

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Camp W3938 Martha Camp VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 28 Mar 2015.

Virginia Southampton County to wit

On this 15th day of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighteen personally appeared in open Court Thomas Camp aged sixty one years resident in the County of Southampton aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war. That he the said Thomas Camp enlisted sometime in the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven in Gloucester County in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Capt Philip Taliaferro [sic: Philip Taliaferro] of the second Virginia Regiment That he continued to serve in that Regiment under Captn Miner [sic: Thomas Minor], Machen Boswell and Nathaniel Welch untill the expiration of three years, when he was discharged from service in the City of Williamsburg in the state of Virginia. That he was in the battles of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] and the taking of Stony Point [16 Jul 1779], and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services, except such as the annexed affidavits. Sworn to and declared in open Court the day and year aforesaid. Miner Boswell

[The act of 1818 allowed pensions only for service in the Continental Army.]

State of Virginia & County of Southampton/ Towit

On this 1st day of April AD 1819 personally appeared before me Richard E Parker one of the Judges of the General Court of Virg'a & Judge of the Judicial circuit in which the said County is included Thomas Camp aged sixty two years & a resident of the County & State aforesaid & being first duly sworn, in addition to the Declaration by him heretofore made towit in open Court in the Court for the County of Southampton on the 15th day of June AD 1818 which Declaration is hereto annexed in order to obtain the provision of the act of Congress recited in the said annexed Declaration on his oath doth make the following Declaration towit that he the s'd. Thomas Camp enlisted as a private Soldier at the period stated in his former Declaration in the County & State there set out – in the Company commanded by Capt. Philip Taliaferro of the second Virg'a. Regiment, commanded by Col. Wm. Brent [William Brent]. that when the s'd. Thomas Camp first enlisted he enlisted in the state service that shortly after his enlistment [late in 1777] he was transferred with Colo Brent's Regiment to Brigadier Gen'l. Mughlenburg's [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's] Brigade Virginia line on continental establishment & marched to the North where he remained in service for two years & was at the Battles set out in his annexed Declaration. That no pension has ever been allowed to him either by the Untied States of the State of Virginia. That he is in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support. Given under my hand the day & year af's.

Southampton County, Octr 25th 1819

Dear Sir,/ I rec'd your letter of the 6th (Inst) giving me the information that my name was stricken from the pay Roll of Pensioners upon the grounds that the regiment to which I belonged was not in the Continental service. It is perhaps necessary to give you particular information upon the subject.

It is true, that I at first inlisted in the state service in which I served one year (altho' I enlisted for three) – at which time, a petition was rec'd. by the Governor of Virginia with a request that the Regiments raised for the state; might if they would consent by transfered to the continental service, that upon the receipt of this communication, Col. Brent to whose regiment I belonged, immediately consulted the Regiment which consented almost unamously (only one dissenting, who was immediately discharged)

to the transfer. We were transferred and immediately order to the north, as continental troops, in which capacity I continued to serve two years, at which time I was discharged. It was not only Col. Brent's Regiment that was thus transferred, but also Col. Gibson Regiment of Infantry [Col. George Gibson, 1st Regiment, Virginia State Line] and Col. [Charles] Harrison's Regiment of Artillery, all three of which were transferred and marched to the north the same time, and joined the main army under Genl. Washington at the Valley Forge. I was the two years in the Continental service, attached to Genl. Muhlenburg's Brigade. A reference to my declaration in your possession will give farther information touching the services rendered.

Thus Sir, I have attempted to give you a true and correct statement of my claim for Revolutionary services, but I can farther state, that I am old, infirm and in very indigent circumstances, and as the law passed by Congress for the relief of those who fought & bled in defence of the invaded Rights of our Country, appeared to embrace my Case, I thought & still think that if any one has a claim on the bounty of my Country, I have.

I hope & trust that a farther examination of my case may be made, before I am to lose that provision made by my country for her surviving soldiers who had struggled for the liberty we now enjoy, and which had so completely [two undeciphered words], with the prospect of a sufficiency for life to support me – You will confer an obligation to examine farther into my Case and inform me by mail immediately.

I am Sir, Yrs. Respectfully/ Thomas Camp

State of North Carolina }
Halifax County } SS. On this 30th day of May (1845) one thousand eight hundred and forty five, personally appeared before me J. Young an acting justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Martha Camp, resident of said County and State, aged seventy three 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 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" And the act granting one year's pay to certain widows, passed on the 3rd day of March 1843; Also the act of Congress passed on the 17th June 1844 Continuing the pensions of certain widows; And the joint resolution passed by Congress on the 23rd of January 1845:"

That she is the widow of Thomas Camp, who was a soldier of Infantry in the Virginia State line, in the War of the Revolution; who entered or enlisted, in the service of the United States in the said War of the Revolution, some time in the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, (as [undeciphered word] to hear her husband, the aforesaid Thos. Camp say) for a term of three years; and that he served out the same, under Colo. Stewart, Lieut. Cavil, and she believes Capt Boswell, as well as she can recolect to have heard him say; that he was transfered from the State Service to the Continental line before his said term of three years expired by his own consent. She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Camp some time in the month of January seventeen hundred and eighty nine, in the County of Southampton and State of Virginia, That her husband, the aforesaid Thomas Camp, died some time in the month of October (1825) one thousand eight hundred and twenty five; That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety-four, Viz: at the time above stated. Martha herXmark Camp

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Southampton County]

To the Honorable the speaker and Members of the House of Delegates of Virginia
Your Petitioner Thomas Camp of the County of Southampton Humbly sheweth That he enlisted in the service in the state of Virginia in the year 1777 for a term of three years, that he was attached to the 2nd Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. Brent which regiment was attached to Genl Muhlenburgs Brigade – our Petitioner farther represents that he served the time for which he originally enlisted and faithfully discharged his duty as a soldier – That he was intitled for his services as aforesaid to the sum of £59.11.7 which will more fully appear by a reference to a certificate signed Jno. Burfoot auditor dated 3rd

March 1819 which is hereto annexed as a part of this Petition. It also appears by the said Certificate that a certificate issued on 24th day of February 1785 in the name of your Petitioner which was delivered to Capt Boswell.

Your Petitioner here begs leave to state that the certificate issued to Capt Boswell in his name never was authorised by him, and he further solemnly swears that he never authorised the said Boswell or any other person to draw such a certificate That he has never rec'd one single cent of the £59.11.7 which was allowed him by his Government and that he was not apprised that such a certificate had issued until 3rd March 1819 as before stated by the Auditor.

Your Petitioner farther states, that the reason he did not make application for his certificate at the time of the Passage of the aforesaid act of 1785 was in consequence of their being worth only from 2/6 to 4/ in the Bank. That he has delayed the application still longer, thinking the balance be enabled to him without it and that it might benefit his children after him.

Your Petitioner farther states that he was never commanded by Boswell in the Capacity of a Capt. but as an Ensign or Lieutenant.

Your Petitioner farther states, that he has never rec'd. any Land or certificate therefor from his County for the aforesaid services.

Your Petitioner would here ask the legislature whether, the auditor of Public accounts, had a right without direction from to issue my certificate and deliver it Capt. Boswell or any other Person? Whether the act of the Auditor without such authority is to prevent my receiving that compensation which the liberality of my Country intended? If so what an easy matter for the officers to have defrauded the Soldier of this compensation.

Your Petitioner Humbly solicits the legislature to pass a Law authorizing the auditor to issue a warrant for the sum of £59.11.7 with interest if they should think it just as he is at this time old, infirm and extremely poor and indigent, and requires (if any one of the revolutionary soldiers does) the aid and assistance of his Country, which he cannot receive from the General Government in consequence of his being in the state service. which by the present is nothing more than application for Justice from the state of Virginia to one of her old revolutionary soldiers, who fought & bled for the Liberty, he flatters himself that the prayer of his petition will be attended to that Justice will done and that the honorable legislature will by law direct the payment of the said sum of £59.11.7 with interest to be paid to your Petitioner, or to grant such other relief as may be thought just & equitable & your Petitioner as in duty will ever pray &c.

I Certify it appears from a list of such of the names of the soldiers of the Virginia State line, as received Certificates for the balance of their full pay agreeably to the act of assembly passed the November session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 24 day of February 1785 in the name of Thomas Camp a private in the Infantry for the sume of £57.11.7 and delivered to Capt Boswell.

Jno. Burfoot[?] aud[ito]r
Aud'rs off. 3 Mar. 1819

Dec'r 17th 1819 ref'd to Claims/ Rejected Jan'y 6th/ Reported Jan'y 10th

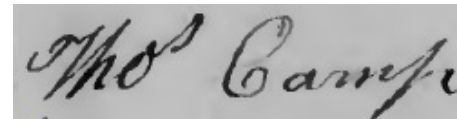
To the Honorable the Speaker and members of the house of delegates of Virginia

Your Petitioner Thomas Camp Humbly represents: That at an early period of the Revolutionary War your Petitioner inlisted in the service of the state of Virginia for the term of three years in the county of Gloucester, under Capt. Taliaferro, in the Second Regiment Commanded by Colo. Brent. That after having been twelve months in the service of the state he was transfered to the Continental line, where he reenlisted two years and was then discharged at Fredericksburg Virginia in the year 1779 in a company at that time Commanded by Capt. Welsh. your Petitioner farther represents, that under the provisions of the Act of Congress passed the 18th of March 1818 entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval Service of the United States, in the Revolutionary War, he made application to the

Secretary of war agreeable to the provisions of the said Act, and obtained a certificate, which is hereunto annexed as a part of this petition. Your Petitioner begs leave farther to state that immediately after the receipt of the certificate aforesaid, from his extremely poor and indigent situation he applied to a friend who advanced to him the sum of One hundred and sixteen dollars which was at that time payable in Richmond at the Branch Bank of the United States, that immediately after the receipt of the aforesaid sum your Petitioner applied it to the payment of his debts and to the purchase of some few necessaries for the comfort of his declining years – Your Petitioner farther states that to his extreme mortification & disappointment when application was made for the payment at the Bank aforesaid, the same was stopt, upon the grounds that his name did not appear upon the list of Continental troops, but was only return'd as a souldier in the service of the state of Virginia. Your Petitioner farther states, that he has never received any Compensation either from the state or United States for the services aforesaid altho he was at the hard fought battle of Monmouth & at the storming of the fort of Stony Point Your Petitioner begs leave to state, that he is now sixty four years of age, infirm, has an aged wife and five infant children, who are dependent on his exertions for support. that in a great measure his infirmity may be attributed to the services rendered in that Glorious contest which achieved our National Independence

Your Petitioner begs leave to state, that he still is indebted the one hundred & sixteen dollars which was rec'd upon the credit of the United States, and is unable to return it, without the intire sacrifice of his little property, without which it is impossible for him to subsist he therefore prays your Honorable body, to pass an act authorising the payment of the one hundred & sixteen dollars aforesaid & to make him such other and further allowance as you Honorable body may think proper & your petitioner as in duty will ever pray

[Sworn to 27 Nov 1820]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tho Camp". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

We the Undersigned, do hereby certify that Thomas Camp has always supported an honest reputable character, and that we have reason to believe the representation contained in the annexed petition are true. We do farther certify that the said petitioner is at this time in possession of about twenty five acres of land with a stock of cattle and Hogs (barely sufficient to meet the necessities of his family) and a horse worth about twenty five dollars. [Followed by 12 signatures.]

Dec'r 21st 1820/ Dec'r 30th ref'd to Claims/ rejected Jany 6th / reported

NOTES:

The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 12 Jan 1789 by Thomas Camp and John Atkinson for the marriage of Camp to Martha Westray.

On 14 Aug 1845 at age 73, Martha Camp amended her declaration by stating, apparently in error, that "it is more than probable" that Thomas Camp served in the militia rather than in the Virginia Line, and that he either served or was enlisted under Lt. Cavil. Humphrey S. Camp, 54, made a supporting statement.

On 9 March 1848 Humphrey Camp, 56, of Halifax County NC, corrected his mother's amended statement, saying that he had heard his father say he had never served in the militia, but that when Cornwallis was in Virginia in 1781 "he volunteered his services, and stood guard a few days." Humphrey Camp also stated that he had heard his father say that at the Battle of Monmouth he was in "a detached Regiment of five hundred men... commanded by Col. Stewart in said Battle." He also stated that his father "was so much attached to Lieutenant Cavil, under whom he served, that he named his youngest son after him." I could find no record of a Lieutenant Cavil or Cavil.