

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Bradshaw S6738

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia     } towit  
Pocahontas County   }

On this seventh day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of Pocahontas County now sitting John Bradshaw a resident of the said Court of Pocahontas and state of Virginia aged seventy four years on the second day of February last, who being 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service as an Indian Spy in the spring of the year 1776; that he was then just entering the 18<sup>th</sup> year of his age; that at the time he entered the service as a Spy he was a private in the Company of Militia Commanded by Captain John Henderson; that he then resided in that part of Virginia which is now in the County of Monroe but whether it was then Botetort County or not he does not now know [present Monroe County WV formed in 1799 from Greenbrier County, which was formed from Botetourt and Montgomery counties in 1778]. That before he entered the service as a spy he took the Oath of Fidelity and the Oath to perform the duties of a Spy — That he went into service as a spy on the first day of May 1776 and was discharged on the first of November following, having continued in service six months and until that season of the year arrived when the fear of Indian depredation no longer existed, they having as was their general custom retired to winter quarters

That again in the Spring of the year 1777 he entered the service as an Indian Spy on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April and was discharged as before on the first day of November following having that summer performed a tour of six months and a half; he again went into service as an Indian Spy on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 1778 and continued in said service until the first of November following having again performed a tour of six months and a half and that he again commenced his expedition as an Indian Spy on the first day of May 1779 and continued in service until the first day of November 1779 having performed a tour of six months that summer, making in all Two years and one months services which he performed as an Indian Spy

That the nature of his services as an Indian Spy was to leave Cooks Fort on Indian Creek now in the County of Monroe [near Red Sulphur Springs] and be out from three to four days each week and then return when others would go, the same length of time, that their practice was for two to go together & when they returned an other two would start out, that the Companion who was mostly with him was a man by the name of James Ellis that he does not know what has become of him but supposes he is dead as he was considerably older than himself. He also sometimes went in company with the late Colonel Samuel Estill of Kentucky; that the place where he performed the aforesaid services as an Indian Spy was in the gaps and low places in the chain of mountains between William Lafferty's plantation on New River and the head waters of Laurel Creek where they met the Spies from Burnside's Fort; that they traversed the country which included the head waters of big and little Stony creeks the head waters of the Indian draft a branch of Indian creek and the head waters of Wolf Creek; that the distance or space of country over which he had to travel was supposed to be upwards of thirty miles, that in performing the duties of a spy they had to carry their provisions with them it being against the nature of their Oath and instructions and also jeopardizing their own safety to make a fire at night no matter how inclement the weather might be; and that during the whole time that he was engaged in the service as an Indian Spy as aforesaid he was not engaged in any civil pursuit

That he was afterwards drafted in the month of January 1781 into service as a soldier of the Revolution from the County of Augusta and marched in a company commanded by Captain Thomas Hicklin Lieutenant Joseph Gwin and Ensign Thomas Wright and was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Sampson Mathews; that he lived at the time he was drafted in the County of Augusta and State of Virginia. That he was marched across the Blue Ridge of Mountains at Rockfish gap, thence directly to the City of Richmond, thence down the James River to Sandy Point where he with the company to which he belonged crossed the River and

thence to Camp Carson an encampment in what was called the dismal Swamp near a place called Portsmouth in the State of Virginia, where he was stationed the greater part of the winter, and from thence he was marched with the Army in the spring to Murdoughs Mills [possibly Murdock's Mill] still nearer to Portsmouth where he remained untill the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1781 when he was discharged having served a tour of three months; that during said three months Tour of service he was in one engagement or skirmish under the command of the aforesaid officers at or in sight of Portsmouth; that Captain Cunningham from Rockbridge County, Virginia was wounded in the groin; that the Captain received his wound a few paces in his front there was also one soldier wounded in the leg & was placed on a carriage and bourn off the field or ground of the engagement; he recollects of no other injury received by the American Army in the aforesaid skirmish. that he was several times engaged in routing the picket guard of the enemy during the aforesaid tour. That he was a sergeant and acted as such during said three months tour, that he received his warrant as such, but not supposing that it would ever be of any service to him has long since lost or mislaid it and does not now remember to have seen it for at least forty years.

That he was again drafted in the latter part of the summer or in the early part of the autumn of the same year 1781 from the County of Augusta and State aforesaid & was again command by Captain Thomas Hicklin and was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Vance; that he was marched accross the Blue Ridge at Rockfish gap, thence on by a place called Bowling green, thence on by Pages Ware House and thence on to Little York where Lord Cornwallis with his Army were then stationed; that he was at the Seige of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and at the taking of Lord Cornwallis and his army; that the British Army was marched out between two lines of the American Army to the place where they laid down their arms and then they returned through the same lines to their encampment in York Town, and on the next day they were marched out with their knapsacks on, and then took up their line of march under a strong escort or guard of the American Soldiers to the Barracks at Winchester Virginia; that he was one of the guard who escorted the prisoners to Winchester where he was discharged on the next day after his arrival having again served a tour of about three months as near as he now recollects; that for this last tour of service he does not now remember whether he received a written discharge or not but if he did it has long since been lost as he has no recollection of it. That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure who chan testify to his services as an Indian Spy, or to his services in the Revolutionary War unless it should be John Slavin who he supposes may probably recollect to have seen him at Portsmouth during his first tour at Portsmouth and his second tour at the Seige of York.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity of pension except the present and declares that his name is not enrolled on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

[signed] John Bradshaw

Virginia State            } Towit  
Pocahontas County    }

Be it remembered that on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833 personally appeared before me, one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid John Slaven [possibly pension application S6110] who made Oath and deposed in solemn form that John Bradshaw of the County and State aforesaid an aged soldier of the Revolutionary War served a three months tour in the Army of the Revolution at or near Portsmouth in the State of Virginia in the same company with the deponant in the Winter and Spring of the year 1781; that the said Bradshaw was a Sergeant in the company to which he belonged which company was commanded by Captain Thomas Hicklin and was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Sampson Mathews; That in the latter part of the summer and fall of the same year 1781 he again served in a company with the said John Bradshaw and was with him at the siege of York and marched with him to guard the prisoners from York Town to Winchester after the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis where they were discharged; that they were commanded during that tour by Captain Thomas Hicklin and were attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Vance that they were drafted into service both times from the County of Augusta and State aforesaid and

that this said John Bradshaw was esteemed a good soldier } [signed] John Slaven  
Sworn to and subscribed before me a Justice of the peace for the }  
County & state aforesaid the day & year aforesaid and I do }  
moreover certify that from age and infirmity the said John Slaven }  
cannot attend the County Court of Pocahontas to give his evidence } William Slaven

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

John Bradshaw. Serv'd 2 yrs has received \$260—

this man died in December last. I met with no one who knew any thing about his services  
- the opinion of those of whom I made enquiry is in his favour. I suppose his widow ought to  
have the amount due. W. G Singleton February 15, 1835