Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Stephens S31990 fn8NC Transcribed by Will Graves 3/10/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Georgia Laurens County: Superior Court Laurens County October Term 1832

On this the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Sessions at one of its regular terms Benjamin Stephens a resident of the state and County aforesaid aged seventy years the twelfth [could be twentieth] day of last May 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 June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the State Troops of North Carolina in the latter part of the year 1777 or the commencement of the year 177? [last digit written over and illegible but presumably "8"] this deponent does not now remember which – that he resided in Onslow County North Carolina when he enlisted and that he enlisted for the term of one year, that his Captain was named Cray perhaps Scott or Joseph Scott Cray – that his Colonel was named Herritage – perhaps and as well as he recollects John Herritage – that the General who commanded was named Caswell that the company to which he the said Stephens belonged was [indecipherable word, looks like "distanand"] a short time before he served out the year for which he enlisted – that during this Service he was in no general battle or engagement with the British but that he was in a [word written over and indecipherable] and numerous skirmishes against the [word written over and indecipherable] – that shortly after the close of this service – the date he cannot remember he was in the service as a state troop three months that he served as a volunteer from Onslow County in the State of North Carolina under Captain Kelly Jones – Colonel George Mitchell & General George Linnington [probably a mistaken reference to John Alexander Lillington] – commander that during this last service – he was in the battle of Bluford's bridge near Wilmington in the State last aforesaid, on a Creek called limestone – that during these two tours aforesaid he was marched almost all on the State of North Carolina in pursuit of Tories and it was understood they were doing mischief – That shortly after the close of this last campaign – he volunteered in Onslow County aforesaid under Captain Hull [?] Jones for three months his time stationed at Swansboro in North Carolina to keep the British from landing at that place. And that during all these tours he served as a private soldier – That the first term he went out to be gone one year but was discharged about a month before the end of the year as best as he can recollect. That he was out three months in each of the last mentioned campaigns – that soon after the close of the last one – the date he does not remember, he served under General

George Linnington – three months also – he was commanded by no other officer at this time but General Linnington – and that he was taken from the lines to stay with and attend to the said General – all this was done in the State last aforesaid – that afterwards this service ended – the exact date of which he does not remember – that he enlisted on board of a schooner called the *Black Joke* and that he was in service of the United States on her under Captain Gilbert Harrison five months this was a short time before the Close of the War – that he was in several engagements on this vessel – that he does not know the names of the vessels against which they fought – and that he hereby relinquishes in every way claims whatever to an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State. The said Benjamin Stephens further states that he has no record testimony or no living witness by whom he can prove the foregoing facts.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid
Attest S/ Thomas Morris, Clerk S. C.
S/ Benjamin Stephens, X his mark
[Ezekiel Smith and Jordan Baker, clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 17 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]