

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

Pension Application of David Blackwell W9358

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

County of Prince William viz:

On this first day of April, 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Prince William County, now sitting, David Blackwell, a resident in said County, aged eighty three years next November, 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated.

In the Month of Sep'r. 1775, there were four Minute Companies raised in the County of Fauquier, where he then resided, one of which he joined, commanded by Capt. John Childon [sic: John Chilton], whose Lieut. was a Jno. Keith [John Keith], which company with several others were ordered by the Governor of Virginia [sic] to repair to Williamsburg, which they accordingly did, and joined the Troops there assembled. From Williamsburg the Troops were ordered to the Great Bridge, where the Enemy [commanded by the Royal Governor, John Murray, Lord Dunmore] had erected a Fort to prevent the American Army from getting to Norfolk, where their shipping laid. He was in the Battle fought at the Bridge [9 Dec 1775], which ended in the retreat of the Enemy, who lost in killed and wounded 50 or 60 men. He assisted in burying the slain. The enemy having retired to their shipping, our commander, who was Col. [William] Woodford, proceeded on to Norfolk, to protect that place, and to prevent the Enemy from committing depredations. A cannonading from the Shipping taking place, the Town was consumed by the Enemy [1 Jan 1776]. After remaining some time in the neighbourhood of that place, our Troops returned to Williamsburg, where, after several Weeks, the Company to which he belonged was discharge, and he got home in April 1776, after having served fully six months.

Sometime in 1777 he thinks it was in the fall of 1776 or 7 the Company of Militia to which he belonged in Fauquier was called upon to proceed with all possible expedition to the Potomac, to put a stop to British depredations which had been committed by the British, who had landed in Stafford County and burnt the house of Col. Brent and some others in that neighbourhood. The company repaired to Dumfries, where and in that neighbourhood, they remained three weeks, and were discharged.

In the month of September, 1780, a draft taking place in the County of Prince William, where he then resided, it fell to his lot again, to turn out. He marched in the company of Capt. John Brett. This expedition was destined to North Carolina, at that time invaded by a British force. When he was about to depart, Col. Henry Lee [1730 - 1787], the Father of the late Gen'l. Henry Lee ["Lighthorse Harry" Lee, 1756 - 1818], who was Col. of the County and his particular friend, offered him choice of a Lieutenancy in said Company, or a Commissary's place. He chose the latter, and received from him a commission signed by the Governor [Thomas Jefferson] and filled up by Col. Lee. the company proceeded on to Fredericksburg, From thence to Richmond – thence to Petersburg, and when they got to the Roanoak [sic: Roanoke] River, they halted for further orders, which in about a fortnight were given to proceed on to Hillsborough in North Carolina, to join the Grand Army [Southern Department]. His commission being to furnish supplies to this place, it here expired, and he returned to Richmond to settle his accounts with the Auditor, which being done, and his commission being rendered up to him, he returned home after a service of fully four months. When he received his pay from the Captain, he received the pay of a Commissary and a Quarter Master in the whole term in which capacity he acted from the time he left Prince William until the Company was delivered at Hillsborough. This was the last service he rendered as a soldier during the Revolution, except to pay a substitute to take his place when another draft took place

in his County. He has no documentary evidence to prove the facts of his service, but other satisfactory evidence to supply this deficiency is herewith exhibited, and he states that during his said service at the periods spoken of, he was not engaged in any civil pursuit whatever, but was wholly a soldier.

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 in any state

[signed] David Blackwell

Interrogatories propounded by the Court viz:

1. Where and in what County [sic] were you born?

Answer. In the County of Northumberland from whence I removed in 1777.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have none in my possession, but was informed by my elder Brother a great many years ago, that he had, and that I was born in 1753.

3. Where were you living when called into service – Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. The first tour in Fauquier – the two last in Prince William County. In these two Counties I have lived since I left Northumberland.

4. How were you called into service? Were you drafted – did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I first joined a minute company in Fauquier County. In the other two Tours I was drafted.

5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served – such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. Col. Woodford, who commanded at the Great Bridge. Col [William] Taliaferro of Orange, Col. Stephens of Culpeper – Lieutenant Marshal [sic: John Marshall, pension application S5731], now Chief Justice, was there, and I am well known to him among others whose names I do not recollect.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I do not recollect receiving a discharge in either of the expeditions in Virginia. If I did they have been lost, not deeming it necessary to preserve them. As a commissary, I had a commission signed by the Governor of Virginia which I gave up when I settled my accounts with the auditor.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your veracity, and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I am well known by those who have signed the above certificate [not transcribed here], and by every other man, I believe, in the County who has been residents many years.

NOTE: On 29 Jan 1844 Ann Blackwell, 85, resident of Washington County MD, applied for a pension stating that her husband David Blackwell, died on 25 June 1841. Another document states that she was living with their son, Arthur Blackwell, who stated that his father's marriage and death occurred in Fauquier County. On 1 Aug 1851 Margaret L. Blackwell stated that she was present in Hancock MD when Ann Blackwell died on 23 Apr 1848 leaving the following children: Elizabeth Jordan, Ann Newman, Harriett Sniveley, Mary Ohr, Samuel Blackwell, and Arthur Blackwell. The file includes two pages of a family register certified by Arthur Blackwell and transcribed below. On the backs of the two pages are accounts of crops planted and yields, including "Wheat sowed in the year 1793," and "Memorandum of Flax made in the year 1796."

David Blackwell was Married to Ann Lewis Daughter of Zacharias Lewis & Mary his Wife the 29th May 1776

Lewis Blackwell was born March 15th 1777

Elizabeth Steptoe Blackwell was born August 17th 1778

Alexander Blackwell was born March 6th 1780
George Wm. Brent Blackwell was born February 7th 1782
Walter Blackwell was born Aug't 7th 1784
Arthur Blackwell was born April 30th 1787
Ann Blackwell was born April 13, 1789
Samuel Blackwell was born April 12, 1791
Caty Blackwell was born March 3rd 1793
John Blackwell was born January 5th 1795
Lucy Blackwell was born March 1st 1797
Harriot Blackwell was born November 6th 1798
Mary Blackwell was born 12th May 1801
William Blackwell was born August 1803