

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of David Jameson S5607

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Papers in this file are so darkened that transcription is uncertain in places.]

D'r Sir [John S. Barbour],

Culpeper Va. 1st Feb'y 1832

I am sorry I had not seen you when here last week, to have had some conversation with you. However I have sketched a memorial and herewith send it for your correction and to do with which you may think proper. I fear the Bill your house pass'd last Session [the pension law enacted 7 June 1832] may not be acted upon, in which case it may not be improper to take a chance singly on my own ground for I do apprehend I am single in Circumstances; If my case is acted upon and any provision made for me, and I should be excluded from any participation under the pending Bill if it passed the Senate, very well; so far so good, But my fear is that the Senate may neglect the Bill and then it may be too late to try my memorial and I lose all chance; But you are on the spot and can know best what to do; I nearly throw out hints. Chief Justice Marshall [pension application S5731] can verify my first services for he serv'd with me the whole Campaign. please apply to him for his Certificate he may have a better recollection of the time than I have.

As to my services in N & S. Carolina in 1780 & 1781 I know of no person living who knows any thing about it but old Mr. Lewis Conner: But you appeared to think that the written instructions of Gen'l. Stevens herein sent would be all sufficient. You know his hand writing I expect: But in case it should be necessary, I can get that strongly verified in Fairfax, and can also send Washington and get Mr. Conners Affidavit: write me particularly on the occasion as Circumstances arise – take care of my instructions from Gen'l. Stevens, and Judge Marshalls Certificate (if you get it) to keep in case any thing may arise in future
Y'r fr'd D Jameson

Sallsberry Dec'r. 2nd. 1780

Sir Genl. Green has desired me to appoint an Officer and three privates to attend him to explore ye. Yadkin from the Ford that we passed yesterday up as high as Hughes Creek. [See endnote.] I think you a proper person for to execute this business, therefore request you will imediately proceed on it with the three men appointed to attend you. You will get a Canoe at the Ford. What the Gen'l. wishes, is for you [several illegible words] River as to the Depth of Water, the Current, the Rocks and every other obstruction that may impeade the business of Transportation. And when you get as far as Hughes Creek you will take a Horse and ride across the Country from that place through the Town of Bethania to the upper Saura Town and take particular Acct. of the Distance and Condition of the roads &c &c. At the upper Saura Town you will meet a Party who are exploring the Dan River, from them youll get their report of that River. As this is a matter of the greatest importance to the publick, the Gen'l. Desires that the greatest attention may be paid to it, and wishes it to be done with as much Dispatch as possible, and when compleated you'l loose no time in making your report, and such observations as you may think usefull. The Boats intended for this navigation is of a particular kind. they will carry forty or fifty Barrells and yet draw little more water than a common hulled[?] Canoe half loaded. Any Extra expense you may be at will be repaid you. Youll therefore be carefull in takeing proper Vouchers for the Same.

With respect and esteem I am Your very hum. Serv't.

Edward Stevens

P.S. The Gen'l. also wishes you would make inquiry respecting the Transportation that may be had from the Yadkin to the Patawber [sic: Catawba?] River and whether Transportation cannot be performed with Batteaux down that River.

[In the following petition the description of Jameson's service is not transcribed, because it is less detailed than the description in his application for a pension under the 1832 act, below.]

To the Honble the Senate and House of Representatives The Congress of the United States of America

David Jameson your memorialist Humbly shewith: That... [description of his services follows] After having served a whole Winter, a severe campain and for which (from the depreciation of paper money) my whole pay which I drew would not have reallised forty Dollars, the minutia's of my service perhaps has rendered me tedious: but I have thought it not amiss to relate what I have as my case is perhaps individual in the United States. I have from securityships and perhaps folly too; become very poor; often wanting comforts suffering constant pain from rheumatism, got by the hard campain of 1780-81. In the Eightieth year of my life, Indebted more than \$1600 for which I am [illegible word] liable to be Imprisoned. If your Honourable Body can (with propriety) grant me relief, you will engage the gratitude of one, who knows some who never did their Country half the service he has and who have, and are receiving thousands of Dollars, and will [two illegible words] ever so pray &c D Jameson

Washington Feb'y. 6th 1832

Dear Sir I have just received your letter inclosing the petition of Mr. David Jameson. I am well acquainted with the service he states himself to have performed in 75 & the early part of 76. It is correctly stated in his petition. I was myself an officer in the same Battalion. It was ordered to assemble on the first of September 1775 at Culpeper court house. In about ten days or a fortnight we were ordered to Williamsburg and in October or early in November, I believe in October, to the Great Bridge. A part of the battalion returned home from Williamsburg and a part marched and Lt. Colo. Stevens to the Great Bridge. Mr. Jameson was in the detachment which marched to the Great Bridge. We were discharged late in March Yours respectfully J Marshall

State of Virginia and County of Culpeper Sct.

On this 16th day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Culpeper County now sitting, David Jameson a resident of said County and State of Virginia, aged (on the nineteenth day of this month) Eighty 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 the 7th June 1832.

That in the latter end of April 1775, being an Ensign in a company commanded by Captain Edward Stevens, the designated Independent companies, I marched with said Company, and with the intention of marching to Williamsburg to prevent Lord Dunmore from doing further harm, and to obtain satisfaction for the powder &c. taken out of the Magazine [21 Apr 1775]. that when we arrived at Fredericksburg we fell in with a number of others from other counties, there assembled for the same purpose: But on receiving a letter (I think) from Payton Randolph [sic: Peyton Randolph] Esqr. informing us that some arrangement had been made with Dunmore satisfactory to the inhabitants of Williamsburg, We held a council under the supervision of Richard Henry Lee in which we determined to return home. this campaign to the best of my recollection did not exceed 12 or 14 days.

Soon after, say about the middle of May I marched with a detachment of the aforesaid Company under the direction of the Committee of the County with instructions to proceed to Philadelphia unless a certain contingency should arise before I reached there, but arriving at Baltimore I returned at about 15 or 16 days after I marched. Some time in August following I was appointed an Ensign under Captain John Jameson, who raised a company of what was then Termed minute men, who with some other captains and their subalterns enlisted ten companies and formed a Battallion, designated the Culpeper minute Battallion, raised from the Counties of Culpeper Fauquier and Orange, which three counties formed by an ordinance of the Virginia Convention was a District for raising a minute Battallion, as one of sixteen

Battallions ordered by said Ordinance to be raised: The Culpeper Battallion from the activity of the officers and the glowing ardour of the people (as well as I recollect) was raised complete in less than three weeks, and immediately by the provision of the ordinance or the special directions of another Executive (a Committee of Safety) I do not recollect which we were called into an encampment, in order to be disciplined, of which the Executive were certified. this Battallion was under the command of Colonel Lawrence Taliaferro, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Stevens, and Major Thomas Marshall, and as well as I recollect, was here about ten days after our encamping, and about the last of September the whole Battallion was ordered to Williamsburg to defend the state against the spoliation and insult of Lord Dunmore – when we arrived at Williamsburg, we fell under the command of Colonel Patrick Henry, Colonel of the first Virginia Regiment of Regular troops raised under the same Ordinance. We remained at Williamsburg as well as I can remember including the time of our encampment in Culpeper and our March to Williamsburg about Five months, at which period our Executive from the increase of men, owing to the circumstance of a number of recruit Troops arriving, determined on the discharge of one half of our Battallion, selecting so many of the young men and such of the married as chose to remain, as made for complete companies, which were arranged under five captains, to wit: John Jameson, John Shelton, William Pickett, Abraham Buford and Joseph Spencer, with their due proportion of subalterns, which were joined with five companies of the second Virginia Regiment under Colonel William Woodford, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Scott, and Major Francis Eppes and ordered to the Great Bridge in Norfolk County for the defense of the lower part of the Country. At the Great Bridge we were attacked in the month of December [9 Dec 1775] by a party of British Troops, under the command of Captain Fordice [sic: Charles Fordyce] whom we defeated, and in a few days after we marched to Norfolk, where we remained untill the latter part of winter, and from there we marched to Suffolk where we remained till towards the latter part of March and then returned to Williamsburg, and thence were discharged and marched home where I arrived early in April: but I did not get home with the body of the troops having been confined at Hanover Court House nearly three weeks, by an attack of pleuresy. I was not long after arriving at Williamsburg promoted to a Lieutenant, but not having taken note of the particular period I cannot attempt to point out the time, in August (I think 1780 an express arrived from the Executive of Virginia calling on the County of Culpeper by Draft to raise two Companies of Militia for six months to march to the relief of South Carolina, and the Body of Militia was immediately collected at the Court House, when assembled I addressed the men, proposing the raising of Volunteers in addition to the drafted Companies, having a Draft of proposals which myself and a few others had signed offering ourselves when a sufficient number had engaged to form a Company, and choose our own officers and offer our service to the Government for six months. But no one turning out and hearing some muttering remarks, that it was a trick of the Gentlemen (as they phrased it) to take in the poor – I deserted from the attempt, and as soon as the first Company of drafts was organised I went to the Captain (Richard Young) and requested him to enter me on his List as a volunteer, determined to march and somewhat to see what my example might produce for my title was then a Major” – Captain Young informed Colonel James Barbour their County Lieutenant of the circumstance, who presently came to me, and asked me if I sincerely intended to go on the expedition? I replied that nothing but the want of life and health should prevent me. He then asked me if I had not rather go an officer than a private soldier? I replied to be sure I had, but supposed there was no chance for that as the Officers called on in Rotation were attending. He replied there was a chance as John Clark who was the Lieutenant assigned to the company to which I had attached myself by enlistment had been to him and complained that he had not health sufficient to do the duty he would have to encounter, and asked if he could not be excused by furnishing a substitute; and as he had a number of Blank Commissions sent him by Governor Jefferson to fill and Deliver as contingencies might require he would fill up one, appoint me a Lieutenat, and substitute me in the place of said John Clark, which Commission he soon after handed me, to which I qualified, and under which I served the whole six months campaign – some few days after I got my commission our company marched to Hillsborough in

North Carolina (the place appointed for the Virginia Militia to Rendezvous, where we were formed into two Battalions, the first commanded by Colonel [James] Lucas and Major [Nathaniel Garsden] Morris, the second by Colonel [John] Glenn, and a Major [Henry] Conway) I do not recollect their Christian names) Those two Battalions formed a Brigade commanded by General Edward Stevens, and the whole body of troops then assembled were commanded by General Horatio Gates, untill General Nathaniel Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] arrived some time (I think) in November and superseded General Gates [at Charlotte, 3 Dec 1780]. Our Brigade remained at Hillsborough untill (I think) late in November when we marched to Salisbury and fell under the immediate command of General Green, and (I think) about the tenth day of December I was dispatched by General Stevens at the instance of General Green to explore the Yadkin River, to a certain point and then cross to Dan River, which exploring expedition was considerably lengthened by a plan[?] made by General Steven's aid who copied it so that I did not return to Head Quarters and make a report to General Green untill late in January 1781, at a Camp called Cheraw Hills [in SC], where we continued only about twenty days after, But when by the politeness of General Green, in inviting me frequently to dine with him, I became well acquainted with the General, his Adjutant General Colo Otho Williams, his first aid Colo Morris [probably Lewis Morris] his second Aid Major Burnett [probably Ichabod Burnet] and pleasing Count Cosciusky [sic: Thaddeus Kosciuszko] who was then a member of the Generals Family. We marched from Cheraw Hills Homeward by Salisbury when General Green requested General Stevens to call and take the prisoners taken by General Morgan at the Cowpens [Daniel Morgan, 17 Jan 1781] and guard them to Virginia, but having been much retarded by Freshetts in the Pedee River [sic: Pee Dee River], and its tributary Branches, we did not get to Salisbury before the prisoners were sent off, as Cornwallis was pressing hard upon us, but we had the gratification of crossing the Yadkin River to the east side and securing the bank on our side [8 Feb], and having a flood on the Yadkin which rendered it impenetrable for Cornwallis to cross to us or even Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion], and thereby, I believe saving us a confounded[?] drubing. We then marched Homeward to Halifax old Court House where we were mustered and the Commanders of companies directed to take their respective Companies to their Homes, where our company arrived late in March or early in April I do not now recollect which. And I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and Declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

David Jameson

I, Vincent Tapp [pension application S6188] resident of Culpeper County Virginia hereby certify, that about the first of September or last day of August 1780 I marched into North and South Carolina in the service of the United States and was under the immediate command of Col David James, then a Lieutenant, and that he served as such during the whole six months tour

Vincent Tapp

And the Court then proceeded to propound the following interrogatories to the applicant, he being under oath, and which he answered as is hereafter recorded Viz:

Question 1st. Where, and in what year were you born?

Answer In the County of Orange Virginia on the 19th day of August 1752

Question 2nd Have you any Record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer I have none but my own extract from my Father's Family Bible, in which he Recorded the Births of his Children, which Bible after my Mothers death I sent to Kentucky to a sister and know not what has become of it.

Question 3rd Where were you living when you were called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer In Culpeper County Virginia

Question 4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, Did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer In every instance I went as Volunteer, But with respect to my southern Campaign, I first enlisted as a volunteer soldier, But was immediately presented with a Lieutenants

Commission, to which I qualified, and was then substituted in the room of John Clark the Lieutenant in the Company, in which I had enlisted as a soldier, and served the whole six months term as Lieutenant, in said Company under Captain Richard Young

Question State the names of some of the Regular Officers, who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiment as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer In the service of Culpeper Minute Battalion, in the fall and winter, and spring of 1775 & 1776. I served part of the fall 1775 at Williamsburg with Colonel Patrick Henry, then Commandant of the first Virginia Regiment of Regular troops of Virginia, and balance of that Campaign with Colonel William Woodford [two illegible words] Lieut't Colonel Charles Scott and Major Francis Eppes, & Captain Richard K. Meade, George Johnston, Richard Parker, George Nicholas, William Fontaine, I fought with those or some of them in the Battle of the Great Bridge, and help to Burn the residue of Norfolk, which remained after Lord Dunmore Burnt part of the Town [on 1 Jan 1776; finished by Americans on 2 Jan to deny Dunmore a port].

Question Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer I never did receive an individual discharge, but was discharged by some General Order, with a Corps to which I was attached

Question Did you ever receive a Commission, and if so by whom was it given.

Answer I had a Commission in the minute service, signed by the President of the Committee of safety (I think) but my Commission as a Lieutenant in the militia service was signed by Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia both of which Commissions I destroyed many years ago as troublesome papers.

Question State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, who can testify as your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier in the Revolutionary war?

Answer I have resided sixty years in the County of Culpeper, have acted as a justice of the peace more than forty years, Commanded a Regiment of Militia as Colonel several years. Have served two separate as a Representative of the County in the Virginia Assembly and have many years served my County and Country in various capacities – and as it might appear invidious or that I was cunningly searching for partiality to name a few individuals out of Hundreds of respectable acquaintances to certify for me I request that the Court do give their certificate in answer to the last question. And I further remark that there is no minister of the Gospel near for me to call on to certify to the Effect required, except the Reverend Mr John Woodville who is very infirm and whose attendance could not be procured but at considerable inconvenience.

[The following is on a sheet that apparently became separated.]

Maj'r. Broadus will observe by my Declaration that exclusive of the Two Short Tours I served as stated in the first part of it; I served about fourteen months. I am satisfied that I was in Service at least fourteen months which I ought to be allowed. You have also to observe that the Chief Justices Certificate was given to establish my service in 1775 & 1776, and as he alluded to my Petition which Mr. Barbour had presented to Congress and which was rec'd. and Committed, I send you the Petition and the other papers committed to prevent the necessity of obtaining it again and that the Secretary may see that it fully establishes that part of my Declaration. If I could recollect the minutia of my services I do not doubt it would am't. to near 15 months, but if allowed 14 months I shall be satisfied yrs. D Jameson

PS. The Subaltern officers in the Revolution War were paid 40¢ pr day in lieu of Two extra Rations

allowed; is that added to their pay? If not what what reason is given for it? It was considered as pay due them, and I received for both the Campaigns I served at that rate

D. Jameson

[The following was in response to a letter from Mordecai Barbour, pension application S8043.]

I David Jameson of Culpeper County Virginia aged 86 years do certify that what follows is my reply to the five Interrogatories contained in the above Letter – To the first query I answer thus, I was then a Lieutenant in a detachment of disbanded Militia marching home after serving about seven months in North & South Carolina under Gen'ls Gates and Greene, when an Express from Gen'l Greene to Gen'l Stevens to return and join him arrived a few days before the Battle of Guilford. To your second query, I certify that I acted as a Lieutenant and got my appointment thus: In August 1780 the County of Culpeper was Calld on to furnish Two Companies of Militia to march to South Carolina under proper officers, and on the day they assembled at the Courthouse to march, I Enlisted as a Common Soldier voluntarily in the company of the Eldest Captain, who informed Colo. James Barbour (your Father) of the circumstance, who was Denominated County Lieutenant, he immediately waited on me to know if I did intend to March? I told him nothing but the want of abilities should prevent it: he then asked me if I would not prefer acting under a commission than as a Common Soldier? I replied I should; but that I supposed was not attainable as there was a full proportion of officers there then under marching orders; He said the Lieutenant of the Company I had enlisted in, had made some complaint of his inability to bear the fatigue of marching and that he would take me as his substitute (taking out of his pocket a bundle of commissions (which the Governor had signed and sent him to fill and deliver on emergencies) and entered my name in one as Lieutenant, dated it and handed to me, and it was under that I acted during the tour: I also Certify that after arriving at Hillsborough in North Carolina, The place for the rendevous of the Virginia Militia, I (being acquainted with General Gates) was applied to by a man by the name of Cristler to go with him and a man by the name of Clayton to Gen'l Gates to receive Clayton as a substitute for Cristler who was a regular commissioned Ensign, that I mentioned the matter to Gen'l. Gates for them, who without hesitation gave Cristler a discharge and Clayton a Certificate of appointment under which he marched to the end of the tour as an Ensign. This circumstance also happened at Hillsborough, before our Brigade was fully organised; There were about one hundred Militia Men who had deserted after Gates's defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] brought to our camp who were subjected by Law to serve Eight months whom Gen'l. Stevens had formed into two Companies, and from the Body of Malitia appointed a Captain Lieutenant and Ensign to each Company by General Orders or Special Certificates (I don't remember which) which officers took rank according to their grades and so acted in all respects under what were originated Camp appointments, but I know of none others but those I have mentioned; As to the 5th query respecting an ordinance of Convention, I never (to my recollection) heard of such an ordinance, and think there never was such a one; Given under my hand this 12th day of October 1838

D Jameson

Sworn to before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for the County of Culpeper state of Virginia the 16th day of October 1838.

F. J. Thompson JP

NOTE:

Gen. Nathanael Greene and his entourage crossed the Yadkin River probably at the Trading Ford about 8 mi E of Salisbury NC. Greene was on his way to Charlotte to take command of the Southern Department from Gen. Gates. Hughes Creek may have been the presently named Miller Creek in the NE corner of Yadkin County, 7 mi NW of Bethania. Upper Saura Town was about 25 mi NE of Bethania on Dan River.

According to a document in the file, Jameson died 2 Oct 1839.