

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Durham S8371

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The Declaration of James Durham of Warren County North Carolina made for the purpose of establishing his Right to a Pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. Your Petitioner respectfully shows; that he was born in the State of Virginia in the year 1760 and shortly thereafter his father removed to the County of Bute [formed from Granville in 1764] North Carolina (now Warren). That he enlisted in the 17th year of his age. In the year 1780. your Petitioner was living in the County of Mecklenburgh [sic: Mecklenburg] Virginia with his older brother, when a draft was made for men to serve for Three months. He was drafted to serve and marched under the command of Captain Ferrill to Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] North Carolina. He was there placed under the command of Captain Swepston and marched from that place with the balance of the Virginia Militia first to Saulsberry [sic: Salisbbury NC] then to Charlotte and from that place to the head quarters of General [Horatio] Gates. He continued in the army in South Carolina until the defeat of Gen'l. Gates near Camden [16 Aug 1780]. Your Petitioner was in that battle and with the balance of the Va. Militia (they were dispersed) he made the best of his way to Hillsboro which was the rendezvous for all those who fled and were dispersed by the defeat of Gen'l. Gates; on reaching that place your Petitioner was turned over by Captn Swepston to a Captn Binens Jones of the Continental army [sic: probably Binns Jones of the Buckingham County Militia], and altho' the Three months had nearly elapsed he was again Compelled to march from that place under Captn Jones first to Guildford Court Hs [sic: Guilford Courthouse] and thence to Saulsberry and to Charlotte. The troops under the command of Captn Jones were employed in that district of Country in keeping the Tory population in subjection, and in recruiting and taking up straglers from the army in S. Ca. while employed in this service under Captn Jones your Petitioner met with his neighbours and friends Robin Harris and William P. Riggan near Saulsbury. they were going on to join the army then under Gen. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and your Petitioner was returning to Saulsberry from Charlott. This was late in the fall of 1780. Your Petitioner claims to have served under Captns Ferrell, Swepston and Jones from the 1st of June 1780 to the middle of the month of December of that year making seven months. He was finally discharged by Captn Jones near Guildford Court House. On his return home to the County of Warren, he was again drafted in the early part of the year 1781 in a company commanded by Captn Wren and served Three months under his command being stationed all the time at Halifax and Tarboro. William P. Riggan and Robin Harris were also in the company. about the close of the Three Months Tour your Petitioner was earnestly solicited by Captn Sittgraves a recruiting officer to inlist in the Regular army for Eighteen months. He did inlist with Captn Sittgraves and also William P. Reggan for Eighteen months. They inlisted in the month of March 1781 immediately after the Battle of Guildford Ct. Hs [15 March 1781]. The Company were Light Horse and Captn Siltgraves placed them under Captn Twitty. They continued to serve in that section of country (To wit) Tarboro & Halifax until Lord Cornwallis was taken at York [19 Oct 1781]. From that time until the news of Peace came the company were stationed about in squads and the soldiers were furloughed for long and longer periods and when it was ascertained that peace was made they were mostly furloughed - and not required to return. Your Petitioner living not over 20 miles from Halifax reported himself when his furlough was out from time to time through the winter of 1782 and in the succeeding month of May 1782. they were finally discharged. That is to say the few remaining for we were so anxious to get home that many did not return to claim a discharge. of that number was your Petitioner. Your Petitioner says on his oath that he has served the periods set down in this his Declaration. First he claims to have served seven months under Captns Ferrell, Swepston & Jones. Secondly Three months under Captn Wren, and lastly Fourteen months under Captn Sittgraves and Twitty. He claims to have served Two years without computing the time employed in going and returning home after each tour of duty. In conclusion he has to say that he applied in the year 1832 for the benefit of the act of the 7th of June and it is but lately that he has reason to believe that his papers (if even in the office) has become lost or mislaid. He now renews his pension

application and prays to be allowed the benefit of the act of the 7th June 1832.

Given under my hand and seal this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March 1837.

[signed] James Durham

NOTE: On 25 May 1857 James Durham, Jr. made a claim as the brother and guardian of Frances Durham, daughter and youngest child of James Durham Sr. He stated that his father, James Durham, Sr., died 6 Nov 1846, leaving his widow, Martha Shearrin Durham, whom he married in 1815 and who died about the end of Jan 1848[?]. Her surviving children were James, John, Ann, Mary, and Frances Durham (born 23 Feb 1836). With the deposition was a copy of a bond signed in Warren County by Benjamin Colclough & Stephen Hightower dated 6 Dec 1815 for the marriage of James Durham (bride's name left blank).