

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

Pension Application of James Hambleton S6983

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 30 Nov 2014.

State of Virginia }
County of Bedford } S.S.

On this 28th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Henry Brown, Lewis Wingfield, Benjamin A Donald & William Mead the Court of Bedford County now sitting the same being a Court of Record, James Hambleton a resident of the Parish of Russell in the County of Bedford and State of Virginia aged Seventy five 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to Wit: He entered the service of the United States as a militia man under Capt. George Anderson from the district of 96 [Ninety Six] in South Carolina, he thinks awhile before the battle of the Cowpens which he believes was in the month of January [17 Jan 1781], but being illiterate cannot remember the date of the year when he entered or when he left the service but on first entering the service he continued Ten months when he was regularly discharged (but has lost his discharge and the discharges he received for the other Tours also): he was discharged in August of the same year he entered; and in this Tour he is confident he served not less than Ten months. In about Two months after being discharged was called again into the service as a militia man (from the same place he was first called) under Captain George Avery [George Aubrey] when he continued in service about six months but will say for the greater certainty not less than five months he is confident, was then discharged and returned home where he remained about two months part of which time Two months he was confined by sickness: Was then at the expiration of the said time he thinks in August the next year after he was first called, was again drafted as a militia man from the same place under the same Captain George Avery which was the third Term in which he served but three months when his time expired and he was discharged.

In about a year or perhaps more (he cannot be certain) went out under General [Andrew] Pickens commander in chief against a party of Cherokee Indians [16 Sep - 17 Oct 1782] where he remained under his command some three or four months but is certain not less than three months and afterwards was in numerous scouting parties under the command of George Avery Captain with whom he entered the service first and was with him in all his various tours and scouting parties upwards of Two years actual service. General Pickens was at the head of the command at the time he entered the service. Colo. Thomas Brannon [Thomas Brandon] was Colo. of the Regiment William Farr or Fear lieutenant Col. [Lt. Col. William Farr] Sam'l. Anderson Maj. [Samuel Anderson, or possibly Maj. Samuel Andrews] George Avery Capt. Chandler Avery Lieutenant of the Company and William Giles Ensign; he resided at the time he entered the service in the State of South Carolina in the district of 96: That he was drafted and served as a militia man whenever required by the County. that he was in the battle of the Cowpens where Tarleton was defeated by [Gen. Daniel] Morgan and where it was said Col. Washington distinguished himself by shaving off part of Tarlton's hair with the point of his sword as close was his pursuit after the Traitor. This was a romantic story that was circulated against the man. [See endnote] He was in a skirmish also at Stono [see endnote] under Captain George Avery against a party of Tories and British in which he lost the small finger of his right hand as he supposes by a rifle ball from the enemy just as he was in the act of drawing his hammer to load his own gun (which he had just discharged) and this he effected after he was wounded but was unable at last to fire; the top of his finger has greatly disabled him and rendered him less capable of making a support by manual labour (which is his only dependance) now that he is old and infirm. He here with exhibits his fingers to the Court. He marched from his house in company with others and arrived at Eutaw Springs [SC] a short time after the battle ended but not in time to take part with the Army in the engagement [8 Sep 1781]. the place at which the

skirmish took place in which he lost his finger was near the Ashley river in South Carolina between Charleston and Savannah throughout much of which Country he passed in his marches and in various scouting parties, was in Orangeburg on his marches and at Bacons Bridge [near Old Dorchester] which he merely passed with a scouting party where General Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army was stationed at the time. As he was generally sent out with the scouting parties seldom went about large Towns or other very noted places, but was confined mostly to the Country. Col. John Thomas [John Thomas, Jr.] had the command of a Regiment whom he recollects often to have seen and was in the engagement at Stono: Has frequently seen General Morgan and General Green and Colo. Washington who looked indeed like a soldier in whom there was no fear. He has no documentary evidence to prove any of the above services but that he had discharges for all his tours and kept them until they wore out or were mislaid and lost: That he knows of no person in the State of Virginia who was with him in his services; nor does he know of any one now living in South Carolina who was with him at the time: and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure in person that can testify to his services having as aforesaid been a resident at the time of a distant state. He was born in Scotland in Ayrshire he has lived mostly since and now lives in the County or Bedford and State of Virginia. He hereby relinquishes any 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.

He makes the following answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the war department
Answer to the 1st Interrogatory

In Scotland in the Shire of Ayr: cant tell the year or month as he is illiterate but thinks from calculation he is 75 years of age.

Answer to the 2nd Interrogatory

No I have none [record of age]

Answer to the 3rd Interrogatory.

In South Carolina in the District of 96 reside now and have resided mostly since in Bedford County, Virginia.

Answer to the 4th Interrogatory

I was drafted as a malitia man

Answer to the 5th Interrogatory

These [officers and regiments] are named in the body of the Declaration

Answer to the 6th Interrogatory

I did receive discharges but have lost them for all my services as they are worn out: they were given to him he thinks by his captain but by whom they were signed he cannot recollect.

Answer to the 7th Interrogatory.

William Leftwich a Clergyman of about 60 years of age who has long known me and John S. Hunt both of the County of Bedford [can testify to my character for veracity and the belief of my services]

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid James hisXmark Hambleton

The amended Declaration of James Hambleton

Bedford County State of Virginia To Wit

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid James Hambleton who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For ten months he served as a malitia soldier. For Five months he served as a malitia man under Captain George Avery. For Three months he served under the same as a malitia man For three months he served as a volunteer under General Pickens: in each and all of the said tours as a private soldier: For Three months in scouting parties he served as a volunteer under the aforesaid Captain George Averey as a private soldier. The whole service amounts to Two years and for such service he claims a pension

The Tour of Ten months as above commenced in the year of the battle of the Cowpens & ended in the month of August: the day of the month or date of the year he cannot tell in the month of October the tour of Five months as above commenced in the same year of the battle of the Cowpens. For the tour of three months above as a militia man he entered the service in the month of August the year after the battle of the Cowpens in October or November his term expired of the same year that he entered upon it. The tour of Three months under General Pickens commenced in about a year after the expiration of the last. The tours in scouting parties under Captain Averey commenced after this a short time but in consequence of the loss of his memory in a great measure he is utterly unable to state with certainty the periods of the war in which he served.

James Hambleton

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23 day of March 1833

NOTE: There is no basis for calling Tarleton a traitor. The only known engagement near Stono SC was the Battle of Stono Ferry on 20 Jun 1779.