

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Aaron Powell W5566                      Susannah Powell                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 2 Nov 2014.

State of Virginia Bedford County Sct.

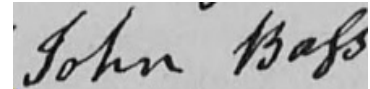
On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court the same being a Court of record Aaron Powell a resident of the said County of Bedford and State of Virginia aged 78 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That in the month of August in the year 1777 he enlisted for three years in the service of the State of Virginia with Captain Patrick Wright and served in the Regiment of Artillery commanded by Colo Thomas Marshall during the said term of three years George Muter was the Lieutenant Col. commanding in said Regiment Thomas Matthews Major Thomas Clay and Christopher Roane were the Lieutenants of his company. He was honourably discharged at Richmond in the month of August in the year 1780 his discharge is now a file in auditors office in the State of Virginia where he was required to deposit it when he received his pay and a warrant for land to which he was entitled from the State of Virginia for his services. At the time he entered the service he resided in the County of Chesterfield in the State of Virginia. He was engaged in a skirmish with the brittish when stationed a short distance Portsmouth at the time when the British shipping were endeavouring to get up to Norfolk – Shortly after his enlistment he was marched from Chesterfield the County in which he enlisted to Williamsburg at which place he joined the regiment. From thence he was marched to Hampton at which place and at Portsmouth he was generally stationed until the spring of the year 1780 at which time he with two or three hundred of his regiment were ordered to march to Charleston in the State of South Carolina under the Command of Colo. [Charles] Porterfield at the time they were ordered to Charleston Capt. Wright resigned his commission and the command of the company in which he was attached devolved upon Thomas Clay. They marched beyond Salisbury in the state of North Carolina where understanding that Charleston was taken [on 12 May 1780] and that Colo. [Abraham] Buford was defeated [at Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] the commanding officer determined not to proceed further, but remained in North Carolina until the arrival of Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates whose army they joined at Hillsborough [NC] In a few days he with 30 or 40 others of his detachment were ordered back to Hillsborough to guard some cannon and baggage waggons which were sent back to that place. From Hillsborough he was marched back to Richmond under the command of Capt. William Spiller and was there discharged as before mentioned. A very short time after he entered the service probably not more than a month – He was appointed a Sergeant in his company and continued to act in that capacity during the whole term of service and was discharged as such — I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.                      Aaron hisXmark Powell

[On 19 Feb 1839 Susannah Powell, 78, applied for a pension stating that she married Aaron Powell in March of 1779 or 1780, and he died 30 May 1835.]

State of Virginia                      Chesterfield County S.S.

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1842, before me William Goode Sn'r a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Mr. Jno. Bass [John Bass, pension application S6592] a respectable resident of said County, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say – That he is 80 years old – that in January or Febuary 1781, he was called in to service in the malitia of said County under Col. Rob't Goode [Robert Goode] – was marched to and fro – was at Rich'd and Petersburg – never staying long at a place – partly to keep out of the way and knowledge of the British Light horse – who formed part of Arnolds [Gen. Benedict Arnold's] forces then at Petersburg Va. That in Feb'y. or March [sic] 1781, while the Regt to which dep. belonged, was encamped at a place called Sudsbury's [sic:

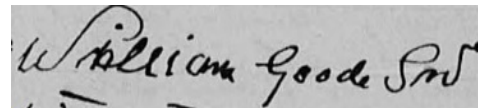
Sudbury's] about 3 miles from Chesterfield Ct. House, they were attacked and put to rout by Tarltons Light-horse [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, 23 May 1781], and deponent himself taken prisoner, together with a man of slender stature, by the name of Aaron Powell, who lived in the North part of said County, near the coal pitts – called Heaths [possibly same as Midlothian Coal Pits]: that dep. and said Aaron Powell and the balance, who were taken prisoners, were carried to Portsmouth, and there detained as prisoners 5 or 6 months; and discharged in July or August – the said Aaron Powell being prisoner with dep. the whole of said time. That the said Powell must have moved out of said county shortly afterwards – as dep. has not heard of him since. dep took small Pox while a prisoner as aforesaid and had not entirely got well of it, when Cornwallis was captured at yorktown Va. in Oct. [19] 1781.



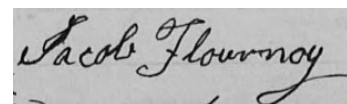
State of Virginia            Chesterfield County to witt,  
I William Goode Sn'r [pension application S8581] a Justice of the peace in and for said County, do hereby certify Mr. Jno. Bass who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing Afft. before me, was at a place called Sudsbury's 3 miles from Chesterfield Ct. House in company with myself, under Col Rob't. Goode, in Feb'y or March 1781, in the service of our country – when we were attacked and put to rout by Taltons Light horse; who came up from Petersburg. Deponant recollects distinctly, of seing a man of slender stature, at Sudsburys on said occasion in the service – by the name of Aaaron Powell who lived in the North part of said County at the time; and that he was there as a regular drafted soldier and that the said Aaron Powell was taken prisoner, together with said Jno. Bass, and carried to Portsmouth, and there detained as a prisoner several months – and was discharged in the Summer of the same year of the Capture of Lord Cornwallis at yorktown in October 1781. That dep. can not tell what became of said Powell after he was dischared as a prisoner, as he has not heard from him since – that he must have moved out of the county shortly after and figures "1781" was interlined in Jno. Bass's certificate, and his own before signed by either.

Given under my hand this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1842.

Said Powell lived near the coal pitts now called Heaths



State of Virginia            Chesterfield County to witt.  
On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1842, before me Woodson W. Hancock a Justice of the peace, in and for said county, personally appeared Mr. Jacob Flournoy [S8492] a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say – That he was well acquainted with Aaron Powell, who married Susan Taylor, the daughter of Anthony Taylor of said County, before said Powell and deponant enlisted as regular soldiers in the Artillery – which was for 3 years service. Dep was under Capt Thos. Clay, and he thinks that Powell was under Capt. Wright – but they both belonged to the same Reg't. – Col. thos. Marshalls – afterwards Elias Edmunds. That after the said Aaron Powell had served out his regular enlistment in the Artillery for 3 years he was married to Miss Susan Taylor, daughter of Anthony Taylor's of said county – and not long after he was married say a year or two – he moved up in to Bedford Co. Va. dep. saw Powell in Bedford about 40 years ago. dep. does not know of his own knowledge, that Powell was at Sudsbury's and taken prison prisoner – all that he knows of it is what he heard – and that he heard also that Anthony Taylor was there and taken prisoner also. That the said Aaron Powell was a tall slender made man – being the only man of that name in the said county – and who always lived within a few miles of the coal pitts in north part of the County – now called "Heaths" up to the time said Powell and wife Susan moved up in to Bedford Co which was directly after the close of the Revo'y. war. The Battle at Sudsbury was, dep thinks, in Feb'y or March 1781. Powell was married in Jan'y 1781.



State of Virginia Bedford County to witt

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1842, before me Ben A Donald a Justice of the peace, in and for said County, personally appeared Mr. Joseph Clarke a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 71 years old – that he lived in the neighbourhood of the Coal pitts in the Co. of Chesterfield near Aaron Powels, and Anthony Taylors during the Revo’y. war: and that he recollects distinctly that said Aaron Powell who was a sergeant in the regular service during the Revo’y. war – married Susan Taylor, daughter of Anthony Taylor above named, during and towards the close of the Revo’y. war: and that after the said Powell was married to his present widow Susan Powell; he was again called into service in the Malitia from Chesterfield Co. as he heard the said Powell say – and that he told deponant that he was at a place calld Sudsburys, near Chesterfield Ct. House when the malitia to which he belonged was attacked by Tarltons Light horse and nearly all that was in the house taken prisoners and carried to Pourtsmouth – but that he the said Powell made his escape – come home, and was again cell out in the Malitia into service from Chesterfield. That the said Powell was a slender made, tall man – and that about the close of the Revo’y. war he moved up to Bedford County. Dep. with his Farther moved up to Bedford in Nov. 1785 in the same neighbourhood with said Aaron Powell – who then had two children, or more. That the said Powell Rec’d a pension of \$120 pr An. in his life time as a Sergeant in Revo’y. war. That he died in May 1835 leaving his present widow Susan Powell – and who has remained a unmarried ever since the death of her husband as aforesaid, to the present time: and that she is the Identical Susan Powell, who rec’d. a five years pension, under the law of July 1838 of \$120 pr An from said County: and whose husband Aaron Powell, was in the service after he was married to her in Chesterfield Co. during the Revo’y. War.

[signed] Joseph Clark

State of Virginia Chesterfield County S.S.

I Aaron Cyre of the County of Chesterfield and State of Virginia do hereby solely affirm that I was well acquainted with Aaron Powell of said county during the Revolutionary war – the same man that married Susan Taylor (the daughter of Anthony Taylor of said County) during, and towards the close of the Revo’y. War. I think it was in Jan’y. 1781 – the begining of the year that Lord Cornwallis was taken. The said Aaron Powell enlisted under Jno. Hill [John Hill] of the regular Artillery service, and served 3 years and after his 3 years was out as a regular, was married to Susan Taylor as above – and that in a few weeks after he was married he was called into service in the malitia from Chesterfield County, in Company with Anthony Taylor his Father in law and others to meet the British then at Petersburg – that while they were stationed at a place called Sudsbury’s they were attacked by Tarltons Light horse (who was shewn the encampment by a Tory!) and nearly all taken prisoners. Aaron Powell made his escape, and returned home but Taylor was carried prisoner to Portsmouth, and died there. Powell was in the service again after he made his escape from Sudsbury’s. Powell was a tall slender made man and lived in the North part of the County near the coal pitts – the only man of that name in the county or elsewhere, that I knew of moved up into Bedford and died about 7 years ago. I am 76 years old.

Given under my hand and seal this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1842. Aaron hisXmark Cyre

State of Virginia Buckingham County S.S.

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 1843, before me Wm Branch a Justice of the peace in and for said county – personally appeared Mr. John West a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say – That he is 75 years old. That in addition to his former Affidavit in this case [see endnote], he will say – that he was well acquainted with Aaron Powell (who married Susan Taylor) before he West was grown – and that he recollects discantly that he Powell enlisted in the regular Artillery Service for 3 years – and that after his tour of service as a regular soldier was out, he married Susan Taylor, daughter of Anthony Taylor (a close neighbour to Powell in January 1781 – she Susan Taylor was deponants step sister – said Taylor having married his deps. mother – dep. was living with his step Father Anthony Taylor, at the time that said Powell married his step sister Susan Taylor as aforesaid in Jan’y 1781 – and also at the time that he the said Aaron Powell was called into service with the rest of

the Chesterfield Malitia from the north part of the County – the said Powell was then living some 3 or 4 miles from Anthony Taylor, his Father in law. Taylor was also called in to service at the same time; deponent thinks it was some 3 or 4 weeks after Powell was married to Susan Taylor as aforesaid – that he went into service as a malitia man to meet the British then at Petersburg under Tarlton. that while the malitia to which Aaron Powell, and Anthony Taylor belonged was stationed at a place called Sudsbury, 3. miles from Chesterfield Ct House. they were attacked by Tartltons Light-horse, and nearly all that was in the house were taken prisoners – including said Powell and Taylor; Taylor was carried prisoner to Portsmouth, where he died with the small pox – but Aaron Powell made his escape – and returned home The battle at Sudsbury dep is of opinion took place some time in early part of the spring of the year 1781 – it being the spring after said Powell was married to his present widow Susan Powell, now of Bedford County, (and whose maiden name was Taylor) and also the spring before the capture of Lord Cornwallis – which was in the month of October 1781 – dep did not see his sister (step) married to Powell – but he recollects that they went to Parson Benjamin Blagroves (of the church of England) to gett married – and that they were married – he always understood – and of which fact he dep has no doubt on his mind – and that it was in Jan’y. 1781 and after which Powell served a malitia of two months or more – and was taken prisoner as above stated. And further the said Powell moved up to Bedford at the close of the war, and died in said county in or about the year 1835 leaving his present widow Susan – who dep. understands is still alive. witness – Powell was a tall slender made man, the only man he ever knew of that name.

John hisXmark West

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

Aron Powell a Sergent in Colo. Marshalls Regiment of Artillery having faithfully serv’d three years the term of his Inlistment is hereby discharged from the said Redgment given under my hand this 22 day of August 1780

by Order Lt Colo [Elias] Edmunds

John Mazaret, Major [illegible abbreviation]

June 10 1783

A Copy/ J Shackelford CBA

#### NOTES:

John West’s first statement dated 18 July 1842 (in which his age is given as 76) is less detailed regarding the service of Aaron Powell and Anthony Taylor and is therefore not transcribed here.

Bartholomew Cyrus (W25467) also made supporting statements similar to those above, adding that Aaron Powell had lived on Tomahawk Creek in Chesterfield County. On 28 May 1842 Mrs. Elizabeth Powell, 80, of Chesterfield County, also certified Susannah Powell’s claim, but she did not state her relationship, if any. On 27 June 1842 William Powell, 45, of Bedford County, also made a statement similar to the above supporting his mother’s claim, saying that he had heard the facts from his father.

The file contains a copy of a bond dated 17 Jan 1781 by Aaron Powell and Anthony Taylor of Chesterfield County for the marriage of Powell to Susanna Taylor.

On 2 Feb 1839 Julius Hatcher, 63, stated that in 1784 or 1785 Aaron and Susannah Powell had at least two children, the oldest of whom was four or five years old.

As Susannah Powell noted on 27 June 1842, Aaron Powell did not mention his militia service in his own pension application, because his more-easily proved service in the Continental army was sufficient for the maximum pension allowed.

On 2 July 1844 Susannah Powell was said to be 82.

Only the most informative of the 109 pages in the file are transcribed here.

A copy of a bond for the marriage of Lewis Powell (pension application W4055) to Susannah Hall is misfiled with the papers of Aaron and Susannah Powell.