

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Lemasters S18490

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } S.S.

County of Nicholas }

On this 13 day of November 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Nicholas County the same being a Court of record Benjamin Lemasters a resident in the said County of Nicholas, and State of Virginia aged Seventy six years and some months, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United State in the year 1777 [sic] with ___ Culp [possibly Lt. Daniel Culp] a recruiting officer for Capt William Lewis and served in the 1st Regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers. He was in the company of Capt. William Lewis during all the time he was in the service: the name of Capt. Lewis' Lieutenant was Francis Minnis and Holeman Minnis [Holman Minnis] was Ensign - He entered the service under an enlistment for three years and served during that time leaving the army as he thinks in the year 1780. He enlisted in the County of Berkly [sic: Berkeley] in Virginia though he resided then in the County of Monongalia in said State. After he was enlisted he was marched by Capt Lewis to the white plains [NY] where he joined the army commanded by Gen'l George Washington. The Regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Col. Richard Parker of Virginia - Major ___ Flemin [sic: John Fleming] belonged to that Regiment at the time and continued to belong to it until he was killed at the Battle of Prince town [sic: Battle of Princeton NJ, 3 Jan 1777]. At the time he left the army Maj. ___ Ball [Burgess Ball] belonged to the Regiment - who perhaps took the place of Maj ___ Green [John Green], who some time during his term of service belonged to this same Regiment, but what became of him he does not now recollect [transferred to 6th Virginia Regiment]. Soon after he joined the army at the White plains the British sallied out from the City of New York and gave the Continental troops battle [28 Oct 1776] - who were drawn up in line of battle and sustained some five fires which cut the right wing of the Army composed of the Delaware Blues severaly and Genl. Washington ordered a retreat. [William Alexander,] Lord Stirling commanded the wing of the army which he belonged to. The army retreated to Brunswick being persued by the British and continued retreating until they got to the Pensylvania shore of the Delaware river where the main body of the army remained during a considerable part of the winter. From this place he was taken under the command of Capt ___ Kilpatrick (although he still belonged properly to Capt Lewis' Company) across the Delaware river to Guard Trenton from the ravages of the British - He was at the battles of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] and Prince-town, at the latter of which he received a slight wound in the right ankle. After receiving this wound he was carried off upon Maj. Fleming's horse who had been killed in this battle. He was conveyed to the Hospital at Philidelphia and after recovering from his wound again joined the army in Pennsylvania. He was at both the battles of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] and Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and also was a month at the siege of fort Mifflin [10-15 Nov 1777] under the command of Maj. ___ Smith [sic: Lt. Col. Samuel Smith, pension application W9303]. Whilst employed at Mifflin he saw the [British] Ship Augusta blown up in the river Delaware. During this siege he rode express [illegible word] for Maj. Smith to Gen'l. Washington at the white marsh. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] Benjamin Lemasters

I Benjamin Hamrick [pension application S5472], of the County of Nicholas in the state of Virginia, do solemnly swear than in the fall of the year 1777 according to the best of my recollection I became acquainted with one Benjamin Lemasters, who now also resides in said Nicholas County, in the army of the United States. This acquaintance commenced at the Valley Forge, where General Washington's army was then Stationed [winter 1777-78]. Said Lemasters belonged to the Company commanded by Capt. ___ Lewis and sometime acted as Sergent in said

Company. This company belonged to the first Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col. Dick Parker and General Mulenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] commanded the Brigade This affiant was intimately acquainted with said Lemasters in the service. He does not know on what day said Lemasters enlisted in the Revolutionary service but he recollects to have heard both said Lemasters and his Capt. ___ Lewis whilst they were both in the service say he had enlisted for a term of three years. This affiant saw said Lemasters frequently whilst in the service. He recollects to have seen him at both of the memorable battles of Germantown & Brandywine. This affiant does not recollect the precise day on which said Lemasters was discharged from the service but he feels perfectly satisfied that he knew him to be engaged in the service for a period of three years or very nearly that. He cannot say from what precise quarter of Virginia said Lemasters and the ballance of Capt ___ Lewis' Company came but he thinks from some County bordering on the Blue Ridge This affiant has been intimately acquainted with said Benj. Lemasters ever since the Revolutionary war, and knows he is the identical same man whom he knew in the war. This affiant will be 76 years of age on the 12th day of September next and said Lemasters was & has been considered to be two years older than this affiant. Given under my hand this 19 day of August 1833. [signed] Benjamin Hamrick

Virginia Nicholas County to wit

Andrew P Friend this day personally appeared before me the Subscriber [James Given] a Justice of the peace in & for the aforesaid County and made oath that one Peter McCune [pension application W7412] some Eight or ten years ago were Examined before him and David Frame a co-justice of said County by Benjamin Lamasters who was then an yet is a Resident Citizen of Nicholas County in support of his application for a pension as a Revolution soldier of the United States who stated in his Deposition according to said Friends best Recollection that he knew the said Benjamin Lamasters of Nicholas County to have been in the army that he the said McCune & Benjamin Lamaster had both their washing done By one Woman for some time that the said Peter McCune is Now Dead and his affidavit a foresaid are said to be lost mislaid or Destroyed so that it cannot now be had. Sworn to and subscribed the 7th day of January, 1833 [Given also deposed on 5 Sep 1833 that Martin Delaney (S39425) had also supported Lemasters's claim in a deposition that had been lost.]

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

Benjamin Lemasters - Pensioner. receives \$80 p annum.

I the undersigned Benjamin Lemasters in pursuance of of the requisition of the Secretary of war give the following narative of my services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution - and statement of my age - I shall be 78 yrs. old the 18th [illegible] next. In the year 1776 as well as I can now remember I enlisted in Berkeley county Virginia for 3 years - I was enlisted by Lieut. Cup a recruiting officer, for Capt Lewis company. I joined his company at the white Plain - which was attached to the first Virginia Continental Regt. Commanded by Col. Richard Parker and Genl. Muhlenburg' brigade - Genl. Washington commanded at the white Plains. Lord Sterling commanded the division of the army to which I belonged. The British came out and attacked its right wing in which the Delaware troops suffered considerably - We retreated towards Brunswick crossed the River & encamped on the Delaware, where I was detached with others under Lieut. Kilpatrick to protect the people of Trenton from the robberies of the Hessians - on rejoining the army we took up the line of march and went to Trenton. had an engagement with the British which resulted in the capture of the Hessians [Battle of Trenton, 26 Dec 1776]. I was the Battles of Monmouth & Princeton - at the latter engagement I was wounded in the right ankle - with a Musket Ball. was sent to the Hospital at Philadelphia and was there inoculated for the small Pox. after getting well I joined the army again at or near Vally Forge where we wintered. I think in the succeeding spring I was at Fort Miflin for one month under the command of Major Smith. I rejoined the army at the White Marsh [Whitemarsh PA] and went on to Brandywine and was in that engagement and afterwards I was at the Battle of Germantown - when my first enlistment had nearly expired - I re-enlisted for during the war. - after which I got a furlough and returned

home and was married. I cant recollect for what length of time I was permitted to be absent by my furlough, but before it ran out of date Cornwallis and his army were captured at Yorktown Virg'a. and I did not thereafter join the army. I proved my services by McCaen [sic], Delaney - Hamrick — Saml. Price wrote my Declaration. the detail given him was the same in substance now given. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name
Jany 10, 1835. Benjamin Lemaster

A Copy W. G Singleton Jany, 13, 1835
Memo - this man sustains a fair character and the General opinion in his neighborhood is that he did serve as he states W. G Singleton.

[Singleton wrote "entitled" on the above report, but one week later in his report on Jonathan Dunbar (S19286) he wrote the following: "The Declaration in this [Dunbar's] case was written by Samuel Price of Nicholas - if it be correct, it is the only one of that Gentlemans writeing." It appears, therefore, that Singleton later perceived some fault in Lemasters's claim. The following affidavit dated 5 May 1835 refers to Lemasters as an applicant for a pension, and the documents that follow also suggest that Lemasters had been made to reapply for his pension. There is no indication that he was restored to the pension roll.]

State of Kentucky Harrison County Sct

The affidavit of Mary Wiggins about seventy eight years of age who states that she was well acquainted with Benjamin Lemaster who is now an applicant to obtain a Pension for services rendered during the Revolutionary War this Affiant states that she knows that the Applicant Enlisted at the Warm Springs in Virginia Burkley County and states she knows when he returned with his knapsack on haveing been gone about three years She farther states that it was always stated that he received a wound whilst in the Service at Princeton in New Jersey and never contradicted. She is well convinced that the said applicant was gone from home at least three years and during all the time that he was gone she knows that it was reputed that he was in the service and as she has already stated when he returned he came by her house with his knapsack on and she went with him to his fathers She states she thinks he Enlisted some time in the year of 1776 and returned some time in the year 1779 Mary herXmark Wiggins

Benjamin LeMasters says - That he had been a Serjeant in Col Richard Parker's Regiment of the Virginia line of the Revolutionary Army - Of those facts I am ignorant. But he has fully convinced me by the relation of certain incidents that he did serve under me in Fort Mifflin, and that he had been in the Battles of Princeton, Germantown and Monmouth and there is no doubt is entitled to a continuance of his Pension under the late Act of Congress S. Smith
Formerly Lieu Colonel 4th Maryland Regiment
Baltimore 24th October 1835

War Dept Pension Office Nov. 2^d 1835

Sir, The statement of Gen. Smith in relation to your service has been examined and placed on our files. It is satisfactory, so far as it goes, but it does not shew that you served the time set forth in your declaration. The rule of evidence pointed out in the note (j) [see endnote] in the enclosed printed sheet must be strictly adhered to in all respects: otherwise your name cannot be continued on the pension list.

Mr. Benjamin Lemasters Nicholas C.H. Virginia

NOTE: Note (j) of the instructions for filing a pension application under the act of 1832 specifies that if a soldier's name is not found on the records of the War Department, his service must be proved by testimony of two credible witnesses stating how long he served. That requirement should not have applied in Lemasters's case, however, because his name is found on at least the following two muster rolls:

Muster Roll of Captain William Lewis' Company of the 1st Virginia Reg't. of Foot Commanded By Richard Parker Esq'r. For the month of February 1779—

Sargeants	Remarks
Benj'a. Lemasters	on Com'd at S hook [Sandy Hook NJ]

Muster Roll of Captain William Lewis Company of the 1st Virg'a. Reg't of foot. Commanded By
Richard Parker Esq'r. for the Month of March 1779
Serjeants
Benj'a. Lemasters