

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Russell S38344

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia City of Williamsburg towit

On this 9th day of July 1818 before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the general Court of Virginia personally appeared Samuel Russell, aged sixty nine years a resident of the County of Accomack, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary war

That he the said Samuel Russell enlisted in the s'd County of Accomack in February in the year 1776 under Captain Sneed [sic: Thomas Sneed] for two years. was attached to the 9th Virginia Regiment commanded by Col [Thomas] Fleming. That he served in the Counties of Accomack and Northampton from February 1776 when he enlisted till the Christmas following at which time he with his regiment were ordered to join the main army at Morriston [sic: Morristown NJ] and did so. That Col Fleming died in Princeton [30 Jan 1777] and was succeeded in the command of the 9th by Col Matthew [sic: George Mathews] That he was present at the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] in the character of Quarter masters serjeant. That he served till February 1778 in the said Corps or in the service of the United States, that After the term of his enlistment he was regularly discharged (at what place he does not now recollect) The discharge was signed by Gen'l. Russell in the absence of Gen'l Mulenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]

That the only evidence now in his possession is the certificate of Gen'l Cropper [John Cropper, pension application W3781] who was a Captain in the 9th Rejement Virginia line and that from his advanced age and reduced circumstances he stands in need of the assistance of his country for his support —

Sworn to and declared before me the day and year first aforesaid James Semple

I do hereby certify, that William Raleigh [S38030], Solomon Russel [Solomon Russell 38342], John Beesely [John Beasley S37748], Smith Beesely [Smith Beasley S38567], Daniel Lewis, Parker Copes [S39350], Samuel Russel, Severn Scott [S38355], Matthias Philips [Matthias Phillips S38304], Thomas Elliot [Thomas Elliott S39490], William Lilliston [S38141], William Bunting [S37808], and William Kennehorn [sic: William Kennahorn W26642] are inhabitants of Accomack county, where they were born, that I am now acquainted with them, and that I have been so acquainted with them for a great number of years; that I know each of them served either in the land or naval service, that I never heard of the desertion or disgrace of any of them, and do believe they served the United States in the war of the Revolution with fidelity, and were every one of them discharged the service with reputation. Given under my hand and seal July 6th 1818.

Jno. Cropper formerly Lt. Colo. Comm'dt. 11th Virg'a. Regiment
in the Army of the Revolution

Commonwealth of Virginia Accomack County To Wit

On this 2nd day of August 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record (the said Court proceeding according to the course of the Common law with a Jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount and keeping a record of its proceedings and having the power of fine and imprisonment) Samuel Russell aged seventy one years who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows. That he the said Samuel enlisted as a Soldier to serve two years in a Company Commanded by Captain Thoms Sneed in the 9th Virginia Regiment (on Continental establishment) commanded by Colo Thomas Fleming that he served the said two years, and that a pension has heretofore been granted him under the act of Congress passed on the 18th day of March 1818 the certificate of which is numbered 4852 and that the date of his original application was the 9th day of July 1818 and he also solemnly swears that he was a resident citizen of the united States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by

gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed. The said Samuel further states on oath that he has no trade but lives on a small tract of land as a tenant which he cultivates by working himself and by hiring a man to assist him that his family consists of himself who is feeble and unhealthy, his wife Tabitha who is about 55 years of age and who is also feeble and unhealthy, a little girl named Lucretia Gray for whose services he gives her her victuals & clothes and the above hired man named Henry Charnock. It is ordered to be certified that it is the opinion of the court that the total amount in value of the property Exhibited in the foregoing Schedule is \$171.81 that he said Samuel owes \$141.75 which leaves him a balance of \$30.06

Schedule of Samuel Russell's property August 2nd 1820

2 square pine tables @ 25¢	1 Case & some Bottles 50¢.	.....	\$1.00		
1 pine chest 75¢	6 flag chairs @ 12½¢	2 sifters @ 12½¢.	.....	1.75	
2 spinning wheels @ 75¢	1 pine safe 25¢.	.....	1.75		
1 old box 6¼	7 tubs and buckets 84¢.	.....	.90¼	
2 Peter [Pewter?] basins and some crocery ware.	.....		2.00		
1 old Coffee mill and 1 B. jug.	.....		.12½	
1 pair Sadirons[?] 37½	5 knives and forks 37½¢.	.....	.75	
1 Spider 75¢	1 Tea kettle 75¢	1 broken skillett 6¼	1 Iron pot 125¢.	2.81¼	
1 Iron Pot and hooks 100¢	1 ditto 87¼¢.	.....	1.87¼		
2 axes @ 42¢	2 weeding hoes @ 50¢	2 old ditto 37¢.	.....	2.21	
1 old saddle 6¼	1 old spade 25¢	1 grinde stone 19¢	1 Hammer 6¢.56	
4 tight casks @ 40¢	1 Barral 75¢	3 tubs @ 12½¢.	.....	2.72½	
1 meat tub 25¢	1 plough & Harness 1.00¢	1 pair wedges 84¢.	.....	2.09	
1 open[?] tub 12½¢	1 Hive with Bees 1.00¢	1 Harrow 50¢.	.....	1.62½	
16 fowls @ 12½ cents	1 Black mare \$50.00	1 Colt 0000[?].	.....	52.00	
1 Canoe \$2.50	1 yoke Oxen \$20	1 Brindle Cow \$8.	.....	30.50	
1 Bull \$6.	1 ditto \$4	1 D'o \$4	1 Heiffer \$6.00	1 D'o \$4.	24.00
1 old wain and Ox yoke \$1	1 sow & 7 Pigs \$10.	.....	11.00		
3 Barrow Hogs @ \$3.33⅓	13 Sheep @ \$1.00.	.....	23.00		
1 Scythe 75¢	1 pair tongs 25¢	1 pr flesh forks 20¢.	.....	1.20	
1 new Iron work of plough \$2.81	1 old gun 12½¢.	.....	2.93¼		
				\$166.81		
2 Barrals Corn @ \$2.50.	.....			5.00	
				\$171.81		

Schedule of his debts now due as follows

To James Lewis on note.	.....	\$49. "
" William Lewis on ditto.	.....	22.50
" Revell Lewis on ditto.	.....	11.80
" William Fluharty on a/c.	.....	10.00
" Major Rayfield on a/c.	.....	13.33
" Henry Hancock of 4 M[?] work @ \$5.	.....	20.00
" Bagwell & Dix on a/c.	.....	5.62
" Samuel Walston on a/c.	.....	.31
" Robert Barns on ditto by supposition.	.....	.50
" Bagwell & Son on a/c.	.....	8.69
		<u>\$141.75</u>

Balance in favour of Saml Russell. \$30.06

Samuel Russell

[Russell's pension was suspended because he was thought to own too much property. After selling his property, on 27 Mar 1821 he resubmitted his application with the following statement of his property:]

The said Samuel further states on Oath that he has no trade but lives on a small tract of land in the County of Accomack Virginia as a tenant and being unable to cultivate the land himself he gets it cultivated for him for which he pays a Share of What is made, that his family consist of himself who is feeble and unhealthy his wife Tabitha who is about 56 years of age and who is also feeble and unhealthy and William Lewis who is a Step son about 30 years of age and lives in the family and occasionally assists the family voluntarily he not being under any [illegible word] to do so. the said Samuel also states that he is now and hath constantly been a resident of the county of Accomack since the revolutionary war. The total amount of the property as exhibited in the Schedule of Samuel Russell is \$4.75 which the Court certify

A Schedule of the property of Samuel Russell March 27th 1821

Cash \$4.75

Samuel Russell

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled.

The Petition of Samuel Russell of the County of Accomack in the State of Virginia, humbly sheweth.

That in the month of February in the year Seventeen Hundred and Seventy Six your Petitioner enlisted for two years as a soldier in a company commanded by Captain Thomas Snead of the Ninth Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment commanded at that time by Colonel Thomas Flemming. That your Petitioner was in the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown [4 Oct] in the year 1777, and after having faithfully served for the Term of his enlistment, he was honourably discharged at Valley Forge in February 1778. That your Petitioner was attached to the Quarter Masters Department and thus escaped being captured with the rest of the 9th Regiment at the Battle of Germantown.

That on the 9th day of July 1818 your Petitioner applied to the Honourable James Semple a Judge of the General Court of Virginia and on producing to him the proper evidence of his Revolutionary services and of his family he received from Judge Semple the necessary certificates to enable him to obtain the Pension allowed by the Act of Congress of March 1818 to the Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary Army. That your Petitioner continued to receive this pension untill the 4th day of March 1820 when in consequence of an Act of Congress requiring additional proof of the poverty of the applicant for the pension, the Pension was suspended untill such proof was adduced. That on the 2nd day of August in the year 1820 your Petitioner appeared before the Court of the County of Accomack in the State of Virginia and exhibited a schedule of his property and of his debts. That according to such Schedule, which was certified by the said Court on satisfactory proof to be correct, it appeared that the property of your Petitioner amounted to one hundred and seventy one dollars & 81¢ and the Debts due by your Petitioner amounted to one hundred & forty one dollars & 75 cents, leaving a balance in favor of your Petitioner of \$30.6¢. With this certificate duly authenticated from the Court of the said County of Accomack, you Petitioner applied in person at the War Office for a continuance of his pension, but his application was rejected on the ground that he was in possession of too much property to render him a proper object for the bounty of the Government and that whatever Debts might be due by your Petitioner they could not be taken into consideration by the Secretary of the Department of War.

On the return of your Petitioner to his residence in the County of Accomack, he was advised to sell off his property and pay his debts, and that on his application then being received at the War Office, he would no doubt obtain a continuance of his pension. Your Petitioner accordingly advertised his property and fairly sold the same at publick auction, and paid all his just Debts; and at March Court in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty one, he appeared before the said Court of Accomack, and exhibited a schedule of his remaining property, which was certified by the said Court, from satisfactory proof, to be of the value of Four dollars & seventy five cents. With this certificate your Petitioner again applied at the War office for a continuance of his Pension; but his application was again rejected on the ground,

that according to the construction of the several acts of Congress as made by the Attorney General and acquiesced in by the Secretary of War, after an application for a Pension was once rejected by the Secretary of War, because the applicant was not sufficiently poor to be a proper object of the bounty of the Government, it was not in the power of the Secretary afterwards to grant the application.

Your Petitioner further states, that he is now Seventy three years of Age, and from age and infirmity, he is completely unable to maintain himself by labour; and since the suspension of his Pension as aforesaid, he has subsisted entirely on the charity of his friends, and unless he receives some aid from the Government, he must in a short time inevitably depend upon the parish for support.

Your Petitioner is aware that very many impositions have been practiced upon the Government by applicants for pension who are not really so poor and necessitous as to need the aid of their country for support; yet he humbly conceives that no doubt can exist from the Testimonials exhibited by him to the War office but that he is a proper object of the charity of his Country; And your Petitioner confidently hopes that a rigid construction of the letter of the several Acts of Congress will not be permitted to exclude him from the benefit of the bounty extended by the act of Congress to the poor and necessitous surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary Army, when he already shows that his case comes within the spirit and meaning of those Acts of Congress. Your Petitioner presumes that the evidence of his Revolutionary Services were filed in the War office when he was first placed on the Pension list; and although it was the good fortune of some individuals to act in situations producing more eclat[?] in the War of the Revolution, yet your Petitioner can confidently assert that no man served his country more faithfully than he; or more willingly endured its privations and rendered his assistance, according to the best of his ability in that arduous struggle which eventuated in securing the independence of his native Country.

Your Petitioner is advised that he cannot obtain relief except by a special Act of Congress: And he therefore prays your Honourable body that an Act may be passed authorizing the Secretary of War to continue your Petitioner on the Pension list to take effect from the time his Pension was suspended as above set forth. And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray for the welfare and happiness of his country.

Samuel Russell

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that Russell received a pension of \$8 per month up to his death on 4 Feb 1831, and the final payment was made to the attorney for his widow, Tabitha Russell.