

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Armstrong S6529

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 30 Dec 2016.

State of Virginia

County of Essex to wit

On this 20th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Essex John Armstrong a resident of South Farnham Parish in the County and State aforesaid aged seventy years and seven months who being first duly sworn according to law makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by Congress by virtue of the act passed June 7th 1832

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1778 or 1779 with Capt Obadiah or O. P. Davenport [Obadiah Davenport = Opie Davenport], and served in the [blank] Regiment of the Virginia State line commanded by Colo Charles Porterfield and Majer [Edmund] Waller who remained only short time, having received an injury to one of his eyes by the explosion of a Cannon. He was succeeded in command by Majer Charles Magill. This affiant served in a company attached to said Regement commanded by the said Obadiah or O. P. Davenport Lieut Thomas Bryant, and as well as he at this time recollects by Ensign William Mann: at the time of his enlistment and when he entered the service he was a resident of Essex County in the state aforesaid and enlisted for the term of three years: that for about eighteen months after he entered the service he served in the said Regement in and about Williamsburg and then marched with a detachment commanded by Lieut Thomas Bryant with some Prisoners to Winchester in the County of Frederick and state aforesaid and after delivering up the prisoners returned and was again united to that part of the Regiment in which he enlisted at the City of Richmond which were there stationed, a part having in the interim been ordered and marched under the command of Colo Porterfield to the South; who received a mortal wound at the battle of Campden of which he shortly died [i.e. Charles Porterfield, mortally wounded at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]: that part of the Regiment not ordered to the South as well as this affiant at this time recollects was commanded by a Capt Heely [possibly Thomas Ely]: After the batle of Campden that part of the Regiment which had marched to the South returned and was united with that part which remained and was then commanded by Major Thomas Ewell under whom this affiant completed the term of three years for which he had enlisted and received from him a certificate of discharge at a place called the Point of Forks on the James River [at the confluence with Fluvanna River]: that after his discharge he returned to Essex County and volunteered and marched in a company of Militia commanded by Capt Sthreshly Rennolds [Sthreshly Reynolds?] attached to Colo Mears Regiment to Gloucester Town opposite York and was then at the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]: he was engaged during this tour of duty about two months.

The certificate given him by Major Ewell before stated going to show his service for three years has been lost by time or accident, and cannot be now produced

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. John hisXmark Armstrong

I Isaac Oldham [pension application R7785] of the County of Brunswick in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that John Armstrong of the County of Essex in the State of Virginia served three years in the Army of the revolution commencing in 1778 in the company commanded by Opie Davenport and was attached to Col. Charles Porterfield's Regiment. I was attached to the same company & Regiment in which he served.

Given under my hand this the 10th day of July 1832. Isaac hisXmark Oldham

Tappahannock – Essex Quarterly Court begun and held on Monday the 18th day of November 1811 the following certificate signed by Ephraim Peazley [sic: Ephraim Beazley S6597] being sworn to by the said Peazley in open Court, is Ordered to be certified to the Governor and Council and which certificate is

in these words &c to wit "I do certify that John Armstrong enlisted in the year 1779 in the State Garrison in the City of Wmsburg [Williamsburg] under the command of Colo. Charles Porterfield for the term of three years and to the best of my knowledge the said Armstrong served the term which he enlisted for. Given under my hand this 18th day of Nov'r. 1811 E. Peazley
[Copy certified 30 Aug 1832]

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The file contains a statement by Isaac Oldham dated 21 Dec 1826, but the online image could not be deciphered. Other documents in the file were entirely undecipherable.]

To John Floyd Esqr Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia [certified in 1831]

The petition of John Armstrong of the County of Essex in the state aforesaid respectfully represents, that on this day of [blank] in the year 1779 he enlisted as a private for the term of three years in the state of Virginia in the Company commanded by Capt Obadiah Davenport in the Regiment Commanded by Colo Charles Porterfield in the Virginia State line. That for about eighteen months after his enlistment, he served in and about the City of Williamsburg and then marched in a detachment commanded by Lieut Thomas Bryant, with some prisoners of War to Winchester in Frederick County; and after delivering up the prisoners returned with said detachment and joined the remnant of the Regiment that had not in the interim marched to the South under Colo Porterfield at the city of Richmond, and was commanded as well as he at this time recollects by Capt Heely Colo Porterfield received a mortal wound at the battle of Campden of which he shortly died soon after that, that part of the Regiment which had marched to the South returned, & was again united with that portion which had remained, and was then commanded by Major Thomas Ewell under whom your petitioner afterwards served the full term of his enlistment, and received from him certificate of discharge, at a place called the Point of Forks on the James River that after his discharge he returned to Essex County, the place of his nativity and volunteered his services and marched in a company of Militia commanded by Capt Sthreshly Rennolds attached to Colo Mercers Regiment to Gloucester Town opposite York and was there at the surrender of Cornwallis The certificate of discharge given him by Major Ewell has been lost by time or accident, but in corroboration of the statements here in before made your petitioner begs have to refer to the certificates of Ephraim Beazley and Isaac Oldham mentioned both of whom served in the same Regiment and as well as he at this time recollects in the same Company He states further that he has always considered himself entitled to land bounty, but has never as yet received it although he has frequently asserted his claim, he never has as yet succeeded in obtaining what he conceives to be his just rights for services long since rendered He has been informed that two other persons named John Armstrong, having heretofore received warrants each of one hundred acres of land, has [two or three undeciphered words], whether your petitioner might not have been one of the individuals in whose favour a warrant issued, he asserts most positively that he never has received a warrant for land or any compensation in lieu thereof, nor has he ever sold [undeciphered word] or transferred his claim thereof to any individual whatever He there prays that a warrant for bounty land may issue in his favour to be located in that portion designated by Congress for our satisfied military land bounties, or that your petitioner may receive such other relief as by the laws of the land or may be competent for you Excellency to afford. he is now in his 70th year, is poor and needy being entirely destitute of every [undeciphered word] of property and therefore any assistance that he would receive for services rendered at a time when his Country much needed them would come seasonably to his relief in this his time of need
John hisXmark Armstrong

NOTE: On 12 June 1847 Purkins Armstrong, administrator of the estate of John Armstrong, stated that John Armstrong had resided in Richmond County for six years and before then in Essex, Brunswick, and Dinwiddie counties. He assigned power of attorney to obtain the final pension payment up to the date of John Armstrong's death, 20 March 1847.