Pension Application of James Bryant: S31568
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

In the Winter of the year seventeen hundred and eighty and seventeen hundred and eighty one or thereabout he was commanded by Captain Shaw his first name forgotten in the Militia of the State of Virginia. He was living in Henry County when thus called in to service. He was marched under said Captain in the said service toward the southern states destined to join General Greene at Guilford Court House in North Carolina. He was not in any Regiment until he arrived at Guilford Court House. When he with said Company arrived the day after the Battle [15 Mar 1781]. He was at Guilford ordered with said Company to be attached to Colonel William Washington's Cavalry and was marched to Brushy Mountain [probably Brushy Mountains in present Wilkes and Yadkin counties] intending to attack a body of Tories. Being a stranger in the Country he does not retain the names of the Rivers & places except Deep River and Yadkin. The Tories having gone to Camden in S. Carolina we marched thither. The Tories there having placed themselves under the protection of Lord Rawdon who was entrenched and well fortified he was enrolled for three months in the commencement of said tour but he serve five months the order and requirement of his officers. While in this service he was in & with said Company ordered down on the Wateree against the British Light Horse, Colonel Washington commanding. The British he thinks were under Tarlton [sic: see note below]. He was dismissed near Camden & had 500 [sic] miles to travel home. At Camden he had the pleasure of coming in individual contact with a Tory and of having to save his own life by shooting him. Having wandered into a Cane brake to hunt some reeds he suddenly perceived to his left a Tory behind a stump about to shoot at him. He took a small pine & the Tory fired & missed him. In turn whilst the Tory was reloading he shot him through the hips causing him to drop his gun & flee. When Ordered down against Tarlton as before mentioned They the Americans met the enemy who fled precipitately & retreated [possibly skirmish at Sawney's Creek, 8 May 1781]. He received no written discharge. The Captain promised one but he never got it. He served faithfully & to the acceptance of his officers.

Again in a very short time the same year he was drafted for another tour - say a few weeks after returning home and entered the said US service of said County of Henry in the Virginia Militia for three months in the Company of Foot commanded by Captain Bucklin Colonels name forgotten. He was [illegible word] in said County. The Majors name was Holcolm [probably Holcomb] & was killed by accident on our March to James Town Virginia. After crossing James River he was put under the command of General Lossen [sic: Robert Lawson] & they were encamped about two days in fifteen miles of James Town with General Morgan encamped in front toward the British Camp [early July 1781]. General Morgan attempted to surprise the enemy at James Town & marched secretly to the attack without informing General Lossen. To whom the first news was the firing of Morgans Troops. Lossen pushed his command by a forced march to the scene of the action when he reached in General Morgan was retreating. After having fought some rounds near the Swamp. General Morgan had
divided his troops into two divisions & the British had got between them. One of which divisions to return to the other freed its passage through the British lines. The Division of General Morgan which was in front of the British taking his other division as it appeared pushing through the enemies line to be a column of British fired on their own division & killed many of them before the mistake was discovered the noise & smoke hindering the discovery from being made sooner. This declarant can not state any other circumstances attending this action worthy of a place nor any of the names of the enemies or their own officers except those mentioned. Our Army encamped the night after the engagement near the Battle ground intending to attack a second time but they the British removed & took shipping & in the morning had disappeared. After this engagement General Lossen was permitted to return home & the applicant with said Army of Gen’l. Morgan under his command marched up James River to Morben Hills [sic: Malvern Hill in Henrico County] there they were stationed some weeks [16 - 31 Jul] and were discharged having faithfully to the acceptance of his officers served said three months and two other additional months. I received a written Discharge which I kept until it wore out. He was discharged at said Morben Hills. He was five months & a day going to & returning and in said service, and at least four months and two weeks on duty in ranks with his gun on his shoulder daily. He served in the [illegible word] for which he is entitled to pay marching to and from the scenes of war five months. for a tour of three months
Afterwards (a third time) he was drafted whilst living in Pittsylvania County Virginia and put under the command of Captain James Williams and marched in said Company not being in any Regiment in the service of the United States in the Virginia Militia. He was marched in said Company to York Town in Virginia. When in forty miles heard the firing of the Battle at that place [Siege of Yorktown VA, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] He was with other infantry employed. a Captain and sixteen ordered to dislodge some British soldiers from and upon the enemy's works. They shot several rounds. He was in the Seige of York Town he thinks about twenty days. He was within three days or some short time after the close of the siege with his Company sent to guard the prisoners to the Potomac River where they were detained over his time untill men could be raised in Maryland to take charge of said prisoners. The Dutch prisoners [Hessians] were taken to Frederick town in Maryland and the English prisoners to Albemarle County the Barracks in Virginia. He served said three months fully and all of said tour faithfully and to the acceptance of his officers in the whole time he served including marching in ranks and [illegible word] from & back to his residence fifteen months. He received a written Discharge near Potomac River from his said Captain Williams which he kept for many years and untill it was worn out. He has never received one cent of pay for his services. he has no documentary evidence of any part of his services not does he know of any person or persons whose testimony of his services he could procure except that of Thomas Livingston and Esther Clendenon [his half-sister, age 63] and others of his neighbours who could also testify to his reputation in all respects
He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

[signed] James Bryant

NOTES:
At the time of the campaign near Camden SC, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton was with Cornwallis entering Virginia.
On 25 Jul 1855 in Owen County IN Ruth Bryant, 47, applied for bounty land stating that as Ruth Dyer she married James Bryant in Owen County on 20 Jan 1836, and he died there on 3 Nov 1853.