

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

Pension Application of Isaiah Bagwell S6550

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Accomack County to wit

On this 4th day of September year 1832 personally appeared before William Riley JP, Isaiah Bagwell of the County & State afs'd Aged 71 years Sep'r last past who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832, that he inlisted in the Army of the U States in the year 1776 with George Oldham 1st Lieutenant in Capt. George Gilcrest [sic: George Gilchrist] company belonging to the 9th Virg'a. Regiment under the command of Colo'l. Thomas Flemming [sic: Thomas Fleming], who was succeeded by Colo'l. Matthews [sic: George Mathews]. Thos. Custis [Thomas Custis] 2^d Lieutenant and Charles Stockley Ensign in s'd Gilcrest company that he the s'd Bagwell resided and was born in the County of Acco'k State of Virginia. When he inlisted the Regiment was raised for 2 years and marched to the North and a few days before the battle at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] that he with others was sent to the Hospital. prior to being sent to the Hospital he was with the Army in Phila'a. Trenton Princeton Morristown Newark Middlebrook encampment and many other places in New Jersey with the Main Army, that he was in the Hospital at the time of the battle at Germantown [4 Oct 1777] that he continued in service until after the 9th Regiment was taken prisoner [at the Battle of Germantown], and until there was a general discharge of the few remaining Soldiers of s'd Regiment which took place at Valley Forge encampment, & the said Isaiah Bagwell hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State

[signed] Isaiah Bagwell

... Questions which I have [illegible word] unto the said Isaiah Bagwell, and his answers

1^s Where and in what [illegible word] were you born

Answer. In the County of Accomack & State of Virginia on the 13th of September 1760.

2nd Have you any record of your age, & if so where is it.

Answer. I have in my possession an Episcopal prayer Book with my age set down as I believe by my father.

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

Answer I lived in the County of Accomack when I enlisted and since the revolution it has always been my residence & now is.

4 How were you called into service, were you drafted or did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom.

Answer I voluntarily enlisted to support the cause of my Country as a Whig & have always had the same principals since, & expect & hope to live and die in the same principals.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served & such continental & militia Rigements as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I was acquainted with every commission'd officer in the Ninth Rigiment of Virginia on continental establishment. Thomas Flemming was Col. until he died [of small pox at Princeton NJ] on 30 Jan 1777] & then George Matthews. The Captains were John Cropper, George Gilchrist, Levin Joynes, Thomas Snead, Smith Snead, Thomas Parramore they were all from Accomack County and all the subalterns.

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given & what has become of it.

Answer. I was discharged, (with many others of the ninth Rigiment after it was captured) by a general

order at Valley forge and permitted to come home.

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood & who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Answer I am known to every Methodist minister of the gospel in the County of Accomack to the Magistrates and justices of the peace, to all the Clerks & Lawyers in the County, and the greater part of the Militia Officers who are not very young & to almost every man who has represented this district in Congress for thirty years, & to every Member of the Assembly

Nov'r 1st 1779

Isaiah Bagwell of the County of Accomack in the State of Virginia shipt on board the Schooner Betsy belonging up James River then liing in Folly Creek now call'd Folly landing; s'd Schooner Betsy [*Betsey*] carried four Carriage Guns commanded by Offen Bordman; but whether she was a Letter of Marque he knows not, In a Lawful Tobacco trade) and sailed from there to Nantes in France, where we arrived the 17th Dec'r 1779 Sailed from there April 1st 1780, and was Captured the 12th of the same month by a british privateer call'd the Union of 20 Guns commanded by Capt. John Broom after a chase of about eleven hours, during which chase there were several shot exchanged between us; after we surrendered our Vessel we were carried into Pool [sic: Poole], from there some of my Shipmates and myself were sent to Spit head [Spithead] and put on board his Majesties Ship Arrogant, of 74 Guns, and was delivered to that Ship as Men pressed in Pool. I contradicted the report, and was by the Lieutenant ordered to be floged and made do duty on board the Ship; I refused, and in a few days after I was ordered to hold myself in readiness to go on board of another of his Majesties Ships which was going [several illegible words], I still refused, as holding myself a prisoner. The Capt. of the Ship came on boad which was the first time I had seen him, I went on the quarterdeck to the Capt. and stated my situation as a prisoner; he asked me if I would not receive a bounty and serve his Majesty in preference to going to prison: my reply was Sir I do not wish to serve his Majesty. he then said the Ship is going into dock next Friday to be repaired and you shall be sent to prison which was the 2nd day of June 1780, and I was that day committed to Perton Prison near Portsmouth on Spit head and continued there untill May 28th 1782, on which day I was put on board the Cartel Ship Tigar with others bound for Phil'a. for exchange, and arrived there the forward part of August following, during which time of Imprisonment in England in the said Perton prison I was sorely afflicted, and lost the use of my right Leg and thigh entirely, and just strength enough in the other Leg and thigh to walk on Crutches, and have continued in this situation almost 52 years and should it please God to let me live to the 13th day of this Sep'r I shall be 72 years of Age, my little Strength now fails me fast.

[signed] Isaiah Bagwell

Virginia Accomack County wit

Isaiah Bagwell made Oath before me that the facts as stated above are true. Given under my hand this 7 day of September 1832

Wm Riley J P

I Isaiah Bagwell do make the following statement of facts to be made a part of my declaration which was made on the 4th September 1832 to obtain a pension from the United States according to the Act of Congress and which is hereunto annexed to my said declaration I inlisted under George Oldham first Lieutenant in Capt. George Gilchrest's Company in the Ninth Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment on the 5th day of July 1776, this I know from a memorandum which I then made in an old book which I now have. I inlisted for eighteen months and served the whole of my time. I was discharg'd with others while encamp'd at Valley Forge, in January 1778 I believe; but the day of my discharge I do not recollect, nor the day that I got home, having no Memorandum thereof.

[signed 3 Jan 1833] Isaiah Bagwell

[Robert Russell, pension application W5753, certified Bagwell's service.]

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that "a child" of Isaiah Bagwell received his final pension payment up to the date of his death, 8 Oct 1839.