

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Bass W5766

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Powhatan County to wit: }

On the fifteenth day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Powhatan County, William Bass, a resident of the said County, aged sixty nine 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, entitled "An act supplementary to the act to provide for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution."

That he entered the service of the United States under th following named officers and served as hereinafter stated viz:

In the year 1779 in or about the month of April, he was drafted and called out in the County of Chesterfield, in Capt. Creed Haskins's company of Militia, [first name blank] Archer being Ensign, marched down to Hood's Fort in the County of Surry in Virginia, and was then put under the command of Richard Hill, a Captain of artillery, and after serving a tour of three months, was discharged there, without having ever been under the command of any field officers.

In the month of February 1781, he was again called out and entered the service at Chesterfield Courthouse in Captain David Patteson's [David Patterson's] company of militia, in Col. Robert Goode's Regiment, started to go in the southern campaign, but on getting as far as Dinwiddie Court House, Capt. Patteson's company was countermanded, returned to Petersburg and was discharged there (after a service of about four weeks) in the month of March.

In the course of a week or two after the last discharge, he was again ordered out, and entered the service at Chesterfield Court House, in the same company and Regiment commanded by the same officers, was employed some time about Bermuda Hundred in the said County, started to go to Petersburg, but met the other troops retreating from there after the battle at that place [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781], turned and marched through the county crossed James River at Tuckahoe marched down to Richmond and joined General Lafayette at Wilton just below Richmond; soon afterward crossed over the River to Chesterfield at Cary's; and shortly afterward in the month of May being stationed at a place called Sudbury's [Sudberry's 3 mi from Chesterfield Court House, 23 May 1781] under Captain's James Scott and Joseph Royall, this declarant with several others of said company was taken a prisoner by a detachment of British Cavalry, and detained a prisoner until some time in the month of September; being six or seven months from the time of the commencement of this tour; when he was discharged at Portsmouth, having been exchanged; having served in all during the Revolution, at least ten months.

That he never served under any Regular officer or with any troops of the Regular Army, except with Gen'l. Lafayette as he has stated.

That he was never in any regular battle, nor any skirmish except that at Sudbury's, and another at Petersburg, when the British troops occupied that Town.

That he was born in the County of Chesterfield and State of Virginia, the 10th day of May 1763 as he has always understood from his parents, but has no record of his age; that he resided in the said County until about eighteen or nineteen years ago when he removed to the County of Powhatan where he has resided ever since. that he never received any written discharge and has no documentary evidence of his service: He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] William Bass

I John Bass [pension application S6592], a resident of the County of Chesterfield and State of Virginia, do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with William Bass who has subscribed sworn to the foregoing declaration; and know that he served all three tours as he states: in the first tour down at Hood's, we started together in Capt. Haskin's company but on our way down, we were separated and did not serve together again that tour: that we were called out together to go on the Southern Campaign in Capt. Patten's company but after a few weeks were countermanded: that we were also together in the spring of 1781 at the time of [Gen. William] Phillips's invasion, and were both taken prisoners at Sudbury's and detained under a guard of Hessians who were employed in the British Army, at Portsmouth, where we were discharged, sometime in the month of September.

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid. [signed] John Bass sen'r.

NOTE: On 2 June 1843 Sarah Bass, 69, of Chesterfield County applied for a pension stating that she married William Bass, Sr. in Oct 1789, and he died 10 May 1839. John Bass certified that he had been present at the marriage of his brother, William Bass, to Sarah Shackleford. Her sister, Nancy Sublet, 67, also certified the marriage.