

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Pamplin S3653

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } On this 16th day of October In the year of our Lord one thousand
Lincoln County } eight hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open Court
before Thos H Shaw Samuel Buchanan Jacob O Waggoner Gentlemen Justices of the court of
pleas & quarter sessions for Lincoln in the State of Tennessee now sitting William Pamplin a
resident of the County and State aforsaid age seventy 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 stated that he was drafted in
Lunenburg County Virginia in the year 1779 for three months & where he was living when called
in to service This applicant cannot now recollect the day nor month that he entered the service
his officers were Edward Jordon [Edward Jordan] Captain. this applicant cannot now recollect
any of the names of his inferior officers. They marched through the counties of Amelia
Dinwiddie and others in the State of Virginia, and on to James River (in the state aforsaid) for
the purpose of preventing the brittish from landing at that time the Brittish were in the river
and it was expected that they would land some where on James River in the State aforsaid
happily whowever as the American forces that he was with at that time was very small and weak
when they got to the river the Brittish they found the Brittish had changed their course and had
taken down the river they then marched home and he was verbally discharged by his Captain.
This applicant further states that in the Spring of 1780 he substituted in the county of
Lunenburg virginia for a man by the name of Joseph Granger for five months his Captain was by
the name of Jesse Owen [possibly Jesse Owens] his lieutenant dudly Mc[?]smon and Joseph
Rutlege ensigns name he cannot now recollect John Glenn his lieutenant Colonel was by the
name of [Rawleigh] Downman he dont know what his given name was the regiment was called
the fourth regiment of the Virginia Militia attached to General Stephens or Stephensons [sic:
Edward Steven's] Brigade he dont now Recollect which they marched from virginia to Hillsboro
[sic: Hillsborough] North Carolina as they were going to Hillsboro for the purpose of attacking
the Brittish But when the virginia troops arrived at Hillsboro the Brittish had left North Carolina
[sic: see note below] and had gone to Campden in South Carolina. They virginia Troops marched
thence to South Carolina Command by General [Horatio] Gates to attacked the Brittish as the
Brittish at that time were killing women and Children & burning house and committing all kinds
of deperdations they meet the Brittish army at Camden South Carolina where they commenced
Battle and he was in that battle that is called General Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug
1780] the Brittish prove too strong for the american forces General Gates was a bout the first
man that broke ground and when the men saw him runing the officer that commanded them
they Give up and every man took his own course and tried to save his life the best way they
could Some lost their hats some their coats some their shoes & some their lives, and some
were take Prisoners what number that got off with their lives went home the best way they
could. This applicant after the battle was over and their General deserted them went home to
Lunenburg County virginia he stayed at home a few days and orders were Issued to meet at New
Garden North Carolina [in present Greensboro] where the army of General Gates what number
that was living were called he went there and Joined the Army Commanded by Maj'r Morris
[probably Nathaniel Garsden Morris] the Marched from New Garden to Guilford Court House
North Carolina where they remained sometime hunting and chasing the Tories until his term of
Service expired he was then discharged by a written discharge from Maj. Morris and he has lost
This applicant in the spring of the year of 1781 substituted again for a man by the name
of Lipscomb he has forgotten his given name for three months in Lunenburg county his
Captain was John Laughton his lieutenants name & Ensign he has forgotten they were then
going to March to North Carolina to fight the Brittish they were at that time in North Carolina
and there was hands wanted to drive beeves to the army for their surport your applicant states
that there rose a felon [swelling?] on one of his fingers and it disabled him so much that he

could not use a gun and his Captain sent him as a hand for to assist in driving Beeves he assisted in driving beeves from almost every part of the State of virginia to the Double Bridges [possibly Double Bridge on Pamunkey River] in said state of Virginia until his term of Services expired and he never received any written discharge for this tour he was born the 10th day of April 1762 in Lunenburg County virginia and live there at all the different periods that he was called into service he has lived in the State of virginia ever since the revolutionary war until about twelve years ago he moved to Lincoln County, Tennessee where he now lives he has a record of his age at his house in a book taken from his fathers family Bible This applicant further states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services 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 in the United States He is known in his present neighborhood to Samuel Gadd Jack Nicks Abner Steed Esqrs and the Rev Isaac Conger who can testify to his character for veracity And their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the revolution. Sworn to and Subscribed the the day and year aforesaid [signed] Wm Pamplin

The State of Alabama } On this 13th day of April 1835 before me the subscriber a
Fayette County } Justice of the Peace for the said County of Fayette personally
appeared William Pamphlin who on his oath declares that he is the same person who formerly
belonged to the companies commanded by Captain Jesse Owen in the Regiment commanded by
Col [Holt] Richardson also a short tour under Capt Blakely and another short tour under Capt
Jordan in the service of the United States that his name was placed on the pension roll of the
State of Tennessee from whence he has lately removed that he now resides in the State of
Alabama where he intends to remain and wishes his pension to be there payable in future the
following are the reasons for removing from Tennessee to Alabama That his son Robert P
Pamphlin had settled himself in Alabama and he believes it to be a country equally as good as to
fertility of soil and land was easier to obtain &c [signed] Wm Pamplin

State of Tennessee } SS.
Lincoln County } On this 14th day of September 1837 before me the Subscriber, a
Justice of the peace for the said County of Lincoln, personally appeared William Pamphlin, who
on his oath declares, that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the Company
commanded by Captain Jesse Owen in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Richardson in the
service of the United States; that his name was placed on the Pension Roll of the State of
Tennessee, that he afterwards removed to Alabama and the payment of his pension was
transferred to Decatur, from when he has lately removed back to Tennessee; that he now resides
in Lincoln County in the State of Tennessee, where he intends to remain, and wishes his Pension
to be payable in future at Pulaski in said State. The following are his reasons for removing from
Alabama to Tennessee viz. Provisions were so scarce and so dear in Alabama, and he was so
poor, that he could not there procure a sufficiency for his support, and that he removed back to
Tennessee where provisions were much cheaper and where he had three sons living who could
assist him in obtaining a support [signed] Wm Pamplin

NOTES: The British Army was moving from Charleston SC, not North Carolina, prior to the Battle of Camden. Pamplins' assertions regarding British atrocities are greatly exaggerated. Loyalists committed atrocities against civilians, but mainly after the Battle of Camden. Reliable accounts of the battle establish that the militias of Virginia Militia and then North Carolina first broke and ran, and that Gen. Gates left the field after failing to rally them.