

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Armstrong S8032

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

Augusta County, to wit,

On this 26th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court, before Jacob Leas, William S. Lockridge, William Young and Washington Luorpe[?] the Court of Augusta County, now sitting, William Armstrong, a resident of the Little Calfpasture, in the County & State aforesaid, aged Seventy two years the 12th day of December last, 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, & served as herein stated.

That in the month of March 1778 or 1779, as well as he can recollect, he was drafted to perform a three months tour of duty as a private & rendezvoused at Col. Samuel Vances's on Back Creek then in the County of Augusta, (now in Bath) & was marched from thence to Clover Lick [in present Pocahontas County WV], & from thence, by the way of Tygart Valley to the West Fork of the Monongahela River, where he remained until some time in the month of June following, when, his term having expired, he was discharged. The object of this draft was to protect the citizens of that part of the state from the incursions of the Indians. During this tour, he was under the command of Cap. William Kinkead [William Kincaid] & Ensign James Steele He does not recollect the name of the Lieut. of the Company, he (the Lieut.) having been left at a Fort on their way out, with some of the men. There were no other troops, of any kind, with the company to which this affiant was attached.

About the first of March 1781, this affiant was again drafted, & with other mounted men, proceeded, by the way of Rockfish Gap, Lynch's Ferry on James River [at present Buchanan], & the Saura Towns [sic: Sauratown] on Dan River, to North Carolina, where he joined the main army of the South then commanded by Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene. He does not recollect the place of this junction. After joining that army, he with his companions were dismounted & the Horses sent back. During the march, this affiant was under the command of Cap. [David] Gwin, in whose company he continued during the whole tour. This company was attached to the Regiment commanded by Col. [William] Campbell. This affiant does not recollect the names of the other Field or company officers. Shortly after joining the Southern Army, the Battle of Guilford Court House took place [15 Mar 1781], in which battle this affiant was engaged; after the defeat, this affiant retired with his comrades to Troublesome Iron Works, in [present] Rockingham County North Carolina, at which place, after the expiration of about one month from the time he left home, he was discharged.

About the middle of July in the same year (1781) this affiant was drafted again, to perform a Three months tour of duty; He rendezvoused at Staunton, immediately afterwards & was marched from thence, by the way of Charlottesville, Richmond & James Town, to York, in the lower part of Virginia, where he joined the main army under the command of Gen'l. Washington. This affiant continued in the service at the siege of York, & until within two days of the capture of Cornwallis & his army, about the 17th of October 1781 [siege began 28 Sep; formal surrender on 19 Oct], he was discharged, and returned home. He was not in any engagement during this tour. He was commanded, on this expedition, by

Cap. James Bell

Lieut. John Wackub &

Ensign Alexander Crawford

and the regiment to which he was attached was commanded by Col. Samuel Lewis, & Major William Long.

This affiant has no documentary evidence of his services, having never received a written discharge; nor has he been able to find any of his companions in arms who might furnish that evidence, except the one whose affidavit is hereto annexed, & who proves that this affiant was in

the service at Guilford & at the siege of York. Nor does he know of any other person now living who can prove these facts.

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

Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year first aforesaid. William Armstrong

Interrogatories propounded by the Court.

1st. Where, & in what year, were you born?

Ansr. I was born on the plantation where I now reside, on the 12th day of December 1759.

2^d. Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the revolutionary war? And where do you now live?

Ansr. Where I was born, as above mentioned.

3rd. Have you any record of your age? And if so, where is it?

Ansr. I have at my residence, a copy of the record of my age, taken from the original record made by my Father, which original, I believe, is in the possession of my youngest sister, who resides in the state of Ohio.

4th. How were you called into service? were you drafted?, - did you volunteer, - or were you a substitute? - And if a substitute, for whom?

Ansr. I was drafted, as before mentioned.

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

Ansr. I can give no further information on those points than I have stated in the body of my declaration, except that I recollect seeing Genls. LaFayette & [Anthony] Wayne at York Town.

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

Ansr. I never received any written discharge, as I have already stated.

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

Ansr. I will name Joseph Henderson, John McCutchen sen'r, John Lockridge, Samuel Craig & the Rev'd. James Kerr, the pastor of the congregation in which I reside; but the said Kerr being at this time absent from the state, I am unable to procure his evidence. I believe I might safely add to the list all my other neighbours, but suppose it cannot be necessary. Sworn to & subscribed, in open court, the day and year first aforesaid.

William Armstrong

Smith Thompson [pension application S38438] a citizen of the Town of Staunton in the County of Augusta & State of Virginia, aged Eighty four years the 19th day of July last, personally appeared in open court, & having been first duly sworn according to law, doth depose & say, That he is acquainted with William Armstrong, the applicant who hath made the foregoing declaration, & has a perfect recollection that the said Armstrong was in the military service at the battle of Guilford, & at the Siege of York, - this affiant having seen him at both those places. How long he continued in the service, this affiant does not know.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year first aforesaid. [signed] Smith Thompson]

NOTE: A document in the file states that Armstrong died 29 Oct 1853.