

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jesse Bryant S6695

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of N Carolina } Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions

Wake County } August Sessions 1832

On this 23^d day of August AD 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for wake County & State aforesaid now sitting Jesse Bryant a resident of the county of Wake & State aforesaid aged Seventy four 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 of the act of congress passed June 7th 1832 – the aforesaid Jesse Bryant declares that he entered the service of the United States as a substitute for Charles Key of the fourth Virginia Regiment and was under the command of Captain Watkins & Lieutenant Charles Judkins he does not now recollect the name of the Col but believes it was Durell he does not recollect the day or year he entered the service or the time he left it he continued in this service for sixteen months he was in the Battle fo the Long Bridge across the Eastern Branch of James River when and where Gen'l. Fordice was killed [sic: Battle of Great Bridge across Elizabeth River where Capt. Charles Fordyce was killed, 9 Dec 1775] he was then under the command of Gen'l. Mulberry and his Capt Jno. Watkins [John Watkins] he does not recollect the particular year in which the battle was fought but knows it was about a year after the command during his continuance of this service he was in no other engagement. He was confined in the Hospital in the town of Portsmouth Virginia four[?] months or thereabouts

The second tour of service he served as a drafted one in the virginia militia 3^d division He was drafted in the county of Surry and State of Virginia and entered the service in the year of AD 1779 under Capt Wilson he thinks (but from the of time is not certain of his name) he marched from Surry Court House to the town of Williamsburg in the state of Virginia and was placed under the command of Col name not recollectd he remained at Williamsburg about fifteen days & then returned bu remained subject to the Call of his officers & received no discharge & thinks those drafted men were called state troops – He belonged to the third division of the Virginia militia or State troops was under the command of Capt William Hart of Surry County Virginia he marched from Surry Court house into the county of Isle of Wight and their joined the other companies and were placed under the command of Major Durell [possibly Samuel Duval] and marched thence through a part of Surry Prince George into Dunwoodie [sic: Dinwiddie County] and had an engagement in the in the town of Petersburg with the Brittish forces [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781]. He believes Col. Massinburg was there. Gen'l. Washington was near the battle ground [sic; arrived in Virginia Sep 1781] and sent his aidecamp – Hartwell Cooke to return his thanks for the services rendered there – was said to have been nine or ten of our soldier killed & wounded. After the battle our army retreated to Chesterfield Court House & the Brittish [illegible word] & went aboard of their vessels from Chesterfield we went up the James River to the coal Pitts [Midlothian Coal Pits] thence crossed to the north side of the River and then through the country to the town of Richmond from thence we passed through the Country near Williamsburg where we were relieved by other Virginia troops and were discharged fro that tour – They gave me no written discharge and I returned to the County of Surry this tour lasted about eight or ten weeks – The Virginia militia being drafted into companies for eight weeks tour He remained at home untill called on again about six months I was then mustered under the command of Captain Benjamin Putney at Surry court House from thence I marched through Surry across James River to the town of Williamsburg from thence to the town of Little York between Little york & Williamsberg I was placed under the command of the officers under Genl. Washington marched to the camp before Little york Saw Genl. Mullenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] there also the Marquis De LaFayette and was in the battle and siege untill the Surrender of

Lord Cornwallis and saw him deliver his sword [sic: see endnote] I was sent off as one of the Guard to the wagons under Seargeant Benjamin Pilot the day after the surrender we were mustered in line & examined by the Surgeon to see who was able to go with the prisoners to Fredricksburg [sic: Fredericksburg] – I was pronounced incapable of going, I was then dismissed & returned, received no regular discharge – In Virginia we were only drafted once and stood in Companies & divisions for the performance of tour of service and at all times subject to the call of our officers – I served as a substitute as above stated in the 1st statement in 4th Virginia Regiment of Continentals I served with the 5th & 6th Virginia Regiment and Genl. Mclenburg was command in Chief fourth Regiment – I recollect seing & knowing Capt Jno. Watkins, Lieutenant Charles Judkins, Lieutenant Jno. Smith [John Smith], ensign William Boyce.

He was born in Surry County in the State of Virginia in the month of November A.D. 1757. He has in his possession no documentary evidence of his service I know of no person in this state whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service I cannot precisely state the time I left the service it was after the battle of Little york nor do I know the date of my return unto the army.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and I declare that my name is not on the pension of any agency in any state
Jesse Bryant

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The amended declaration of Jesse Bryant in answer to the objections to the allowance of his claim for a pension

1st Where and in what year were you born

Ans. I was born in Surry county in the year AD 1757 and have a record of my age as set down in the family Bible now in my possession

2nd When did you enter the service mention the periods of the war when you served.

Ans On the (10th) tenth day of April 1775 I entered the service of my Country as a substitute for Charles Key as soldier of the fourth Virginia Regiment under the command of Captain John Watkins, Leutenant Charles Judkins, and served until the fifteen of August 1776.

2nd Again in the year 1778 on the (25th) twenty fifth day of march, I was in a division of the Virginia militia and served for twenty days at Williamsburg.

3rd Again in the 1781 I belonged to a division of the Virginia malitia under Major Duval and my Captain was William Hart – and I was mustered into line on the (5th) fifth day of May and marched as stated in my declaration and this term of service lasted for Eight weeks making said service two months

4th Again the year 1781 I was again called out as a malitia of a Virginia division in the summer of the year of the capture of Lord Cornwallis at Little york. this I believe was the last of October AD 1781 and I entered this service the (20th) day of August AD 1781 was in service the day of taking Lord Cornwallis and was dismissed the next making this service two months. and has no written discharge

7th State the names of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief as to your services as a soldier of the revolution
answer Wyatt Freeman Bazilla Betts Reverend Little John Utly and many others if required.

I know of no witness now living that can prove my services. [signed] Jesse Bryant

NOTE: Lord Cornwallis was not present at the surrender ceremony on 19 Oct 1781; he delegated the task to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara.