

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Dyer S8378 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia

Albemarle County viz on this 12th day of October 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery of Albemarle and State aforesaid now sitting Samuel Dyer a resident in the County and State aforesaid in the 80th year of his age 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 the 7th day of June 1832. That he entered the Army as assistant Clothier under John Moss as far back as the 4th day of August 1778 and continued in that employment until 1st of April 1780 when his accounts were settled. He cannot at this day undertake with certainty to say, what places he was at, in the several States where the Troops served, but generally went wherever they were directed during the period, he refers to its course for the places at which he was serving and the nature of that service. This he recollects that he was a great portion of the time in New Jersey and New York with the different detachments of the Army the duties which he performed were of the most important and responsible character, and the comfort of the Troops mainly depended upon the faithful performance of the duties entrusted to him. He necessarily incurred much hardship and exposure, and he can most earnestly say, that his duties were faithfully discharged. His wages were three hundred pounds p. annum when he entered the service, but such was the state of the currency during the period, that in the end it amounted to a mere trifle. He refers to the Certificate of James E. Heath auditor of public accounts for the State of Virginia, as to the term of services, and the amount of compensation for his services. He further declares, that 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 any state Sam'l. Dyer Thereupon the following interrogatories were propounded to the said Samuel Dyer, and were answered by him:

1st When and where were you born?

Answer In Bristol, England and in the year 1756 I believe.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so, where is it?

Answer I have no record, having left England very young, but always understood that I was born the 8 October 1756.

3rd Where did you live, when you entered the public service, where have you lived since, and where do you now live.

Answer I lived in the town of York Virginia, have lived in Richmond, but for the last forty seven years have lived in the County of Albemarle and state of Virginia

4th State the names of some of the regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served.

Answer. General [William] Woodford, General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], Colo. Davis [sic: William Davies], Colo. Parker, Col. [Samuel Jordan] Cabell and others.

Augusta County Virg'a. 25th Dec'r. 1835

On the application of Mr. Samuel Dyer of the County of Albemarle in relation to his claim for services during the War of the Revolution I do hereby certify that my first personal acquaintance with the said Samuel Dyer was at Camp Valley forge in the early part of the year 1778. He was then acting as the assistant of Captain John Moss who was appointed by the Executive of Virginia their agent to furnish the Virginia Continental & State Troops with clothing. My recollection is that the paymasters were authorized to draw from the public store the proportions of clothing to which the Regiments & other corps were respectively entitled. Mr. Dyer performed all the active duties of delivering the clothing in the proportions aforesaid to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He continued to act as Assistant Clothier until the month of December 1779 when the Virginia Line, to which I belonged, marched from Morris

Town [Morristown] in Jersey to the South, and therefore know nothing more of Mr. Dyers services. My impression is that the agency in question was abolished about that time. I have no distinct knowledge of the time Mr. Dyer served in the above capacity, but believe it to have been about two years, perhaps something more or less.

Sworn the above date Ro. Porterfield

[Robert Porterfield, pension application S8965] Capt

in the Va. Contl Line in the War of the revolution & Aid de Camp.

[Made before John Porterfield, Justice of the Peace.]

State of Virginia, County of Albemarle, to wit.

On this the 9th day of September 1851 personally appeared before me William A Bibb a justice of the Peace, in and for the County aforesaid Dr. Charles Carter, a resident of said County aged fifty seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, declares that he was born within some five or six miles of the residence of the late Samuel Dyer of the County of Albemarle, that this affiant knew the late Samuel Dyer from his (the affiants earliest boyhood, having gone to a classical school, to a teacher in Mr. Dyer's family, from the year 1803 to the year 1807, both inclusive. This affiant declares that after studying medicine & graduating in the year 1815, he commenced the practice of medecine in Mr Samuel Dyer's neighborhood and boarded in his family, for one or two years. That having married, this affiant then rented a house of Mr. Dyer, which was about a half mile from his (Mr. Dyers) residence, and that this affiant lived there until about the year 1824 when this affiant removed to the town of Charlottesville, where he now resides.

That after this affiant's removal to Charlottesville he still continued to practice in Mr. Samuel Dyer's family as a physician until his death in the latter part of the year 1839. This affiant further declares, that first as a boy a above detailed, then as a boarder in Mr. Dyer's family as above recounted, as his family physician for twenty four years, and as a friend, he was most intimately acquainted with Mr. Samuel Dyer personally and was well acquainted with his (Mr. Dyer's) standing among his neighbors and acquaintances as a man of honesty & veracity. He declares that Samuel Dyer during his live, maintained & [illegible word] his death still maintains a most exemplary character, for honesty, probity, & veracity, among his neighbors and all who knew him. and that any statement made by him, would therefore be entitled to the fullest credit. This affiant further declares, he has frequently heard him (Mr. Dyer) speak of his services and his hardships in the war of the Revolution, as well as of a commission, which he then held, connected with the public military stores. He declares that Mr. Dyer was universally regarded among his acquaintances as a having been a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and as having born a commission in that service. He moreover declares that the Samuel Dyer, of whom this affiant, has spoken in this affidavit, was the same, no doubt, who applied in his life time for a Pension for Revolutionary services and whose administration is now applying for the benefit of his heirs on account of his Revolutionary services aforesaid.

He further declares, that though this affiant has lived in the County of Albemarle, during his whole life, is extensively acquainted in said County, and has represented it in the Legislature of Virginia, he has never heard of any other Samuel Dyer in said County except a son of said Sam'l Dyer, who died before his father, and who of course has never applied for a pension, being but little older than this affiant.

And further he says not.

Chs. Carter M.D.

NOTES:

The file includes pages of a ledger dated 7 Aug 1778 - Apr 1780 under the heading "Samuel Dyer, Assistant."

A document in the file certifies that Samuel Dyer died on 24 Dec 1839 leaving the following children: William H. Dyer of Missouri; John Dyer of MO; Nancy Robert, wife of George Roberts of VA; Eliza Payne, wife of George Payne of Florida; and Robert Dyer of MO. The document also states that in 1785 or 1786 Samuel Dyer married Celia Beckley of Louisa or Hanover County VA, who died in 1840.

A letter from T. B. Dyer of St. Louis MO to Pension Commissioner James E. Heath dated 9 Oct 1852 gives the same list of surviving children, except the name of Nancy Roberts is written Nancy Robertson. The letter also named Samuel Dyer, Jr. and Francis B. Dyer as two children of Samuel Dyer, Sr. who died before him, and it inquires whether their widows and children are entitled to a share of the final pension payment.