

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Vachell Ijams S32337

MD NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Alabama }
Lauderdale County } County Court of said county S.S.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

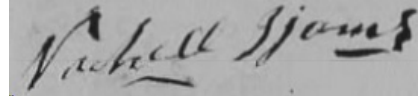
On this 2nd day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court being a court of record held in and for the county aforesaid and now sitting Vachel Ijams a resident of said County and state aged seventy two or seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. He entered the service of the United States as a Soldier under the following named officers and served as herein after stated. About the last of September or beginning of October (the day is not reccollected) 1776 he first entered the Service under Command of Capt Watkins, in the flying Camp for ten weeks. He joined the company in Anne Arundel County, Maryland and during his term of service he was in the Fort at Annapolis. About the 10th day of of December 1776 he was discharged as well as he at this time can remember; he lost his discharge long ago, and before he had any expectation that any provision would be made for revolutionary soldiers. He was in no engagement with the enemy during the term of said service. He enlisted voluntarily. In the month of August 1777 he again joined a volunteer company raised in Anne Arundel County Maryland, Commanded by Capt Brogden in the regiment Commanded by Col. Dorsey in Gen'l. Smallwoods [William Smallwood's] Brigade and served three months therein. During the first part of the time he with the company to which he belonged lay at Barracks in the city of Baltimore but a short time prior to the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] he was marched to head quarters near the town last mentioned and was engaged in the battle which followed. After the engagement the army were marched to a place called White Marsh [Whitemarsh] in Pennsylvania where the company to which he belonged were discharged about the last of October 1777 but the discharge given was a general discharge to the whole company, which was never held by this deponent and he is therefore unable to say on what day his discharge was given he served in this tour nearly three months perhaps a few days less, but to the best of his recollection he was paid for the term of three months. Again in the month of July 1781 he enlisted as a substitute in the Maryland Militia, Prince George [sic: Prince Georges] County for five months; he cannot recollect the name of the captain of the company, but he remembers Capt Linn [probably Lynn] received him at Anapolis. He was afterwards put into a company commanded by a Frenchman named La Vash [La Vache?]. 4th Regiment of Maryland troops, commanded in his time by Maj'r. Oxborough [sic: Alexander Roxburgh]. Col. [Peter] Adams he understood was the commandant of the regiment but he never knew him. He served out his full time under this enlistment and received his discharge, which he gave to the Auditor of Public accounts of the state of Maryland as proof of his services in order to obtain his pay, since which he has never seen it, and cannot say whether it be in existence or not. During the five months tour last mentioned the company saw but little service, they remained principlly in Annapolis but this affiant was not all the time with his company, being taken with the Camp fever, he returned to his fathers in Prince George County on a furlough, where he remained till his health was restored. He was finally discharged on or about the 11th day of December 1781. – Some time after his discharge last mentioned he went to reside in Rowan county North Carolina, and in July 1782 he again enlisted as a substitute for the class or or company of Militia to which he then belonged in the County & State last mentioned. He enlisted in Capt Sharpes [probably Anthony Sharp's] Company, of the 10th regiment, commanded by Col. [Archibald] Lytle; the company or class he was a substitute for was command by Capt Johnston He was received at Sallisborough [sic: Salisbury NC] by Capt Yarbrough [probably Edward Yarborough] & placed in Capt Sharpes Company as a Serjeant, in which capacity he continued to serve till the 5th day of July 1783, on which day he was furloughed till again called upon or finally discharged. He never was called up again nor finally discharged. The furlough was given about ten miles

from Charleston So. Ca. During the time he served under Capt Sharpe, the company were marched from Sallisborough to Ashley hill [near Dorchester SC] and thence to James island. Thence they were marched to the ten mile house as it was then called, (being that distance from Charleston) where they were furloughed as before mentioned. During the last campaign this affiant was in no engagement with the enemy. He was a sergeant during the time he served & received or was entitled to receive 12 dollars per month. He further declares that on his furlough being obtained as aforesaid he returned to Rowan County state of North C. where he continued to reside till the year 1823. He then moved to Tennessee where he remained till the fall of 1824, then he came to the State of Alabama & settled in the County of Lauderdale aforesaid, in which he has continued to reside ever since.

He perfectly remembers many of his fellow soldiers, but whether they be living or dead he has no knowledge, and his removal have taken from him the means of ascertaining, whether they yet exist or if they do, their places of residence. Nor does he know of any person who has a knowledge of his services, but there are many he believes of his present neighbours as well as those who were neighbours to him in North Carolina if they be yet living who would swear they believe him to have been a revolutionary soldier; Amongst his present neighbours he states the Rev'd. Henry Garrard, Gen'l. John Coffee George Herndon and the Hon. John McKinly. He has no documentary proof in his own possession of his enlistments or service, but by a letter addressed to James H. Weakly Esq. Post Master of Florence & herein inclosed from Wm. Hill Secretary of State of North Carolina, he is informed that his name is upon the rolls of his office, as belonging to Capt Shapes company of the 10 Reg't. 1782 for 18 months as a Serg't., but there is no other record of his intrance or discharge. And here said deponent states that that he believes there is an error either in the letter of Mr Hill, or in the record of his office as to the name of the Capt. of the company being Shape, as he distinctly recollects he was called Sharpe. He recollects the following officers as belonging are attached to the regiment to which the affiant last belonged, viz. Maj'r. McCree, Capt Hall, Capt Rhodes as well as those before named. He further declares that he before applied for a pension on account of his eighteen months enlistment and service, but he was enable [unable] to make the necessary proof of the disposal and application of his property during his residence in North Car. and consequently failed in obtaining it. And he hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state or agency for any state.

And in reply to the interrogatories put to him by the Court here he on his oath declares. 1st. He believe he was born in January 1759 or 1760 but which year he does not know. 2nd. A record was made of his age in a prayer book by his father in Anne Arundel County Maryland, if it be in existence it is amongst his relations there still and he has no knowledge whether it yet exists or no. 3rd. He was living with his father in Anne Arundel County aforesaid when he first entered the service, and also when he joined the army the second & third times. At the time of his fourth and last enlistment he lived in Rowan County North Car. After he finally left the army till the fall of 1823 he continued to reside in said county of Rowan. At the time last mentioned he moved to Tennessee and remained in it about a year, and in the fall of 1824 he came to this sate and county where he has ever since resided. 4th. How he was called into service and every fact connected with with this interrogatory he has related in his declaration as above stated to which he respectfully requests a reference. 5th. In his first service he has no recollection of any officers of the regular army except the commander of the Artillery company at Annapolis, he states to the best of his recollection his name was Skinner. In his three months service he was acquainted with Capt or Maj'r. Ben Brooks [sic: Benjamin Brookes], Capt Watkins, Capt [Henry] Gaither and Capt Williams of the continental line, and he has mentioned others that he knew in his other services in his general declaration to which he now refers. He never received any discharge but two and the reasons of his not being in possession of those are before given. He has also stated the reasons of his not getting discharges upon the conclusion of his other services One discharge as well as he can at present recollect came from the legislature of Maryland. He held no commission, he was a Serg't. in his last engagement for 18 months, in his other engagements in the army he was a private only. He has already stated who are acquainted with him now, and who he supposes will & can testify as to the degree of veracity to be

attached to his oath, and what they believe as to his being a revolutionary Soldier or not.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Vachell Ijams". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTES:

In his last will and testament dated 18 Feb 1833 Vachell Ijams bequeathed to his “dearly beloved wife Martha Ijames” the land on which he lived and other property, and after her death the property was to be divided between “my son Wilson & Pearson.” He named his son, Wilson Ijames, as executor. He also forgave debts owed to him by his son, Joseph Ijams, and by his son-in-law, David C. McClamaugh, as well as by Burgess Ijams. Also named as heirs were his daughters, Ann Ijams, Elizabeth Herrindon, and Peggy Edwards, as well as John D. Ijams, son of Joseph Ijams.

Martha Ijams, the widow of Vachell Ijams, received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 20 Feb 1833.

On 28 Nov 1853 Joseph Ijams wrote to inquire whether the children of Martha Ijams were entitled to a pension.