

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

Pension Application of James Flack S5407

PA [VA]

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Capitalization partly corrected.]

State of Pennsylvania Westmoreland County Ss

On this twenty second day of May in the year 1834 personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County Pennsylvania James Flack a Resident of Ligonier Township in the County and State aforesaid aged eighty one 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 provission made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That in the year 1777 this declarant entered the army in Westmoreland County Pennsylvania as a Volunteer in a volunteer Company Commanded by Captain John Hinkson [sic: John Hinkston] in the month of September of said year. We were stationed at Palmers Fort in Ligonier Valley [about 5 mi NE of Ligonier]. during the period of declarants Service at Palmers Fort he volunteered with others of the Company to go in pursuit of a party of Indians who had committed a number of depredations in the neighbourhood. We overtook the Indians in the night at a place called blanket Hill three miles from where Kittanning now stands [sic: about 5 mi SE of Kittanning] We surprised and killed the whole party except one who was supposed at the time to have been the notorious Simon Girty. declarant Remained in the service at Palmers Fort for three months when he returned home

In the month of February or march 1778 this declarant entered as a volunteer in a Company Commanded by Captain Robert Knox. We Rendevoused at Fort Ligonier in Westmoreland County from thence we marched to Pittsburgh where we joined General [Edward] Hand who commanded an expedition intended to out against certain Towns in the Ohio Country. We marched about sixty or seventy miles into the Indian Country and destroyed two Indian Towns. The second Town was fifteen miles beyond the first. this declarant was one of sixty volunteers by whom its destruction was effected ["Squaw Campaign," Feb 1778] while engaged in this service we were commanded by Colonel Pumroy [sic: John Pomeroy or John Pumeroy] who was our Colonel. declarant was one of the mounted Volunteers Colonel [William] Crawford Colonel Mason and Colonel Stinson were attached to the Expedition he was absent on this Tour two months

In the month of May in the year 1780 having gone to Kentucky [then part of Virginia] he entered as a volunteer under Captain George Riddle who commanded a small Fort called Licking's Station situate on Licking River in Kentucky [usually known as Isaac Ruddle's Fort, near present Lair on the South Fork of Licking River] the Fort was about forty miles from [W of] Limestone. The Garrison consisted of about forty men and boys. On the 24th of June 1780 before sunrise we were attacked by a large force of British and Indians amounting as this declarant was afterwards informed by one of the enemys artillery men to two hundred and fifty British and and eight hundred and fifty Indians. The attack & defence was continued until about two hours before night. the enemy then brought forward a piece of Cannon, which cut our picketing and compelled us to surrender declarant lost a horse and two rifles. one of the rifles had belonged to declarants brother who was shot by the Indians while standing sentry at the fort two days before the action By our articles of capitulation we were to be retained by the British as prisoners of war, but no sooner had we surrendered than we were all delivered to the Indians with the exception of two individuals Captain John Hinkson and Enos McDonald. The Indians bound this declarant and marched him to where Cincinnatti [sic: Cincinnati] now stands and from thence to beyond Detroit The Indians then brought declarant to Detroit and delivered him up to the British. I came to Detroit on the 28th day of July having been with the Indians from the 24th day of June. Declarant's health being injured from the severe treatment he had received he was allowed the privelege of the yard of the Barracks. After I had recovered my health I was confined in Jail for three weeks for chastising a Refugee for insolency at the

end of three weeks I was liberated from the Jail and had the privilege of the Barrack Yard as formerly. A few days after my enlargement I went into the smith's shop with a fellow prisoner. I there saw two rifles which I had known before they were taken from Ligonier Valley by the Indians. We sledged the sides of the rifles together that they might be of no service to our oppressors For this act thirteen of us were placed on board a prison ship and sent down to Niagara. Below Detroit we made an attempt to take the vessel but one of our own party proving a traitor our plan was defeated and we were all seized and bound. At Niagara I was offered four shilling sterling a day to assist in making gun carriages this I refused and was again imprisoned for what they called obstinacy & remained in Jail until about the first of May 1781. I was then taken to Montreal where I remained in prison until the last of June or the first of July when through the influence of Michael Rugh of Westmoreland County then a prisoner at Montreal, and afterwards a Representative of the said County in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, I was taken out of Jail & set to work for Captain Grant a British officer I worked on an island opposite Montreal called Grants Island and was allowed one shilling a day York money. After working some time I received a half Joe from Captain Grant, with this I bought two compass dials some cheese a bottle of rum and a pair of moccasins. Having made these preparations this declarant took advantage of a dark night and in company with five other prisoners crossed the St. Lawrence in a canoe and made the best of our way to Vermont and after ten days painful travelling we arrived at General Bailey's [sic: Jacob Bayley's] in Vermont. General Bailey gave us a pass to Boston and a recommendation to Governor [John] Hancock From Governor Hancock we got a pass to Philadelphia and an order for two days provisions. At Sussex in the Jersies I parted from my companions [including Richard Wade, pension application S3443] and came to Bucks County Pennsylvania where I arrived in the latter part of the month of August 1781 I remained in Bucks County for some time among my relations to rest after my fatigue and arrived at my fathers in Cumberland County in the month of October 1781 the declarant has no documentary evidence of his services

Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in the County of Antrim in the Kingdom of Ireland in the year 1753 [last digit unclear]

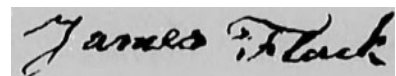
Have you any record of your age? I have no record of my age

Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

When first called into service I lived in Ligonier Valley in the County of Westmoreland in the State of Pennsylvania I have lived there since the Revolutionary War, and I now live there How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom? I was a Volunteer for a more particular answer I refer to my declaration State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you serve such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services. Declarant has no recollection of any officers or regiments but those mentioned in his declaration and to this he refers

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it? I never received a discharge from the service

Declarant states as persons to whom he is known in his neighbourhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution Hon Richard Coulter James Brady Esqr John Pollock Hugh Harnell Esqr Robert Piper Colonel Jacob D. Mathiot and Hon. Thomas Pollock. [The following three sentences are in a different handwriting, evidently in response to a request for clarification from the Pension Office.] The declarant states that he served not less than the periods mentioned below. For three months under Capt. Hinkson. Two months under Capt Knox and fifteen months under Capt Riddle including his imprisonment, and for such service I claim a pension He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state



Andrew Dougherty [pension application W2078] being duly sworn in open Court deposes and says that in the Summer of the year 1780 deponent with his Father two brothers and a sister were taken prisoners in Leganier Valley by the Indians and marched by them to the neighbourhood of Lake Erie We were treated with severity and my sister and one of my brothers they killed on the road. After some time they took us down the lake to a creek called by the Indians Mullet Creek, and delivered us to the British by them we were carried to Montreal where we arrived in the month of August We remained prisoners in Montreal until the 14th of August 1782, when we were released and permitted to return home along with three hundred and thirty two American prisoners men women and children Somtime in the summer of 1781 this deponent in company with his father met James Flack who has sworn and subscribed to the above declaration in the street of Montreal on a Sunday We had been neighbours in Leganier Valley in the course of the conversation he told my father that he had been taken prisoner in a Fort in Kentucky. that he intended making his escape that if we could get on the island he would be glad to have us along Said he had been purchasing necessaries for the journey my father said he could not venture to go for that we (the boys) could not stand such a journey I was in the thirteenth year of my age my brother was three years younger My father asked him whether he was able to steer home through the wilderness he replied he had the pilot in his pocket my father requested him if he got home before us to inform my mother that he was in Montreal that my brother and myself were with him that my sister and brother were killed by the Indians James Flack charge my father strictly that he should not speak himself nor suffer us to speak of his intended escape We then parted he residing on the island opposite the town I heard nor saw no more of him until I heard he had escaped in company with some other prisoners, this was a short time after the conversation mentioned. On our return from Montreal when released from imprisonment one Alexander Laughlin who was of our company told us he had been taken prisoner at the same time James Flack was in a Fort in Kentucky Andrew hisXmark Dougherty Sworn & subscribed in open Court this 22^d day of May AD. 1834

Robert Piper being sworn in Open Court deposes and says that about the commencement of the Revolutionary War the year he does not recollect he remembers to see James Flack who has sworn and subscribed the above declaration in service as a soldier in Palmers Fort in Leganier Vally in Westmoreland County he knows he was one of the party who destroyed and killed a party of Indians near Kittaning who had committed depredations in the Vally. deponent remembers to see James Flack returning to the Fort with the party after the engagement they had one or two scalps with them declarant was very young at the time. he will be sixty five years of age next October Sworn & Subscribed in open Court 22^d day of May A.D. 1834 [signed] Rob't. Piper Sr