

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Payne S8929

f25VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/26/12

[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.]

State of Virginia County of Culpeper SS

On this 15th day of August 1836 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court now sitting Richard Payne a resident of said County of Culpeper in the State of Virginia aged seventy-three years and upwards, 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 and served as herein stated.

That in the spring of 1781 when the British vessels were in the habit of coming up the Potomac River and occasionally landing for plunder, he (then residing in the County of Westmoreland Virginia) was frequently called out into service and kept along on the River to prevent their landing – that this kind of service continued during the spring and summer and was very laborious. That he was kept chasing the vessels up and down the River as they would appear and watching their landing or other movements. That this Service was by companies entire and they were stationed at different points. That he cannot recollect the day of the month he was first called out, but knows it was in the spring of the year. That he was under the command of Captain Muse and Lieutenant John P Hungerford, does not recollect certainly the name of the Ensign but thinks it was George Robertson. Colonel Washington commanded, but the troops acting in detachments, the Colonel was not where he was. That the service was almost constant during the period mentioned and though he cannot say exactly how long he was in actual Service at this time, he thinks it was at least three months, perhaps more. That some time during the summer, he thinks in August, the visits of the enemy had become less frequent, and declarant having been dismissed from the above service was drafted into the service again and marched towards York. That during this Service and after arriving at Gloucester, and being stationed at and near Gloucester Court House and at a Church (Weir's) [sic, Ware] General Weedon [George Weedon] called for volunteers for a Grenadier Company and promoted Lieutenant Hungerford (since General Hungerford) to a Captaincy to command it. That he volunteered in said company and continued with it in Gloucester until after the siege of York. That he was in an engagement at Lowell's lane with a detachment of Cornwallis's Army under Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] and some Infantry out foraging.¹ That they attacked the enemy, and Tarleton kept it up until their foraging wagons got out of reach, when the enemy drew in, leaving one officer on the field. That he continued on the Gloucester side, till the surrender of

¹ This appears to be a reference to the skirmish on October 3, 1781 between a large foraging party under the command of Banastre Tarleton and Whig and French forces commanded by Lt. Col. John Francis Mercer and Armand Louis de Gontaut-Biron, Duc de Lauzun.

Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], and remembers that Tarleton came in from that side when he surrendered. That after the surrender, he with the company were marched down to receive the prisoners and did receive them with a number of horses and arms, which were afterwards given up as declarant thinks by stipulation to our French allies. That the prisoners were subsequently given in charge of the Mountain troops and marched to Winchester for safekeeping. That he was then discharged and went home. That he cannot remember particular days of the month but thinks this tour commenced in August, and continued till sometime in November making in all he is satisfied three months or more. That it was always considered a three months tour, and he is satisfied as he has stated that he was in actual service at this time at least three months. That Colonel John F Mercer commanded them in the engagement above referred to, and he was commanded more particularly by Captain Hungerford. Does not recollect the other officers.

That he has no documentary evidence of his Service, but can prove it in part by the late General Hungerford² and by Wm S. Jett³ certificates.

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 the agency of any State. And he further states that he has not made out his claim to a pension until this late period, because of the difficulty of obtaining testimony at the distance of 90 miles at his advanced age and afflicted as he is, and besides, this is the 2nd attempt.

S/ Rich'd Payne, Senr.

And the following interrogatories were then propounded to the declarant by the Court which she answered as follows, to wit: –

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Westmoreland County, Virginia on the 19th of June 1763.

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

Ans. I have in my Family Bible, which I copied from the General Register in my Father's Prayer Book.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. In Westmoreland County Virginia. Sometime after the Revolution I lived one year in Northumberland County Virginia and then returned to Westmoreland, and then in 1798 came to Culpeper where I have lived ever since and now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. In the first instance I was called into Service with the whole company, and afterwards was drafted and volunteered after joining the Army.

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

Ans. I was under the command of General Weedon, and saw at different times other officers, but was generally on service in detachment, and was not much with the Regular Army. The general circumstances of my Service are stated in my declaration.

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

Ans. I was never discharge in writing – the Militia were generally discharged by companies.

² [John P. Hungerford S5586](#)

³ William Storke Jett FPA S5614

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

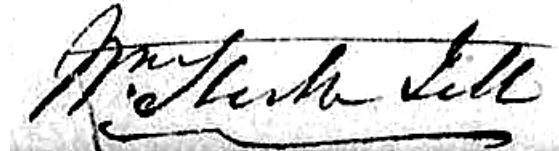
Ans. I named Major P. Lightfoot, John S Barbour, Esquire, Captain P. Slaughter, and might mentioned many more.

[Philip Lightfoot and Samuel Rixey gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 18]

I Wm Storke Jett of the County of Westmoreland & State of Virginia aged seventy-two years, do hereby certify, that I have been acquainted with Mr. Richard Payne of the County of Culpeper and State aforesaid, from early life; that at one period we were schoolmates, – Being nearly of the same age, we were enrolled during the Revolutionary War in the Militia of said County, and after having served several years and part of the time in actual service on the Potomac, we were ordered, with a detachment of the Militia, to march to the Siege of York – a few days after our arrival at Camp, it was discovered there were too many officers, for the number of men, and it was determined by the commanding Officer to send some of them home, as supernumeraries, to return at a moments warning, among which number I was included, being at that time a Lieutenant – Mr. Payne being a private remained – After I left camp, Mr. Payne, with several of the company, to which I belonged, by some new arrangement, fell under the command of Captain Hungerford and was annexed to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Mercer, which distinguished itself greatly, when Tarleton, made an attack on the French & Americans lying before Gloucester Town – I further certify that I have often heard Captain Hungerford, late General Hungerford, speak of Mr. Payne's gallantry in that action & that he served faithfully through the whole period of the siege and returned with him to his County, after the surrender of the Enemy – Given under my hand the first day of September 1831

S/ Wm Storke Jett

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Storke Jett", written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia service.]