

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Bryan W3759

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Virginia, Campbell County SS

In open Court, held in and for said County on this 10 day of June 1844, before me Rich'd. Harvey a Justice for the peace in and for said county – personally appeared Mrs. Catharine Bryan, a resident of said County, Aged 77 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 7, 1838 entitled “an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:.” That she is the widow of John Bryan dec'd. of said county who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and served at least three tours as such if not more. That she has always understood from her dec'd. husband and others that the said Jno Bryant her dec'd. husband served a tour out at the lead mines [near Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County VA] against the Indians in the early, or middle of the Revo'y. War of at least 6 months duration under Col. Christie [William Christian] – the captains name she does not recollect. That he also served a tour of 3 months duration under Cap. Thos. Dixon [Thomas Dixon] at the Battle of Guilford in N. Carolina in March 1781 [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] at which battle Cap. Dixon got his horse shot from under him, and Jno. Bryan aforesaid had a ball shot through his hunting shirt &c. and that her dec'd husband the said Jno. Bryan was also at Jamestown and York in the lower part of the state in the Summer and Fall of 1781 it being the Fall of the year after the Battle of Guilford: and that her husband was present at the capture of Lord Cornwallis, which was in Oct'r. [19th] 1781 – that Thos. Dixon was his Captain, also in this last said occasion. Indeed while belonging to Dixon's Company – which were minute men at home – he was subject to be called out every minute and did perform extra service as such – on one occasion particularly against the Tories in said county. That said Bryant performed not less than 3 months service at Jas. and Yorktown Va in and during said tour. She unstood further that her dec'd. husband was also at the Battle of Brandy Wine to the north [sic: Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] with his Brother Andrew Bryan as a Regular Soldier: And that he must have served from one to two years in and during the Revo'y. war. She further declares, that she was married to the said John Bryan in said county on the 2nd day of September 1788 and that the aforesaid Jno. Bryan her dec'd. husband died in said County on the [blank] day of September 1825. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st day of Jan'y. 1794 Viz. at the time above stated – as will more fully appear by the proof annexed. And that her maiden was Evans – and that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her husband as aforesaid to the present time.

Catharine herXmark Bryan

NOTES:

On 14 May 1844 Peter Webber, 75, stated that he remembered when John Bryan was called into service and of hearing it said that at Yorktown “Bryan was very much alarmed at the bullets flying so thick, and close around him – and that one went through his clothes.” On 3 July 1844 William Akers, 59, stated that he had heard Bryan say that at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse he “got a hole shot through his hunting shirt, and fretted his skin,” and that Capt. Dixon “had his horse shot from under him – being a lame man, had to ride.” Richard Daniel [pension application S8293] made a similar statement on 5 Oct 1843, having also been in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, but under Capt. William Jones. On 15 Apr 1845 Blackdon Finch stated that he had heard John Bryan say that he was under Capt. William Leftwich on the tour to the lead mines.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed by John Bryan and Samuel Davidson on 1 Sep 1788 for

the marriage of Bryan to Catharine Evans, both of Campbell County, as well as consent of her father, Reese Evans, which was witnessed by Daniel Evans and Jane Evans. On 11 Oct 1848 Catharine Bryan was said to be 82 years old.