

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Payne S8938

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia County of Fauquier Sc.

On this 31st day of August 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Court of Fauquier County now sitting Cap. William Payne a resident of the county of Fauquier & State of Va aged 78 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 that he entered the service of the United States and served as follows I was living in the Town of Falmouth in the County of Stafford in the year 1776 and had the Command of a Militia Company of that County. In that year I was called out for the first time to protect the Country bordering on the Potomac River from the depredation of the enemy who were making havock amongst our slaves and Tobacco, from 1776 to 1780 I continued to live in the Town of Falmouth and to Command the same Company, during that period I was very Frequently called out generally from four to five times a year owing to our peculiar situation being so near the river Potomac, we were always called on to do any particular service and then dismissed. I think from the best of my recollection of the times and circumstances, our average yearly service must have been between three and four months during that period. In 1780 I removed to the County of Westmoreland, and was immediately appointed Captain of a Company of Militia of that County. from that time until the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] I was Almost constantly employed in active service. I was for sometime stationed at the junction of Pope's Creek and the Potomac river for the Protection of the adjoining County, sometimes ordered to other places as danger seemed to threaten the whole County being then in a state of Alarm, and the enemy traversing and burning it in every direction and we making desperate exertion to stop them. I was at the siege of York Town and was dismissed after that event. I cannot recollect the precise time of my service, but by occurrence to facts and the Best of my recollection, I served more than two years. Richard H Lee was the Colonel of Westmoreland County at that time. my commission I returned sometime after the war to Col. H Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] who succeeded Richard H Lee. I have no documentary evidence, and time has either dispersed or killed all who served under me. all of my men have either died or moved to places unknown to me. I have a Letter of invitation from the citizens of the City of Richmond requesting me to meet General Lafayette, on which I am addressed Captain and styled his Brother in armes, as will so appear by inspection of the Letter. I have also a letter from the Citizen of Fauquier County of Invitation to meet General Lafayette on which I am addressed Captain as will appear by inspection of the letter.

Questions by the Court where and in what year were you born?

A In the County of Westmoreland, State of Virginia in the Year 1755.

Q Have you any record of your age?

Ans I have none.

Q Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Ans I was living in the Town of Falmouth when first called into service, from thence I moved to Westmoreland County And some time after the war was over, moved to the town of Fredericksburg and from thence to Fauquier County where I now live

Q Did you ever receive a Commission. by whom was it signed & What has become of it?

A I received a Commission, it was signed by the Governor of Virginia I returned it to Col. Hen. Lee of Westmoreland, I am unable to say what has become of it.

I hereby relinquish every claim what ever to pension or annuity except the present and declare my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

William Payne

[Certified by George Monroe, pension application S46060.]

NOTE: Documents state that the widow of William Payne received the final pension payment up to his death on 19 Sep 1837, and in 1851 a son, Arthur M. Payne, was living in Fauquier County.