col. Washington commander of the of the horse at Guilford, Capt. Jamison [?] [Jameson?], at Richmond, Capt. Williamson, Capt. Woodson, Capt. Purval [?] [Povall?], Col. Campbell, Capt. Hughes. He also knew Genl. Washington, Genl. Greene, Lafayette, Genl. Lawson, Maj. Hubbard, Capt. Simpson, Col. Taylor, Col. Jones and many more. He well recollects the Regiment of Col. Washington, Col. Edmonds, the Battalion of Maj. Hubbard, the companies of Simpson, Jamison [?] [Jameson?] and Purval [?] [Povall?], and many more in the general circumstances of my service are stated within. Answer to 6th Question: I rec^d verbal discharges only and those were from the several commanders of my regiments and companies. Answer to 7th Question: [illegible word] of David P. Shook, John Hunter, Thos [sic, Thomas] Smith, Meshach Hyatt and all who know me.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William G. Bryant

Application for transfer

State of Tennessee

Davidson County

On this 21st day of October 1839 and before me the subscriber an acting Justice of the Peace for the said county aforesaid personally appeared William B. Bryan who on his oath declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the company commanded by Captain Isaac Porter in the regiment of militia commanded by Col. Robert Goode in the Virginia militia in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War. That his name is placed on the pension list roll in the state of Indiana. That he has now in his possession a certificate of that fact under the signature and seal of the Secretary of War and about two years since he removed from the state of Indiana to the state of Tennessee on a visit to a sister he has residing in Smith County Tennessee. During which time he has been in Tennessee has had bad health [and] not

able to do any thing in the way of drawing his pension and is now wholly unable from bad health & pecuniary in matters to return to Indiana if he wished to do so. Therefore [I am] desirous of remaining & making Tennessee my home and wish my name transferred from the rolls of the Indiana agency to that of Nashville Tennessee.

Copy of certificate

War Department Revolutionary Claim

I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States of the 7th June 1832 William B. Bryant [sic, the name is William B. Bryant] of that [sic, the?] state of India[na] who was [a] private during the Revolutionary War is entitled to receive thirty dollars __ cents per annum during his natural life commencing on the 4 March 1831 and payable semiannually on the 4 March & 4 Sept. in every year given at the War Office of the United States this 12th July 1834. Lew [sic, Lewis] Cass Secretary of War

Sworn to and subscribed to before me the 21st day of October 1839, S/ Jo: [sic, John?] Norvill, Justice of the Peace

State of Tennessee, Davidson County

On the 21st day of January 1840 before the a Justice of the Peace for said County, personally appeared William G. Bryant who on his oath declares that he is the same person that made application for a transfer as pensioner from the roll of Indiana to that of this state under the name of William B. Bryant, and upon oath further declares that he is the same Bryant who received the pension from the office at Indiana and that he received said pension under the name of William B. Bryant and who also declares that the mistake originated not with him and that when he addressed your department transferring a pension he firmly believes to the best of his recollection, that his name was written William G. Bryant and that when said application returned, granted his name will appear from the certificate sent him from your office directed to William B. Bryant who received said certificate as should have been to William G. Bryant directed and by which said certificate William B. introduced for William G. Bryant did arouse his suspicion up to the time from his removal to this state from the state of Indiana. Which aforesaid certificate was signed Lewis Cass Secretary of War examined and countersigned George W. Crump dated July 12th 1834 and which is to you forwarded for your better satisfaction. And for your further consideration he also declares that whilst residing as a pensioner in the state of Indiana he resided in the town of Versailles of said state and county of Ripley.

And that at the time his application for a [two illegible words, possibly a Latin legal term] granted his attorney informed him that it would the useless to trouble your department with the alteration of the name as he could as well draw his pension as if the mistake were satisfied. And he further declares that the statement made by him under oath on the two other sides of this sheet [?] under the name of William B. Bryant was made under the impression that it would be best to prevent further trouble to the War Department; as he firmly declares that he is the identical William G. Bryant himself who was on the Indiana roll. And at the instance [?] of the department for their satisfaction as to the identity of this man [name?] and for their [?] certain pronouncement for the

validity of this claim he will give a short abstract [?] of his service in the United States during the Revolutionary War as well as the infirmity of his age and the loss of his recollection will permit. That the time he was in actual service was near twelve months that he stated [?] in Indiana only service for nine months and further declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the company commanded by Captain Isaac Porter in the regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Robert Goode in the Virginia militia and that he was also at the siege of York commanded by Captain Hughes Woodson first and afterwards by George Williamson and the regiment commanded by Colonel Beverly Randolph. And for your better satisfaction the affidavit of one Horatio Maxey [R7043] who testifies in his behalf as well as the certificate of the War Department granting him a pension is herein enclosed.

S/ William G. Bryant

Sworn to before me the date above, [?] Cale, Justice of the Peace Davidson County Tennessee

The state of Ohio, Greene County

Before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said county personally came Horatio Maxey [[Horatio Maxey R7043](#)] who being by me sworn according to law deposed and saith: That William Bryant, late of Powhatan County state of Virginia was drafted into the service of the United States in the year of seventeen hundred and eighty one and served one tour under the command of Colonel Goode [and] Captain Isaac Porter. A second tour at the siege of York Colonel Beverly Randolph, Captain Williamson commanded the company part of the time the latter part commanded by Captain Hughes Woodson. General Robert Lawson commander of the Virginia militia. As to the length of time said Bryant was in the service this deponent does not recollect but does distinctly recollect the service of the two tours above referred to and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Horatio Maxey

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of March 1834, David Douglas J.P.

¹ Identified as "Lewis Celeron, Captain Pulaski Legion, 1st April, 1779; taken prisoner at Charleston, 12th May, 1780; resigned 1st July, 1782" in Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register Of Officers Of The Continental Army During The War Of The Revolution April, 1775, To December, 1783 New, Revised, And Enlarged Edition*, Washington, D.C., The Rare Book Shop Publishing Company, Inc., 1914, p. 148.

² Since Mr. Bryant served from Cumberland/Powhatan County Virginia I consider it likely the officer to whom he refers as Major Hubbard was Major Thomas Hubbard of Powhatan County. Thomas Hubbard served in the First Virginia Regiment in the Continental Army as a sergeant and quartermaster sergeant. He left the Continental Army in 1778 and was appointed a captain in the Virginia militia about nine months prior to the battle of Guilford Courthouse. General Lawson promoted him to brigade major shortly before the battle. (See pension declaration of Thomas Hubbard, S17227.) If Mr. Bryant refers to Major Thomas Hubbard then the battalion in question would have been a militia battalion, not a battalion of "regular," i.e., Continental Army, troops.