

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Stark S7592

f27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/16/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

Norfolk Borough At a Hastings Court held the 23rd day of July 1832

On this 23rd day of July 1832 personally appeared before the Court of said Borough William Stark 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 which is in these words
"State of Virginia, Norfolk Borough to which, on this 23rd day of July 1832 personally appeared before the Court of said Borough William Stark a resident of said Borough formerly of the County of Dinwiddie in said State 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was and pointed a second Lieutenant in Captain John Jones' Company of Dinwiddie County under an act passed for the raising six additional regiments passed in December 1775. The other officers of the said company were Peter Jones first Lieutenant & Dinwiddie Goodwin Ensign and that they severally raised our quotas of men which entitles us to our commissions. This I think was early in March 1776. That we were soon after marched to Williamsburg the then seat of Government where we were organized & enrolled in the 6th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Mordecai Buckner, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Elliott & Major James Hendricks which statement by reference to said Roll will be found correct. That sometime in the fall of the same year we were marched to the North to join General Washington which I think we did in the month of November following at Newark New Jersey on his retreat from Forts Lee & Washington where we became incorporated with his Army and returned back through the Jerseys before the British Army commanded by General Howe until we crossed the Delaware [River] at Trenton when pursuit was stopped. Soon after this General Washington moved up the Delaware to a place I think called Currells Ferry [Carrels or Carrells Ferry?] about eight miles above Trenton where we remained until the attack & capture of the Hessians [December 26, 1776] after which the Army recrossed the Delaware & took up encampment on the same ground but how long we remained at this place I do not recollect – we soon again crossed the River & took a position between Trenton & Princeton, at the latter place worthy chief part of General Howe's Army which Army after a few days advanced on us & pursued us to Trenton from which place General Washington retreated in the night & attacked the British Garrison at Princeton and carried it by killing & taking almost the whole of said Garrison. This I think was on the 3rd of January 1777. Previous to this I was transferred as first Lieutenant in Captain Samuel Hopkins' Company. The Army after carrying this Garrison went up in the mountains of Pluckamid [Pluckemin, New Jersey?] where I think we remained the balance of the winter. The following summer after the British left Philadelphia being at a loss to know their designs our Army took up a movement up

the North River but on hearing the British had sailed to the South we retrograded & by forced marches met the enemy at Brandywine on the 11th September 1777 with whom a pretty general engagement ensued, where I was wounded & with other officers sent up to Easton in Pennsylvania where I remained until sometime in November when I was visited by Robert Bolling of Petersburg in Virginia with him I returned to the Army still unfit for duty and in consequence of my situation obtained a furlough & returned to Virginia but not being able to perform duty for a considerable time did not return until sometime I think in March 1778 when I fully resigned having served as I considered the term of two years for which I had engaged. At the same time Colonel Meade General Washington's aid pressed me to continue in the Army that there was then a vacancy & a captain's commission for me. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Stark

[f p 20: Handwritten letter from John Marshall, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, in his own handwriting:]

Richmond June 12th 1832

Dear Sir

I have just received your letter of the 7th instant and am sorry that from the great length of time which has elapsed my failing memory does not enable me to state your service in the Army as fully as I could wish.

The act for raising six additional regiments, in one of which you served, was passed in December 1775. The men that were to serve for two years from the 10th of April 1776. The first time I saw you was in Philadelphia in the year 1777, I think in January or February. You were attending the funeral of an officer who died in that place Colonel Burgess Ball attended the funeral and my impression was that you belonged to the Regiment of which he was Lieutenant Colonel. I think it was the 6th. Several officers of whom I was one were in Philadelphia for the purpose of being [indecipherable word]¹ through the small pox I supposed, but this is only conjecture, that you were in Philadelphia for the same object. I saw you afterwards occasionally, but as we were in different brigades, and no particular acquaintance then existed between us, I cannot be precise as to time or place. You must have served the campaign of seventy-six from what passed when I saw you early in '77, and I have no doubt that you served through that campaign. I think but am not certain that I saw you in the autumn of 1777.

I am my dear Sir your Obedient

S/ J. Marshall



¹ 

[f p. 24]

Petersburg Centre Hill Nov. 8th 1831

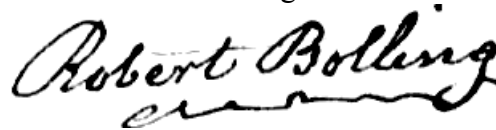
Dear Sir

Your favor dated at Norfolk the 22nd of October 1831, did not come to my hand until the 4th ultimo, in consequence of being absent from home, on a visit to my Daughter who resides at Culpepper Court House, where I remained upwards of ten days, therefore I regret this delay in my reply, but still hope, so far as I can be beneficial to you, that this communication will be in time.

I well recollect my paying you a visit at Easton in Pennsylvania in the year 1777, at which place I found you suffering under a wound received in the late action at Brandywine, between the British & American armies, and also that you then ranked as a Lieutenant in the 6th Virginia Regiment, on Continental establishment, I also Recollect we traveled together in company with Captain William Smith of Chesterfield County in Virginia, I think on your return to join your Regiment in the fall of the same year, after your recovery.

I have endeavored to recollect as much as I can, of your military life, for your benefit and satisfaction, after the lapse of so many long years; I have placed these facts in some form, by the annexed Certificate, and am willing to revise & amend it by any suggestions you may give in aid of my memory; according to the nature of the case. I am truly anxious to afford you all the good I can, from the facts now stated, or in any other manner in my power. Should you think any further communication on the subject of your Military services, you will please inform me. With my sincere good wishes for Apple's success, in obtaining your just and merited claim, upon the liberality of your Country, and I hope that you may long enjoy health, and were Lake contentment, I remain with high respect & true regard

Your Friend & Relation
S/ Robert Bolling²



N. B. Mr. Boswell Hutchings and Colo. John Crawford are still living

I Robert Bolling of the Town of Petersburg in the State of Virginia aged seventy-two years, do hereby certify, that I have been intimately acquainted with Mr. William Stark of Dinwiddie County formally but now an inhabitant of the Borough of Norfolk, for more than fifty-six years; and was in habit of friendly intercourse with him previous to the year 1776, in which year, I think he entered into the American Revolutionary Army; this circumstance I am further certain of, that in the fall of the year 1777, after the Battle of Brandywine, between the American and British armies, I did, in person, visit Mr. William Stark, at a village in Pennsylvania called Easton, where he was stationed, and then laboring under a painful wound, which he received in the Battle at Brandywine. I well recollect that he then ranked as a Lieutenant in the 6th Virginia Regiment, on Continental establishment, in which Regiment I had several valuable & intimate acquaintances. Under the foregoing circumstances and facts, I think Mr. William Stark has just and proper claims, upon the liberality of his Country, in common with many other meritorious Officers and Soldiers, of the Revolutionary Army. Given under my hand this 9th day of November 1831 in the Town of Petersburg.

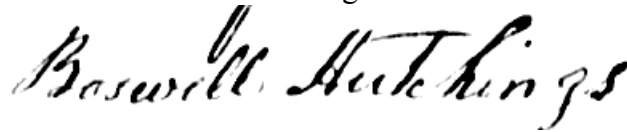
² [Robert Bolling S6689](#)

S/ Robert Bolling

[f p. 26]

I Boswell Hutchings³ of the County of Dinwiddie & State of Virginia do hereby Certify that William Starke was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 6th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Buckner him & served 2 years; part of the aforesaid time as 2nd Lieutenant & part as 1st Lieutenant that I was a soldier during the whole time in the same company & Regiment that is to say from the 26 day of February 1776 until the 28th day of February 1778 when I was discharged at Valley Forge in the State of Pennsylvania where I believe I left day of aforesaid Starke, who then held the rank of 1st Lieutenant; that he was an officer in whom the men of the Company had great confidence & whom they would willingly have followed through any difficulties or dangers. The difficulties of those times were too well known to need any description here. Given under my hand this 19th day of December 1826

S/ Boswell Hutchings



[There are several letters in the file which bear the signature of the veteran. One such signature is as follows, f p. 10:



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[Facts in file: Veteran died August one, 1844 in Norfolk Virginia and left knee the widow nor children. The administratrix of his estate was Mary King who married about 1845 or 1846 George W Stribbling. The relationship of said Mary King to William Stark is not shown.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Lieutenant for 2 years and upwards in the Virginia Continental line.]

³ [Boswell Hutchings S5587](#)