State of Tennessee, Bedford County

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832

On this 15th day of May One thousand Eight hundred and thirty three, Personally appeared before me William Heaslett an acting Justice of the peace for said county John Bearden Senr a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged, Eighty nine years two months and four days, who after 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 the 7th June 1832 that he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and Served as herein Stated; This applicant Says he was born in the County of Spotsylvany [sic, Spotsylvania] and State of Virginia on the 11th of March in the year 1744, agreeable to his Father's family Record, but has no record of it at this time. He further Says that he entered the Service of the United States as a private and volunteer [sic, volunteer] in a Company of Rangers or Spies Commanded by Captain Joseph Worford [sic, Joseph Wofford] and Lieut. D.[?] Graham in Spartanburg District and State of South Carolina Some time in the month of April 1777 the precise day he cannot recollect, and was marched to a fort up on the head of Inaree [sic, Enoree] River to Prince's Fort and was there Stationed, but was frequently out on Spying and Scouting Expeditions against the Cherokee Indians and a Tory family by the name of Bates four in number to wit Wm, Harvey, and Isaac, and their father who were Skulking about with the Indians and were frequently engaged with the Indians in committing murders on the frontier Settlers and that he remained in Service until some time in January 1778 when he was dismissed after Serving not less than nine months in actual service; and that he did not receive a discharge in writing but was honorably dismissed agreeable to orders. Deponent States that about a month afterwards he thinks in February 1778 he volunteered again and joined a Company of Spies or Rangers under the Command of Captain John Gowen and was marched to a fort on the South fork of Packolett [sic, Pacolet] River and was frequently out Ranging and Spying on the frontier Settlements on Tigar [sic, Tyger] River, he States that on one of the Scouting expeditions he was on the Spies under Captain Gowen arrested and took prisoner two men one by the name of Fanning [David Fanning] and the other by the name of Smith that they brought them back into the white Settlement and delivered them up to a Magistrate, as they were both Tories, and both had a Stolen horse each taken from a Mr. James Ford and a Mr. John Patton. Deponent Says he was then marched back to the last mentioned Fort on the South fork of Pacolet River where he remained in Service until some time in the month of August 1778 and was again dismissed It being thought and frequently said by the Captain that the Indians had become quiet and that there was no further use for the troops at that time. He States that he Served on this last mentioned tour not less than Six months. Deponent further Says that he removed Shortly after that down into
Union District South Carolina and there entered the service of the United States again about one
Week before the Siege of Ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781] that he was marched to that place,
a drafted Soldier and was in the Engagement of that place he says was there transferred from
Captain Blessingame's [James Blessingham’s] Company to a Company of Volunteers under the
Command of Captain John Putman and was march through the Country in different directions in
Search of a band of Tories under the Command of a Tory Captain by the name of Jesse Gray,
that he continued in Service under Said last mentioned Capt A tour of duty of not less than four
months when he says he was finally dismissed from Service after Serving in all a term of actual
Service of not less than Nineteen months for which he claims a Pension, this applicant Says he
remained a citizen in South Carolina until the year 1824 when he removed to Bedford County
Tennessee where he has lived ever Since and where he now lives He further Says that he was
not acquainted with any Regular officer with the troops when he served nor any Regiment of
Regular whatever.

Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and
declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in the United States--He further
Says that he has no documentary evidence whatever and that he knows of no person whose
testimony he can procure who can testify as to his Service, and that he is known to the Rev.
William Martin and Jacob Fuller in his present neighborhood—Subscribed and sworn to the day
and year aforesaid before me

S/ John Bearden Sr. {Seal}

S/ Wm Heaslet acting of [sic]
the peace for Sd County
[William Martin, a clergyman and Jacob Fuller gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $66.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for 19
months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]