

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

Pension Application of William Bryan S6760

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, and } To wit
County of Rockingham }

On this 21st day of August personally appeared in open Court, before David Henton, Joseph Cravens, George Clark and Augustus Waterman Justice of the County Court of Rockingham County, now sitting, William Bryan, a resident of the County of Rockingham and State of Virginia, aged 70 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

He was born in Rockingham County Virginia [formed from Augusta County in 1778], on the 15th or 16th of May 1762. He has no record of his age, but received it from his parents. He has resided in the same county all his life.

In January 1781 early in the month, he substituted for Henry Countryman, who had been drafted as a militia man, and marched to Richmond and thence down through Virginia, to Portsmouth, and was stationed principally in the neighbourhood of Portsmouth, and by a fort in that vicinity which was in possession of the British. During this tour he was engaged in a considerable skirmish with a party of the enemy who made a sally from the fort and was engaged in another skirmish in Princess Anne County. The militia officers under whom he served during this tour were Col. Nalle [sic: William Nall] Maj. [Gawen] Hamilton, Capt [George] Baxter and Lieut. [John] Hardman. He returned in the Spring in April, but cannot say the precise day and was out between three and four months.

Immediately after his return, he was drafted, and marched he thinks about the last of April or first of May, and marched to the neighbourhood of Williamsburg, and was marched about considerably in that quarter of Virginia and was in two engagements during this tour, and at a place called Hot Water [6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 Jun 1781], and the other at James Town [Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul] – but he cannot say the particular dates of these two engagements. The Captain under whom he served this tour was George Chrisman and thinks Robert Smith was first, and Peter Bryan [Peter Bryant] second lieutenant. The general officers under whom he served during this campaign were LaFayette, [Anthony] Wayne, and Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]. He returned in the latter part of summer, after harvest, having been out three months, and upwards, although he cannot recollect the length of time exactly.

In a few days after his return from the previous tour, perhaps about the first of August, he was again called out under a draft, and marched to the neighbourhood, of York, and continued principally in that vicinity, until after the surrender of Cornwallis – was present and engaged throughout the whole seige at York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. After the surrender of Cornwallis he was sent with a detachment to guard some prisoners, and marched by way of Fredericksburg, to the Winchester Barracks and returned home late in the fall, but cannot state the time with accuracy. He recollects distinctly however, of passing a farm on his return from Winchester Barracks home, where he saw some of his neighbours and acquaintances engaged at a corn husking – which proves that it was late in the fall. He had thus been out from about the first of January till about November 1st with the exception of two short intervals of a very few days between the tour. He never held a commission during the revolutionary war. During the last term of service, he was under Gen'l. Washington, LaFayette, and the other Gen'l. officers. He has no documentary evidence of his service, and believes he never received a written discharge. For his general good character and standing in his neighbourhood, and the general belief in his revolutionary service, he refers to Capt. David Rolstone, himself a soldier in the revolution, Reuben Harrison, Joseph

Barber Esqr (High Sheriff, and son of the Captain under whome he served) John Rader, Maj. Wm. Bryan –
Dr. Cravens and Dr. Harrison.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and
declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] William Bryan