

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Bryant: S31568

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana } On this seventh day of October in the Year of our Lord one
Monroe County } thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in
open Court being a Court of record before Amory Kenney President Judge of Seventh Judicial
Circuit of said State and Abraham Buskirk and Stephen P. Seale Associate Judges of the Circuit
Court of said County (said Court being composed by law of said President & his Associate
Judges) now sitting James Bryant a resident of said County in said state 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 after stated towit

He was born in Amhurst [sic: Amherst] County Virginia in the year seventeen hundred and
fifty three.

In the Winter of the year seventeen hundred and eighty and seventeen hundred and
eighty one or thereabout he was commanded by Captain ___ Shaw his first name forgotten in
the Militia of the State of Virginia. He was living in Henry County when thus called in to
service. He was marched under said Captain in the said service toward the southern states
destined to join General [Nathanael] Greene at Guilford Court House in North Carolina. He was
not in any Regiment untill he arrived at Guilford Court House. When he with said Company
arrived the day after the Battle [15 Mar 1781]. He was at Guilford ordered with said Company
to be attached to Colonel William Washingtons Cavalry and was marched to Brushy Mountain
[probably Brushy Mountains in present Wilkes and Yadkin counties] intending to attack a body
of Tories. Being a stranger in the Country he does not retain the names of the Rivers & places
except Deep River and Yadkin. The Tories having gone to Cambden [sic: Camden] in S. Carolina
we marched thither. The Tories there having placed themselves under the protection of Lord
Rawdon who was entrenched and well fortified He was enrolled for three months in the
commencement of said tour but he serve five months the order and requirement of his
officers. While in this service he was in & with said Company ordered down on the Wateree
against the British Light Horse, Colonel Washington commanding. The British he thinks were
under Tarlton [sic: see note below]. He was dismissed near Cambden & had 500 [sic] miles to
travel home. At Camden he had the pleasure of coming in individual contact with a tory and of
having to save his own life by shooting him. Having wandered into a Cane brake to hunt some
reeds he suddenly perceived to his left a Tory behind a stump about to shoot at him. he took a
small pine & the Tory fired & missed him. In turn whilst the Tory was reloading he shot him
through the hips causing him to drop his gun & flee. When Ordered down against Tarlton as
before mentioned They the Americans met the enemy who fled precipitately & retreated
[possibly skirmish at Sawney's Creek, 8 May 1781]. He received no written discharge. The
Captain promised one but he never got it. He served faithfully & to the acceptance of his
officers.

Again in a very short time the same year he was drafted for another tour - say a few weeks
after returning home and entered the said US service of said County of Henry in the Virginia
Militia for three months in the Company of Foot commanded by Captain Bucklin Colonels
name forgotten. He was [illegible word] in said County. The Majors name was Holcolm
[probably Holcomb] & was killed by accident on our March to James Town Virginia. After
crossing James River he was put under the command of General Lossen [sic: Robert Lawson] &
they were encamped about two days in fifteen miles of James Town with General [Daniel]
Morgan encamped in front toward the British Camp [early July 1781]. General Morgan
attempted to surprise the enemy at James Town & marched secretly to the attack without
informing General Lossen. To whom the first news was the firing of Morgans Troops. Lossen
pushed his command by a forced march to the scene of the action when he reached in General
Morgan was retreating After having fought some rounds near the Swamp. General Morgan had

divided his troops into two divisions & the British had got between them. One of which divisions to return to the other freed its passage through the British lines. The Division of General Morgan which was in front of the British taking his other division as it appeared pushing through the enemies line to be a column of British fired on their own division & killed many of them before the mistake was discovered the noise & smoke hindering the discovery from being made sooner. This declarant can not state any other circumstances attending this action worthy of a place nor any of the names of the enemies or their own officers except those mentioned. Our Army encamped the night after the engagement near the Battle ground intending to attack a second time but they the British removed & took shipping & in the morning had disappeared. After this engagement General Lossen was permitted to return home & the applicant with said Army of Gen'l. Morgan under his command marched up James River to Morben Hills [sic: Malvern Hill in Henrico County] there they were stationed some weeks [16 - 31 Jul] and were discharged having faithfully to the acceptance of his officers served said three months and two other additional months. I received a written Discharge which I kept untill it wore out. He was discharged at said Morben Hills. He was five months & a day going to & returning and in said service, and at least four months and two weeks on duty in ranks with his gun on his shoulder daily. He served in the [illegible word] for which he is entitled to pay marching to at and from the scenes of war five months. for a tour of three months

Afterwards (a third time) he was drafted whilst living in Pittsylvania County Virginia and put under the command of Captain James Williams and marched in said Company not being in any Regiment in the service of the United States in the virginia Militia. He was marched in said Company to York Town in Virginia. When in forty miles heard the firing of the Battle at that place [Siege of Yorktown VA, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] He was with other infantry employed. a Captain and sixteen ordered to dislodge some British soldiers from and upon the enemy's works. They shot several rounds. He was in the Seige of York Town he thinks about twenty days He was within three days or some short time after the close of the seige with his Company sent to guard the prisoners to the Potomac River where they were detained over his time untill men could be raised in Maryland to take charge of said prisoners. The Dutch prisoners [Hessians] were taken to Frederick town in Maryland and the English prisoners to Albemarle County the Barracks in Virginia He served said three months fully and all of said tour faithfully and to the acceptance of his officers in the whole time he served including marching in ranks and [illegible word] from & back to his residence fifteen months. He received a written Discharge near Potomac River from his said Captain Williams which he kept for many years and untill it was worn out. He has never received one cent of pay for his services. he has no documentary evidence of any part of his services not does he know of any person or persons whose testimony of his services he could procure except that of Thomas Livingston and Esther Clendenon [his half-sister, age 63] and others of his neighbours who could also testify to his reputation in all respects

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

[signed] James Bryant

NOTES:

At the time of the campaign near Camden SC, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton was with Cornwallis entering Virginia.

On 25 Jul 1855 in Owen County IN Ruth Bryant, 47, applied for bounty land stating that as Ruth Dyer she married James Bryant in Owen County on 20 Jan 1836, and he died there on 3 Nov 1853.