

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Vincent Vass W6337

Caty Vass

f118VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/29/11 rev'd 3/28/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Tipton County Western district of Tennessee

On this day it being the 3rd day of April 1837 Vincent Vass personally appeared in open court before the court now sitting for said Vass being a resident of Tipton County in the State of Tennessee aged 83 years 2nd day of June next according to his register of the same and being sworn according to law doth upon his oath make the following declaration to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

I was born the 2nd of June in the year of our Lord A.D. 1754 in the County of Essex State of Virginia, but my Father moved to Spotsylvania County said State where I received my Education, a widow woman who lived near me who had a son by the name of Samuel Arnold, he & I got religion and we was baptized by the Reverend John Waller of said County & State. Virginia raised two State regiments the 1st & 2nd Peter Stubblefield Lieutenant in Captain John Kemps Company in the 1st State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson &, Arnold & myself enlisted with him for three years, not to be carried out of the State, our wages was \$5 per month &c the regiments being made up we marched down to Williamsburg & little York, we had not long been there before we had orders to march to the North to join General Washington in the Continental Army, the Regiments refused to go, but after some confusion we were called up again & orders read them that was willing to go was to have a furlough to go by home, their wages to be raised from \$5 to \$8, & a bounty of land to meet at Alexandria on such a day to receive the smallpox &c, on them conditions we agreed, my Officers resigned & did not go, we marched off & joined General Washington's Army at the Valley Forge, & put in General Muhlenberg's Brigade, the British then in Philadelphia, then I turned out on a command with General DeMarcus de Lafayette [Marquis de Lafayette], & had all like to been taken &c, the Enemy then evacuated Philadelphia & General Washington pursued after, General Lee overtook them at Monmouth [June 28, 1778] & had a little battle, General Washington with his Army not far behind marching as fast as he could to overtake them, but General Lee ordered a [indecipherable word or words¹], when the Enemy was retreating, if the division under Lee had made a firm stand it is supposed we should have gained a complete victory, many died owing to the intense heat & the fatigue, I believe this was in the year 1778, we marched then towards the Hudson &c, General Washington ordered Wayne to take as many men out of the Army as he wanted & go attack Stony Point [July 16, 1779], we were drawn up, Major Stewart rode up &

¹ *atetret* retreat ?

down the lines, & said he wanted none men but were best what was willing to face death for their Country he talked very Cleavour [Clever] on the occasion, them that was willing stepped out 3 paces in front, my messmate Samuel Arnold & myself stepped out, we were to take nothing with us but our arms and our canteens, This was on the 15th of July 1779 I think, we joined General Anthony Wayne's men & marched, about sunset we halted at a Creek, we had white bits of Paper to fasten to the Crowns of our hats, no man to speak a word, the forlorn hope to be taken, the watch word given &c, off we went over the mountains, through deep morasses, rocks &c, there was to be no plundering, we surmounted every difficulty and in the Fort we got through blares of Cannon and Small arms, we had not a gun loaded, Colonel Flury [Lt. Col. Francois de Fleury] struck the colors with his hands, I received two wounds, a musket ball Scaled the bone of my hip, a buck shot entered my thigh, the British cried out ["]quarters, quarters brave Americans["], &c My messmate Samuel Arnold was wounded in the hip, we went up to Albany Hospital, & through mercy I got well, but my poor messmate died mortification took place, the Doctor kept me there as an assistant &c &c we marched to Philadelphia got our discharges from Colonel George Gibson and made for home, and to my great grief, when I got home, my brother was enlisted in Colonel Blufords [Abraham Buford's] Regiment and gone to the South the only Bro.[?]² by Father and Mother, am told he enlisted for 3 years in the Continental line, and was to have a bounty of Land, the first engagement he was in [he] was killed, cut to pieces by the British light Horse, I hope if anything Coming I may Enjoy it, his Land if nothing else, I undertook a school after I got home from the North, but did not continue 18 months before I was drafted for three months to go to the South, I took my discharge along with me in hopes to get off, but it would not do, for they said one Old Soldier was worth half a dozen of militia, & off we marched, Colonel George Stubblefield commanded our Regiment, after a hard march we joined General Gates' Army at Rugeley's mill, at night, drew a gill of molasses, and orders to march again at 12 o'clock in the night, the time came & off we went the whole Army, we went on 5 or 6 miles, heard the guns firing, we went on, after a little halted, & then formed a line of action, the Virginia & North Carolina militia were formed to the left, this was I suppose one hour before day, if we could have stayed so, and brought on the action by degrees we should eat breakfast in Camden that morning, but as soon as it was light we had orders to advance & not to shoot till we could see the whites of their eyes, we see them a Coming Extending their lines as low as ours. Our militia got in such A confusion, 6 or 8 deep in some places, we made one fire and away we went to the Reedy swamp we took, we were superior to them, I lost my Pocket book, my discharge & what little money I had &c &c – however I served my time & got my discharge, & Coming home, came through Harrisburg Town in Granville County North Carolina my half-brother Philip³ and Colonel Joseph Taylor owned the place, Commissary & quarter master Stores kept there in the Continental line, I was appointed by Colonel Long who was Quarter Master, and Commissary General in the Continental line as Quarter Master and Commissary to the Post of Harrisburg Town & there I continued until the End of the war, in them to Post, which is very well known about there, and my Pay I got in Continental money and never did me no good, for I have now at this time \$51 Congress money paid to me as my wages, which was as good as the



² C. Leon Harris says he sees this is an abbreviation of "Brother." But what is the interlineation? Leon suggests it MIGHT be "jr" indicating that this brother was named after the veteran's father. Then, again, Leon suggests that the term 'junior' may simply indicate that Philip was younger than Vincent.

³ [Philip V. Vass S19493](#), who also lived in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, is believed to be this veteran's brother.

gold & silver, when I received it paid to me my wages, So I have fought and bled for my Country for nothing, am very old if I live to see the 2nd of June next [I] shall be 83 years old, and through misfortunes & turn of Times, has reduced me very low in this world, I moved from Rockingham County State of North Carolina, last fall, to Tipton County, Western district of Tennessee as above mentioned, where I am yet, [In] 1818 at a superior Court in North Carolina I got the Honorable A. H. Sheppard to draw up a Declaration and it was sworn to in Court nearly like this, & sent it to the war Office, and it was rejected owing to my being in a State Regiment, then I applied to the Legislature of Virginia, and they gave me \$60 per year, not as much as a Continental soldier Colonel Joseph Martin wrote me word that the Legislature had made me a pension of \$60 per year, he was in the Senate, I was at his house, and showed him my wounds, that I received at Stony Point, &c &c a great many more ups & downs have I had in the Army, oh that I had served my God as faithful as I have my Country between 5 & 6 years, have I served, the money of my wages, & Prize money at Stony Point is 15\$451 [sic?] it runs thus, this bill of so many Dollars entitles the bearer to receive it in gold or silver according to an Act of Congress passed on such day. I took care and saved it for it did not come light to me.

S/ Vincent Vass



N. B. Mr. Edward O. Chambers a Gentlemen who has been acquainted with me thirty years. I have never received one Cent from the Union, Land, nor nothing, I hope the Honorable Congress, fair freedom's Chosen Sons, will give me my Land, my back pay, and make good my wages, & the Land of my Brother Richard who got killed for his Country &c, [I] am old now but, if a foreign Enemy was in reach of me I should not be afraid to face them, if they were as big as Giants I know some men drawing money from the United States that never see no hardship in the old Revolutionary War [but] I [receive] nothing, it hurts my feelings, therefore I hope the Honorable Congress will make good to me my due, and your Petitioner in duty bound will ever pray &c &c – As above V. V.

This petitioner further states that he knows of no person in this country who knows of their own knowledge of his serving in the revolutionary war & he hereby relinquishes all other pensions & states that his name is on no other pension list except that of Virginia.

Subscribed by the said Vincent Vass in the presence of the court on the day and date specified in the caption of this declaration

S/ Vincent Vass

[Harry W Sales, a clergyman, and Edward O. Chambers gave the standard supporting affidavit

[p 5: on April 24, 1855 in Tipton County Tennessee, Caty Vass, 74, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Vincent Vass a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$80 per annum; that she has been awarded a pension under the 1848 act at the rate of \$80 per annum for her husband's services in the revolution; that she married him in Person County North Carolina about the year 1795 the precise time not recollected; that they were married by William Moore, a Minister of the Baptist Church; that her name prior to her marriage was Caty Chambers; that her husband died in Tipton County Tennessee January 7th, 1850.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 3 years service as a private in the Virginia State Troops.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Spotsylvania County Legislative Papers

To the Hon. the Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia
The Petition of Vincent Vass humbly sheweth, that he was enlisted in the year 1777 by Lieut. Peter Stubblefield of Spotsylvania County Virginia for three years in the first state Regiment, we were not to be carried out of the state, but some little time after, came orders for us to be marched to the North to join General Washington in the Continental Army, we were Promised a bounty of Land Extra, we were marched off and joined General Washington's Army at the Valley Forge, the Enemy then had Possession of Philadelphia, I was at the Battle of Monmouth, and on Number of scouting Parties, and Brushes with the Enemy to Sedious [?] to mention, and at the White Plains [October 28, 1776]. I was at West Point Forts where I had many hard days work, in building Forts and was with General Anthony Wayne the night he took Stony Point, where I received 2 wounds, one with a Musket ball, the other a buckshot, and was Carried up with the wounded to Albany Hospital, and after some time through May got well, and having served out my time faithfully, through bitter Fatigues, Hunger and Thirst, Cold and heats, got my discharge at Philadelphia in the year 1780, and then came home, but did not continue long, before I was drafted to go to the South, And was in [indecipherable word or words] Gates's defeat, I then served my time out, and then I was Appointed Quartermaster and Commissary to the Post of Harrisburg Town Granville County, State of North Carolina under Col. Long; quarter Master & Commissary General and continued until the end of the War; I had only one Brother who I loved, he got killed at Blufords defeat [Buford's defeat, or the Battle of the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780] Cut to Pieces by the British light Horse and have been to unfortunately Careless of my wages, the money, that I drew whilst I was in the Army; I have it now sunk [?] in my hands, Although it was as good as the Gold & Silver when I received it, and was to be redeemed as such, that I was in the service of my Country from 77 to the end of the Old Revolutionary War, and have never received anything from my Country, I have hoved [?] up my Services agreeable to the Mode, and Applied to the Pension Office, but my Pension was Rejected, owing to my being enlisted in a state Regiment, I am now Old, and lost my hearing & seeing in part, and not able to get my living, and have nothing to support me in my old days, and every year I live feel more & more the effects of the hardships & Sufferings of the Old Revolutionary War. And the rest of my Brother Sufferers drawing their Pensions, and I have nothing does not seem right, and I had a full share of the Sufferings, I ought to have a share of the blessings, therefore hope this Hon. Assembly will make some Provision for those who have fought & bled, for the Rights, liberties and Properties we now enjoy and Your Petitioner as in duty bound will Ever pray &C &C

S/ Vincent Vass

[Reverse]

Petition of Vincent Vass praying to be placed on the Pension list

Peyt. Gravely

December 13th, 1827

Referred to Claims

1828 January 2nd

Reasonable

January 3 Reported

24 Bill drawn

[2 letters from J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions saying that Vass was not legible for a pension under the federal pension acts because he didn't serve in the Continental Army.

District of North Carolina Rockingham County, Superior Court of Law on this 5th day of May 1826 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the said district, Vincent Vass, aged Sixty Six years residing in Rockingham County in said District who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, viz.

That he enlisted in the County of Spotsylvania in the first Virginia State Regiment in the year 1777 for three years by Peter Stubblefield Lieut. we marched to Alexandria from there inoculated for the Small pox after getting well we marched and joined General Washington's Army at the Valley Forge, – I was at Monmouth and several Scouting parties with the enemy and was with General Wayne the night he took Stony Point, and received two wounds one by a musket Ball the other by Buck shot and was carried to Albany Hospital I think this was in 1779 – and in the year 1780 received our discharge in Philadelphia, but having no place of abode have lost it, Col. George Gibson commanded the Regiment and General Mullenburg [Peter Muhlenberg] commanded the Brigade, on my return home I was drafted to go to the South and was in Gates's Defeat, after serving my Tower [tour], I was appointed quartermaster and Commissary to the post at Harrisburg Town in order to furnish provisions for the troops marching from the North to the South in Granville County North Carolina and continued till the end of the war, and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 – and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any way disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby to reduce it so as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed the 18th day of March 1818 – That I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or Securities, Contracts or Debts due me nor have I any income other than [this document in is at this point]

[petition by some citizens of Rockingham County in behalf of Vincent Vass in which they state that they believe him to have been a soldier of the revolution and that he is poor and old and in need of support. The document is dated January 31, 1827 and is signed by the following: Ro. B. May, JP, Joseph S Allen, John Collins, George Carter, William Winkfield, Skipworth Ray, James Ray]

State of North Carolina County of Rockingham

This day John May⁴ personally appeared before me Robert B May one of the Justices of the peace of said County and made Oath in due form that he was in the first Regiment of the State of Virginia as an Orderly Sergeant in Capt. John Nicholas's Company and served two years with him or thereabout, and then appointed an Ensign and turned over in the second Regiment, and that Vincent Vass has called on him this deponent to state if he knowed him the said Vass this deponent states on oath that he does not recollect him personally but from the facts the said Vass states that happened in the service and of the Col. George Gibson & the first Regiment, and certain other distinguished Officers and Men in the Army, and the scars or wounds he received while in service, – the said John May deposeth and saith he believes the said Vincent Vass was in said service of the Commonwealth of Virginia which Regiments were raised for the term of three

⁴ [John May VAS535](#)

years, and marched to the North. Sworn and subscribed before me this 15th of November 1827
S/ Robert B May, JP

S/ John May

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John May", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.