

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Richard Beardon [Bearden] R672 [fn20]

Transcribed by Will Graves

[spelling corrected for ease of reading]

State of Tennessee, Wayne County: Court of Pleas & Order Sessions March Term 1825

On this 29th day of March 1825 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for said County Richard Bearden aged 65 years last July resident in the County of Wayne & State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary We war as follows to wit, that he enlisted under Captain William Smith in Spartanburg District State of South Carolina in the month of April 1781 for the Term of 10 months, that he continued to serve under Captain Smith in the fifth Regiment commanded by Colonel John Thomas of the South Carolina line in the Continental establishment until discharged at Orangeburg South Carolina by said Thomas about the last of March or first of April 1782 having served 12 months, or thereabouts which discharge he has long since lost, that he was in the battle of Eutaw Springs & at the taking of the Congaree and Orangeburg Forts in Sumter's Brigade, that he has no other Testimony in his power of his service at this time but his own oath but he hopes that he can procure the affidavit of John Blasingame¹ who knows of my said service & resides in the State of Alabama. That his family consists of himself aged as aforesaid infirm & unable to support himself by labor & a farmer by occupation My wife named Sarah aged 56 very infirm, & my son John aged 19 able to work for his living. That the reason he did not sooner apply for a pension was because he was informed that none could draw except those who had served for three years & it was not till very lately that he was better informed, that he has not disposed of his property since 18th day of March in the year 1818 except to buy provisions for my family and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 & that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any other manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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 on 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 to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed & by me subscribed.

S/ Richard Beardon

Schedule

1 Horse 15 or 16 years old	\$20.00
2 Cows & Calves	20.00
2 Sows 7 Pigs & 10 Shoats	16.00
1 Spinning wheel 1 falling ax	4.00
4 Chairs 1 pale & 2 peggins	1.75
3 Blades & 3 knives & 3 forks	1.50
2 Plows	<u>2.00</u>
I owe about fifty dollars & have about fifteen dollars owing to me	\$64.25

¹ No former resident of South Carolina by that name filed an application for a Federal pension on account of alleged service in the Revolutionary War.

S/ Richard Beardon

State of Tennessee, Giles County

Personally came before us John Laird & John B. Armstrong, Justices of the peace in and for said County John Bearden and Britain Williford, being in to the best of our knowledge of Probity & respectability and made Oath in due form that Richard Bearden was a regular Soldier in the Ten months service, and the Revolutionary War, in the year 1781, and General Sumter's Brigade, Colonel John Thomas's Regiment & Captain William Smith's Company; and that said Richard Bearden Enlisted himself in the said Ten months Service called the State Troops of South Carolina, in the latter part of the Winter or first part of Spring of the aforesaid date, and that they have no hesitation in saying that they believe he is said Richard served the full term of Ten months aforesaid and that they know him to be the same Richard Bearden who did Enlist, served & come out of the aforesaid the Service of Ten months, Sworn and Subscribed to before us this eighth day of September 1825.

S/ John Laird, JP

S/ John B. Armstrong, JP

S/ John Bearden {Seal}

S/ Britain Williford {Seal}

State of Tennessee, McNairy County

On this the Sixth day of June in the year of our lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty six Personally appeared in Open Court, before the justice of the County Court for said County now sitting Richard Bearden a resident of McNairy County and State aforesaid aged Seventy Six years 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 the 7th June 1832.

That he was Born in Granville County State of Virginia On the Sixth day of July in the year of Our Lord 1760. When I was six or seven years old my father moved from Granville to Mecklenburg County North Carolina, there We continued to reside until I was Eleven Or Twelve years of age When I moved with my Father and the balance of the Family to Ninety Six District South Carolina. (this District having afterwards been Divided.) I fell in the District called Spartanburg there I resided until the year 1781 When I volunteered about the first of March in the Dragoon Service for the Term of Ten months under Captain William Smith after the Company was Organized. We joined Col. John Thomas Regiment of Dragoons in Ninety Six District in South Carolina Regiment of Dragoons a few days after Our Junction with Col Thomas we marched down to near the Congaree Fort on the Congaree River there we joined Genl Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], from here we marched under Genl Sumter to the Congaree Fort then in the possession of the British. We lay round the fort for about two weeks. When Col. Washington [William Washington] joined us with his Troops. Then we made an attack on the fort and took it with a number of Prisoners the fort was taken as well as I now recollect the last of April Or first of May 1781, from here in a short time after the fort was taken we marched across the Congaree river and Encamped at a place called Ankrums [sic, Ancrum's], here we lay about One month guarding the Prisoners Col. Washington having parted with us after the taking of the Fort. From the place called Ancrum's we marched under Genl Sumter to Ninety Six District in South Carolina. We there joined General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army in a few days after we

joined Genl Greene I was attacked with the small pox and was carried to the Camden Hospital there I remained about one month before I recovered. From Camden I was sent with an express from Maj. Taylor then at Camden to Genl Greene On the Congaree River, here I again joined my Company then under the command of Genl Greene. From here the whole army marched to Orangeburg South Carolina where the British had fortified. Some Cannonading passed between the armies at this place. Col Wade Hampton's Regiment and Col. Thomas' Regiment was ordered by General Greene to march down the Charleston road at the Ten Mile house we took some British Prisoners from here we marched to a place called the quarter house five miles from Charleston, here we had a severe engagement the victory was on our side, here we took a wagon loaded with arms and clothing, from here we marched to Nelson's Ferry on the Santee River not far from the Eutaw Springs, from here We marched a very short distance and again adjoined Genl Greene's Army then Encamped on the high hills of Santee, here we lay until we marched to meet the British at the Eutaw Springs which was in September 1781 as well as he recollects, at the Battle of the Eutaw I was stationed with my Captain as an out guard so I was not in the heat of the Battle. We staid at this place a very short time after the Battle. When Genl Sumter and the whole of his troops marched to Orangeburg South Carolina where we lay until sometime in the winter When we marched to a place called the four hole bridge On Edisto River, here we lay some time then we marched back to Orangeburg where I was discharged having served Ten months the time I volunteered for. I received a written discharge signed by Col Thomas but not believing it would ever be of any benefit to me I used it so carelessly that it is now lost or destroyed. I have the record of my age now recorded in a large family Bible taken from my father's register of ages. I have no Documentary Evidenced to prove my services nor does he know of any person now living who he can prove said services by but he can prove by Captain John Henderson² now of McNairy County who was a Captain in the Revolutionary War that he was with Genl Sumter and acquainted with all the affairs above mentioned and that history of my services mentioned in the Declaration did take place said Henderson will further State that he has no doubt of my services from Circumstances which I have mentioned to him concerning the campaigns which I served in. Aaron Gage³ now of McNairy County and who served in Col Hammond's [this is probably referring to either Leroy Hammond or Samuel Hammond, both of whom held the rank of Colonel in the SC militia after the fall of Charleston] regiment in the Revolution will state in substance the same as Capt Henderson I can prove my character for veracity and good moral demeanor by Parson Francis Beard and James Campbell of my neighbourhood they can also testify as to their belief and the neighbourhood's belief generally of my being a soldier of the Revolution. I hereby relinquish every claims whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state-This applicant applied for a pension a short time after the passage of the law of 1832 the papers was returned for some informality they have been lost so I can not return them back to the War Office. After I was discharged I resided in Spartanburg District for about twenty years from there I moved to Warren County Kentucky and lived there about three years from there I moved to Livingston County Kentucky and lived there two years. from there I moved to Giles

2 [John Henderson R4869](#)

3 FPA S2229

County Tennessee and lived there one year. from there I moved to Lauderdale County Ala and lived there about four years from there to Wayne County Tennessee lived there seven or eight years from Wayne to McNairy County where he now lives given under my hand the date above.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day and date above
S/ Benjamin Jones, Clk S/ Richard Bearden

[Francis Beard, a clergyman, and James Campbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

We John Henderson and Aaron Gage both Revolutionary soldiers do hereby certify that we served in the Campaign when the Battle of the Eutaw Springs was fought – that we did not personally know this petitioner but from the Circumstances, marches &c which he has stated to us concerning the Revolution we have no doubt but what he served in the Campaign described in his declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court the day and year aforesaid.
S/ Benjamin Jones, Clk S/ John Henderson
S/ Aaron Gage, X his mark