

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Bryant W3503

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina }

Surry County } Nov'r. Sessions 1832.

On this 17th day of Nov'r. 1832 personally appeared before the Court of pleas and quarter sessions of the County of Surry and State aforesaid Thomas Bryant a resident of the said County of Surry and State of North Carolina aged about seventy-four years, who being duly Sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the Service, as a Soldier, of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, Viz. That when about 18 years of age he entered as a Volunteer, a six months service under Captain James Cobb, and marched to Norfolk, remained there about 3 months, then marched to Williamsburg and was there discharged, which discharge has been lost or mislaid. That he afterwards entered a three years service as a substitute, under Captain Edward Moody belonging to the Second train of Artillery of Virginia Commanded by Colonel Thomas Matthews, at Portsmouth [sic: Portsmouth] Virginia to which place he was marched by his Captain, where he remained at Fort Nelson and Portsmouth upwards of Two years, and then enlisted in the Continental Service during the war. Then marched under Captain Christopher Roan, under whom he enlisted, towards the South to join Blufords Army [sic: Col. Abraham Buford's Detachment, massacred 29 May 1780]. That he resided in the County of Halifax State of Virginia when he entered his six months service. that he also resided in the said County of Halifax, Virginia when he entered the three years service. That he was born according to the family Registry in the year 1758. August the 20th as well as recollected. that he had a record of the same but that it is now lost. That he has ever since the revolutionary war resided in the State of North Carolina in Surry County with the exception of about 7 years in the State of Virginia. And that he at the present time resides in the State of North Carolina, and Surry County. That he cannot at this time state the name of the man he substituted himself in the place of, but recollects he lived in Halifax County, State of Virginia. That he was present when Colonel Gutridge a British officer took Fort Nelson, and was also present when the said Fort was retaken. that while he was in the regular service he was present at Gen'l. Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden SC where Gen. Horatio Gates was defeated and Baron De Kalb mortally wounded, 16 Aug 1780] and during his enlistment during the War recollects General DeCalb very well, and that he was the he Commander untill Gates took Command [25 Jul 1780].

He relinquishes hereby every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State.

[signed] Thomas Bryant

State of North Carolina }

Surry County } May Sessions 1833.

On this 16th day of May AD 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of our County Court the same being a court of Record Thomas Bryant who being duly Sworn in open Court doth on his oath make the following affidavit by way of amendment to his the preceding declaration. To Wit. That he, in the Summer of 1776 entered the service as a Volunteer under Captain James Cobb, and marched under his command, and with another company commanded by Captain Rodgers to Norfolk, and there remained about three months and was thence Marched as stated before, to Williamsburg, and discharged, having been out on a tour of not less than three months. That in or about February 1778 he commenced his service under Captain Edward Moody as a substitute for an individual whose name he cannot still recollect, Colonel Thomas Matthews, and Gen'l. [Thomas] Marshall he believes. that he then belonged to the Virginia State Troops and believes his name can be found on the Virginia Rolls. That he continued in this service untill he enlisted in the Continental Establishment which was about 1780 and was marched through the State of North Carolina to Camden in South Carolina under the aforesaid

Captain Roan, and Colo. Matthews - but that they waited on Deep River in N. C. until joined by Gen'l. Gates [19 Jul]. that he was taken Prisoner by the British, and was wounded with the sword on the upper part of his left ear, the mark of which he still carries. that shortly after being taken prisoner, he made his escape and went to his fathers who then lived in Randolph N.C. that after this he served a short tour under Colo. John Collin after one Colo [David] Fanning a Tory, and his men for which he received a certificate which he has lately found and hereby transmits. that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served in all as a private not less than Two years. that he has no documentary evidence of his service further than he transmits. that he knows of no person now living who can from personal knowledge testify to his services, except his Sister, Sarah Lawson, who was then young, but recollects of his being out on Service. that there lives near him no minister of the Gospel whom he can conveniently procure to testify to his credibility and his belief as to his revolutionary services.

Thomas hisXmark Bryant

Whereup the following interrogatories were put by the court and answered by the applicant aforesaid as follows. To Wit.

1st Q. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Va. Halifax Co'y AD 1758.

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

Ans. It was recorded by my Father in his Bible, of which I took a copy but have lost it.

3rd Q. Where were you living when called into service Where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Ans. Called into service from Halifax Va. Moved to N.C. Randolph Co'y. during the war and have since lived in N.C. the aforesaid seven years excepted, having moved into Surry Co'y shortly after the war

4th Q. How were you called into service, were you draughted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?

Ans. Once a volunteer, once a substitute but the name for whom forgotten.

5th State the name of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served. Such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services?

Ans. for Answer I refer to the body of my declaration.

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

Ans. Received a discharge from Captain Cobb but has lost it.

7th State the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to his Character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier in the Revolution to be Matthew M. Hughes Solomon Graves, Francis K Armstrong, Tho. B. Wright William Zachary.

State of North Carolina }

Surry County }

Personally appeared before me William G. Haynes one of the acting Justices of the said County Sarah Lawson who being duly sworn, deposeth and sayeth that she, though young at the time well recollects that her Brothers Thomas and John Bryant, were both soldiers in the Revolutionary War. recollects that at one time they came home and told their parents they had entered during the War and it occasioned them to grieve very much on the account of doing so. recollects their Father going with them some distance when they went again into to the Service. They all at the time lived with their Father & Mother in Halifax County Virginia. recollects when her brother Thomas Bryant the applicant came home from Gates' defeat, her brother John never returned and she has never seen him since that time. it was apparent[?] and believed by the family he was killed. that her Father at this time lived in Randolph County N. C. having removed from Halifax Va. She well recollects his term of service after the battle of Guilford under Captains Joseph Clark and Alexander Smith who were under as she understood, Colo. Collier. These officers names she was quite familiar with for they lived in the settlement of her father in Randolph County N.C.

Sarah herXmark Lawson

Sworn to and subscribed before me May 16th 1833

State of No. Carolina }
Randolph County }

We Do Certifie That Thomas Bryan Served in the Light Horse Servise in the County
aforesaid in the year 1780. And Conducted Himselfe As a Friend to his Country
Given Under our hands this 25th Day of November 1792.

Tho. Collier Colo.

NOTE: On 16 July 1853 Ruth Bryant, 73, applied for a pension stating that as Ruth Dunagan she married Thomas Bryant "on the fourth Sunday" of March 1815, that he died 18 Feb 1839, and they had the following four children: Thomas Bryant, 37; Sarah Bryant, 35; John Bryant, 33; Mary Bryant, 30. On 31 Mar 1855 Ruth Bryant applied for bounty land. On 23 Apr 1868 Thomas Bryant, 51; John Bryant, 48; William Donnely, 53, and wife Sarah, 50; and Joel Harrison, 59, and wife Mary, 45, applied for the pension of their mother from the time when it was suspended during the Civil War until her death in Surry County on 2 June 1861. They stated that she had lived for the last 70 years of her life in Surry County, and before that in Grayson County VA.