

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Curry S44230

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 26 Mar 2015.

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

That James Curry a Captain in the fourth Virginia Reg't. on Continental establishment continued in service to the end of the war; several years of which he belonged to my Brigade is certified by me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 1808.

[Charles Scott] Late Brig'r. Gen'l. in the Continental Army



[The following are from [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Augusta County]

Dear Sir [“ Ho’bl Laurence T. Dade, Orange County: Gen. Lawrence Taliaferro Dade, VA Senator]

After the tender of my Respects, take the liberty of mentioning a piece of business in which I am interested, which will come before you this Session. In the commencement of my military life, I was in a Volunteer Company from Augusta in Capt. Moffetts [George Moffett’s] comp’y. in the battle at point pleasant on Oct’r. 10<sup>th</sup> 74 was there shot thro’ the right arm at the elbow. – in Sept. 75 a committee appointed by the then Convention met at Staunton, the wounded were brought before them, and were adjudged something for present relief, and continued pensions for life, mine was £20 down, and an annual pension for life of £5. . . In June 77 I was appointed a Lieut. in the Virg’a. Line 8<sup>th</sup> Reg’t in the War with Britain in which I was continued to the its termination. In 79 had a Capts. commission and was with the rest of the Virginia line after a months Siege captured at Charlestown So. Carolina, and was there a prisoner until the Cartel was settled for the exchange of prisoners in the Southern department [3 May 1781]; we then, came round in British transports to Jamestown in Virginia. the business of my pension during this and the succeeding time was unattended to – those who were at home drew their pensions regularly. In the decline of life and increasing infirmities, owing in part to the hardships of a long continued service I thought this small annuity would be to me a convenience. I went to Richmond expecting to draw it, but found myself precluded unless a special act was passed authorizing the Auditor to issue his Order for the amount due, on the Treasure. “Time as Lord Mansfield says pays not debt.” My absence in service for between 6 & 7 years prevented an application & for the remainder until now it [was?] omitted. I hope my active Service during the War [undeciphered word] with my companions in arms, the Revolutionary Struggle, will not make me thought less deserving of the small pittance allowed for my wound; than those who during those times of difficulty & exertion in our Country were lying on their Oars.

A statement will be presented to you, it will be attended to by my agent Mr. Munford our Clerk. I drew one years pension suppose in 76. Before I entered into service in 77 as before stated, since which until now it was never more attended to. What I will [undeciphered word] you petitioner for, is I hope no more than Justice to me of the small remains of the Officers of the Revolution. permit me Sir to solicit your countenance on the occasion, and to make this business known to your colleagues and others of your House as you may find it convenient. Have thought it might be proper to enclose my Commissions, for the use of the Select Committee, as corroboration of some of these statements.

expect to pass part of the Winter as usual in Chillicothe, in the lower house – if I can ever be of any use to you in that Country, shall be very happy to Receive your commands.

I am Dr. Sir very Respectfully yours



Nov’r. 11<sup>th</sup> 1815

P.S: you may shew this to Mr. Munford tho’ I intend to write him specially before my return to Ohio.

“Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 1775.

“The Commissioners appointed by the Honorable Convention met at Staunton town in Augusta County, agreeably to proper notice of such time and place of meeting to state and settle the accounts of the several claimants for serving in the late expedition against the Indians under Lord Dunmore

“James Currie, Augusta – Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>

“a wounded soldier in Capt. Moffetts Company allowed 20.0.0

“and five pounds per Annum for life.”

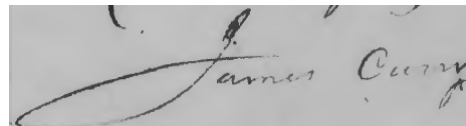
The above is a correct extract from the books in this office. J Preston Treas

Treasury Office/ 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1815

There is no law authorizing the Au[dit]or to issue a warrant to Mr. Currie, nor has Mr. Currie ever been placed on the pension list in this Office.

The Commonwealth of Virginia to James Curry of Augusta County		Dr
1775 } To sum allowed me by the Commissioners appointed by the Convention for present		
Sep. 11 } relief as a soldier wounded in Lord Dunmores’ expedition against the Indians		£20.0.0
Cr. By Cash received		20.0.0
Dr. To Annual pension of five pounds allowed by the same Commissioners from		
Sep’r. 12 <sup>th</sup> 1775 to Sep’r. 12 <sup>th</sup> 1815 forty years	£200	\$666.67
Cr. By one year’s pension rec’d. in 1776		16.67
	Balance due	\$600.00

Richmond. Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 1815 (Errors Excepted)



There are several other persons who were [undeciphered word] pensions by the Commissioners appointed by the Convention, but who never received their pensions until a special act of the legislature authorized the Aud’r to issue warrants in their favor. Jno Barfoot Aud’r

Audrs Office 7 Decem 1815

N.B. Colo. James Curry the claimant of the foregoing allowance from the Comm’tt. resides at present in Madison County, State of Ohio, near Main Darby Creek post office.

To the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Petition of James Curry, formerly a Captain in the Virginia line of the Army during the Revolutionary War, respectfully represents,

That, in the commencement of your Petitioner’s Military life, he was in a Volunteer Company from Augusta County in Capt. Moffett’s Company, in the battle at Point Pleasant on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1774, & was there shot through the right arm at the elbow. In September 1775, a Committee, appointed by the then Convention, met at Staunton: – the wounded were brought before that Committee, and were adjudged something for immediate relief, and allowed annual pensions for life. – Your Petitioner received the sum of twenty pounds for present relief, and was allowed a pension of five pounds per Annum. In June 1777, your Petitioner was appointed a Lieutenant in the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Virginia line; and a Captain in the year 1779, in which capacities he faithfully served until the termination of the War with Great Britain. He was, with the rest of the Virginia line, (after a Month’s siege [29 Mar - 12 May 1780]) captured at Charles Town [Charleston], South Carolina and was there a prisoner until the Cartel was settled for the exchange of prisoners in the Southern Department. He then, with his companions in captivity came round, in British transports, to James Town in Virginia [July and August 1781].

The business of your Petitioner’s pension, during this and the succeeding time, was unattended to, in consequence of his being far distant from the seat of Government, and the only sum he has drawn

on that account was five pounds, in the year 1776. – Being in the decline of life, and with increasing infirmities, owing, in part, to the hardships of a long continued service, your Petitioner thought this small annuity would be to him a convenience, and came from the State of Ohio (where he now resides) to Richmond, expecting to draw it; but finds himself precluded, unless a special Act be passed, authorizing the Auditor to issue a Warrant in his favour for the amount of arrears now due, and Warrants hereafter for the sums to be annually paid him. At least, the Auditor has refused to grant him a Warrant without the interposition of the General Assembly. Your Petitioner exhibits proof to your Hon'ble body that he was allowed this pension as aforesaid, and hopes therefore that an Act will pass, without hesitation, to do him justice, and that his omitting for so long a time to call for his money will not be considered a sufficient reason for denying him that which he bravely earned by fighting for his County, and shedding his blood in her service.

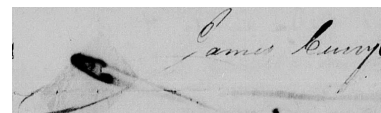
And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

James Curry

Dec'r 7<sup>th</sup> 1815 ref'd to Claims  
Reasonable Dec 11<sup>th</sup>  
Reported 12<sup>th</sup>  
Bill drawn Dec'r 13<sup>th</sup> 1815

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

James Curry now a Resident of Madison, Ohio deposes and sayeth. That on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1777 he entered into the Service of the United States in the Virginia line on Continental establishment in the revolutionary war as a first Lieutenant, his Commission dated as above, was then in Capt. Robert Higgins's Company in the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. Abraham Bowman that on the Regiments being reduced by various cause, as being in Action, sickness &c the 8<sup>th</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Reg'ts joined or consolidated [on 14 Sep 1778], and denominated the 4<sup>th</sup> Reg't. and was commanded by Colo. John Nevill a number of Supernumerary Officers were then sent home; your deponent was still retained in service and on September the 23<sup>rd</sup> 1779 received a Captains Commission. that he was with the troops of the Virginia line in the neighborhood of Morristown [NJ], where their Hutts were nearly completed for wintering in; when orders were received for the line to march for Charlestown [Charleston] So. Carolina, that your deponent with the troops of the Virginia line left their encampment near Morristown on the 10<sup>th</sup> Dec'r. 1779 and reached Charlestown early in April and after about a months siege, we capitulated on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1780. your deponent with the other Officers were paroled to Haddrells Point where we were detained, until June 1781 when a cartel was settled for exchanging the prisoners in the Southern department, as far as Officers of similar Rank would apply and the remainder to be paroled to their homes liable to be called in by the British authorities on certain specifications expressly mentioned of those paroled to their homes, and of that number was your deponent, and became liberated by the close of the war. Your deponent states with regret, that he has, after the strictest search been unable to find his commissions; also two Counterparts of paroles; and certificate of an Oath of Fidelity to the United States, directed to be taken before the Generals of Division, that of your deponent taken before the Marquis de laFayette, and to which was his signature, done in Camp near Valley forge in the Spring of 1778 shortly before the armys quitting that place, and but a little preceding the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], in which Action your deponent was; I should have mentioned above, that the Officers and what remained of the Soldiers, was brought to James town in Virginia (after the Cartel was agreed on) in British Transports. Your Deponent further states that he has no pension allowed him by the laws of the united States, nor is his name on your pension list. And that from his reduced circumstances he needs the tendered aid of his Country, by the act of Congress of March 18<sup>th</sup>. 1818.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Curry". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

[The following in Curry's handwriting appears to have become detached from the rest.]

I had some pride – & had determined never to accept a pension I did not wish to burthen my Country – but a disorder swept off my horses, and did not leave me sufficient to work my Farm. I was unable to buy; I then felt I needed assistance; and I thought my six and one half years service gave me verily superior claims to my Countrys assistance, over those who were enrolled for only 9 months (who had seen no service, probably never in action, and might not have even seen an Enemy) & equal emoluments. – I though in this, I reasoned correctly – With these views, I applied for, and was inscribed on the pension Roll.

I drew for two years. – When apprehensions having arisen, that impositions were in some cases practised – an exposition of the law was required from some of the Judiciary, from whose Report it appeared, that the claimant must be in a state of almost pauperism, to have the benefit of the Act [of 1818]; and new terms were proposed [by the Act of 1 May 1820 requiring an accounting of pensioners' property]; by which I saw I could proceed no further. So the matter has rested until now: When Hope has arisen to cheer the Evening of the small remains of of the Old Revolutionary Officers.

[The following letter in Curry's handwriting relates to an act passed 15 May 1828 providing half pay for life to surviving officers.]

I James Curry of the County of Union, State of Ohio, do hereby declare, that I was an Officer in the Continental line of the Virginia troops in the army of the Revolution, and served as such to the end of the war. – when owing to the reduced state of the Regiments, by Battle &c several were joined together, and a number of Officers were dismissed to their homes as supernumeraries, I was still continued in service. – my commissions are in Virginia, and of course not now all attainable. my first was for that of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, signed by John Jay; the 2<sup>nd</sup> as Cap't. was signed by Samuel Huntington, in Sep'r. 79.

I received a commutation certificate for a nominal amount of 5 years full pay as a captain, but it was still paper, and disposed of at a considerable discount. – a patent granted for land to those Officers who had served six months more than 6 years, and recorded in the general land office in Vol. 7<sup>th</sup>. page 474 will I trust be satisfactory evidence of my Rank and line &c. in which I served. the principal part of my time, I served in Scotts Brigade, Nevilles Regiment, General Lafayette commanded our Division of Virginia troops. – have been in most of the general actions to the Northward; Germantown [4 Oct 1777] Monmouth &c. – was at Charlestown S.C. when after a months siege, the whole Virginia line were made prisoners on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1780 and were detained there until July 81 when the cartel was agreed on, for exchange of prisoners in the Southern department, and we came round the coast in British vessels, and were landed at Jamestown in Virginia. – Cornwallis and army were shortly after captured at Yorktown, and this was almost the closing scene.

The president shewed himself friendly to our situation and recommended it to the consideration of Congress in his usual handsome manner but it has been delayed until now. – Most of the officers of the Revolution have joined the great majority underground but by the few survivors, the tendered relief will be gratefully received, and will help to smooth the passage of the evening of life – Should this appropriation be thought burthensome, the country will soon be relieved owing to the advanced age of the remains of that army. I am myself 75 years of age, and work hard on my farm for my subsistence – this boon comes late, but on receiving it, we may have enough to pay our passage over the Styx, and prevent any demurrage with old Charon about the use of his Boat.

On its being considered, that I am entitled to this gratuity of our country, suppose a certificate of my being entered on the list may be transmitted to me; and addressed to Colo. James Curry, near Columbus, Ohio will readily come to hand

James Curry late Cap/ 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment/ 24<sup>th</sup> July 1828