

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Lucas W12163

Mary Lucas

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 Sep 2014.

State of Alabama S.S.

On this 29th day of August 1837 Personally appeared before Binajah Bibb judge of the County Court of the County of Montgomery & State aforesaid Mary Lucas a resident of the County of Montgomery and State aforesaid, aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 4th 1836: That she is the widow of James Lucas who at the time of her marriage, was a Major in the Virginia Continental line, in Gen'l. Charles Scott's Brigade. That her deceased husband entered the service at the commencement of the Revolutionary struggle, at what precise time she is unable to state, but, that in June 1776 he was appointed an officer in said Scotts Brigade; that he continued in service in said Brigade until some time in the fall of the year 1779 as will more fully appear by the Documentary evidence hereunto annexed; In the fall of 1779 while Gen'l. Scotts Brigade lay at Petersburg Virginia, he resigned his commission in the Virginia Continental line; and immediately repaired to Williamsburg, where he received the appointment of Colonel in the Militia, and was attached to Gen'l. Stephens' [sic: Edward Stevens] Brigade destined for the Southern army; In obedience to orders, he entered forthwith upon the duty of recruiting to fill up his Regiment, and from the time he received his Commission as Colonel he never left the army except on furlough, until the final termination of the contest, always holding himself ready at the command of his superiors to perform any service required of him-. He entered the service as a volunteer & not for a single campaign but during the War. His residence during the whole time, was in the County of Brunswick & State of Virginia.

This deponent further states, that during the period he served under Gen'l. Scott, he was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777], and Monmouth Court House [28 Jun 1778], and in various skirmishes incident to the several campaigns, that he was encamped with the army at Valley Forge, and remained with it until the fall of 1779.

In the Southern army while under Gen'l. Stephens he passed through North Carolina, and South Carolina as far as Camden, was in the Battle at which [Gen. Horatio] Gates was defeated [16 Aug 1780]; and shortly after escorted some prisoners to Halifax Court House in Virginia- He then enlisted an additional number of recruits, accompanied the army on its return to North Carolina, and was at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781]; from this time until the Siege of York Town, this deponent does not recollect his being in any other engagement; - The Regiment he commanded was at the capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], but he, disabled by disease, tho' in hearing of the cannon, was deprived of the privilege of sharing in the danger and triumphs of that glorious day. So soon as he recovered he reported himself to his General, and remained subject to orders until 1783 when the army was disbanded.

This deponent further states, that she is unapprized of the Statement of Services rendered subsequent to the fall of the year 1779, but supposes there is, if she knew where to find it; but avers upon her oath, that her deceased husband, had in his possession, until within a few weeks prior to his death, his Commission as Colonel, preserved in the same envelope, in which he carried it while in Service; that in her presence, he delivered it with other revolutionary papers into the hands of his eldest son Robert Lucas for safe keeping, that his said son is long since dead, and that the Commission together with the other papers are lost or mislaid so that they cannot be found.

This deponent further states, that from the great lapse of time, and the death of most of the persons who could have been able to testify to these facts, that it may be difficult to produce direct testimony for their establishment, but the best evidence of which the case admits, is hereunto annexed, and which it is believed, is all which the Law contemplated.

This deponent further declares that she was married to James Lucas on the 29th day of March

1779, in the County of Surry State of Virginia, and that her husband aforesaid died on the 8th day of December 1814. And that she has remained a Widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

That he left no child under sixteen years of age; his eldest at the time of his death, a son aged Thirty five years and his youngest a daughter nineteen years of age – he left seven children.

This deponent further states, that the disease which deprived her of her husband, was what is termed dry mortification; commencing at the Toes it gradually extended itself to the body, with this disease he suffered long and severely, and was supposed to have been indebted as its remote cause to a partial freezing, to which his extremities were subjected while encamped at Valley Forge. All which will more fully appear by the testimony of his attending Physician hereto annexed.

In the conclusion of this declaration, this deponent begs leave to add, that from the great lapse of time since the events here alluded to have transpired, it is probable that many incidental circumstances have not been recollected which would go to elucidate the subject, but so far as her recollection serves, and to the best of her knowledge & belief, the truth has been fairly stated. One thing is certain, that the little patrimonial estate of her deceased husband, was, in consequence of the neglect incident to a seven years absence almost entirely lost; and that she herself labored night and day with her own hands to sustain her husband in the dignity of his rank, thru indirectly aiding by her patriotic devotion the cause of Independence an object nearest her Heart, an object which her husband pursued with a zeal seldom equalled and never surpassed. That at the age of nearly four score, she can expect but little personal benefit from the bounty of the Government, but the duty she owes to her children renders the application imperative.

[signed] Mary Lucas

Council Chamber 20 Feb 1784

I do certify that James Lucas is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed Major of the Continental Line who has served three years
Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Meriwether

Warrant No 2553 for 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$ acres of Land was issued by Virginia to James Lucas 25 Feb 1784
a Copy from the Records of the Land office of Virginia: as witness my hand & seal of office hereto affixed at Richmond, Virginia, this 2^d day Aug't. 1837

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

To the best of my knowledge and from all the information I can obtain Major Lucas was appointed an officer in June 1776 & resigned his commission in the Virginia continental line some time in the fall of 1779, while the General Scott's Brigade lay at Petersburg.

Feb'y 19 1784

William Davies

Sir Having empowered Mr. John Jones Jr to apply for our Land warrants for Military services you will be so kind as deliver them to him which will greatly oblige your most Obedie & very Humble ste
T. Meriwether

James Lucas Maj'r 3^d V. Reg.

Nath'l. Lucas Capt 4th V. Reg. [Nathaniel Lucas W442]

NOTES:

With the file is a copy of a bond by James Lucas and John Lucas signed in Surry County VA on 24 March 1779 for the marriage of John Lucas to Mary Lucas. On 29 Aug 1837 Henry Lucas, brother of Mary Lucas, stated that he had repeatedly heard James Lucas speak of his services. On 5 Sep 1837 John Stith [BLWt2064-300] of Warren County GA stated that "Colo Lucas intermarried with Miss Mary Lucas, daughter of Capt John Lucas (the present widow) And although this deponent was at their Infare or complementary dinner given on on that occasion, his memory can give no date to that event. But this deponent recollects that when last at Colo Lucases in 1785 that they had several children, perhaps three,

one of which was a Boy called Robert about Five years old or perhaps more.”

On 5 March 1847 John A. B. Clemmons and Charles S Lucas stated that Mary Lucas died at Mount Meigs on 21 Sep 1846 in her 86th year. There is also a document dated 1 April 1848 stating that Mary Lucas had died, that she had lived in Montgomery County AL for 12 years before her death, and before then in Georgia.