

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Bartlet Belcher: W2054

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee}

Hawkins County} August Sessions 1832

On the 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of pleas & Quarter Sessions for sd County now sitting Bartlet Belcher, aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed Jun 7th 1832 that in the Spring of 1780 in Partrick County [sic: Patrick County, formed from Henry County in 1791] in the State of Virginia he volunteered under Capt. Elias [Eliphaz] Shelton for the month to go to a place called the Hollows in sd state on the head of the Yadkin River that he remained in said Service about one month at which time he was permitted to take the place of this declarants father, who had been drafted for three months and left the army without permission and in consequence of which he was returned to service six months and that the said declarant served a six month Tour as a substitute for his father under Cap'n George Waller Liutenant Turley [Tully] Choice and he was marched from Henry County in Virginia to Hillsborough North Carolina, whence he joined the main army under General [Edward] Stevens Colonel William Fortners[?] & Maj'r Parnel [sic: probably Pannill] where the army remained some days. and from thence he was marched to Camden South Carolina where there was a Battle fought [16 Aug 1780] in which General [Horatio] Gates was the American Commander in Chief and he received two wounds in the left side of this affiants head. and General Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] was the English Commander in which Battle the American army was defeated. He states that he did not get with his company again untill he arrived at Gelford [sic: Guilford] Courthouse when he also found his Cap'n and Liutenant where he was taken sick and ordered to the hospitle got permission to go home which was not far distant. He states that the company was again ordered to march to Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] and he attended at Henry Courthouse to march and on account of his ill health he was furlowed to go home by J. P. Penn the Colonel of Henry County Va and previous to the expiration of his furlow and also before he recovered his health the six months expired. He states that he never attended to get his discharge as his officers lived at a distance. He states that some time in the Winter or Spring following he volunteered to go against Cornwallace to intercept his march through Virginia under Colonel James Lyon Cap'n William Cloud Liutenant William Carter, and was marched on toward Hicks's [probably Dix's] ferry on Dan River he thinks in Va. and he states that he was verbally discharged by his Colonel on a Creek called Cascade in Virginia [sic: probably the Cascade Creek that flows along the Henry-Pittsylvania county line to the Dan River in NC]. he states that in the early part of the summer of 1781 he was drafted in Henry County in the state of Virginia to go low down in Virginia against the English under the Command of Lord Cornwallace under Cap'n John Smith. Liutenant Elmerson[?] and were marched to Prince Edward Court house where the army under under [sic] General Robert Lawson, Colonel Parnel[?] and Maj'r Parnal [sic: probably Pannill] and then was marched on to Carters Ferry on James River where they were stationed for some time and the British on the opposite side of the River and prevented the Americans from crossing over from there he was marched on to James Town & Williamsburgh. he states that he was marched about in that neighbourhood some time, he was then marched back after the British had left that neighbourhood by walking to a place in Virginia called the Mabing hills [sic: Malvern Hill in Henrico County] where he remained untill discharged after having served a tour of two months. He states that his Ensign McVity[?] gave him his discharge. Which discharge was burned in his fathers house. He states that in all he served over nine months in the United States service in the Revolutionary War. He states that he belonged to the Third Virginia Regiment. He further states that he has no documentary evidence of his service neither is there any minister of the Gospel living in his neighbourhood by whom he can ascertain his [illegible word] neither does he know of any person whose testamony he can provide who can testify to his service

He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever.... Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid [signed] Bartlet Belcher

The Supplemental Statement of Bartlet Belcher made in Order to Obtain a pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832

This declarant states that he was born in Chesterfield County Virginia on the 8th of June 1764 which statement he makes from recollection of the record in the family Bible of his father but he has not the Bible and knows the same was burnt near forty years ago in his fathers house and he has lived in Virginia North Carolina Kentucky and Tennessee where he now resides ever since the revolutionary war

This applicant states that he served first month as a volunteer in the militia of Virginia. He then served six months as a substitute for his father in the militia of said state both times serving as a private. The third time he volunteered as a private and served on Dan river one month. He then the 4th time was drafted and served two months against Ld Cornwallace whilst he was in Virginia in 1781 which makes ten months service tho he stated it in his former declaration over nine months that he might be within rather than over the true length of time but on reflection he is satisfied he served in all as a private in the manner he has stated ten months in the revolutionary war

He has already stated the names of the officers and circumstances of the service as well as he now can state it-

State of Tennessee}

Hawkins County} Personally appeared before me Lazarus Spiers - one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County and State Bartlet Belcher and made oath that the facts before stated in this declaration as a supplement to his former pension declaration are true. May 6th 1833 [signed] Bartlet Belcher Lazarus Spears JP Hawkins County

State of Tennessee, Hawkins County - SS.

On the 15 day of September 1849 personally appeared Alice Belcher a resident of Lee County in the State of Virginia aged Eighty one years, before William H. Gilbert Esq. a Justice of the Peace in & for said County, who, being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 29th July 1848 extending the provisions of the pension laws to widows who were married to Revolutionary Soldiers in the Year 1800.

That she is the widow of Bartlet Belcher who was on the Pension roll of the East Tennessee Agency at Knoxville Tennessee at the rate of between thirty two & thirty three dollars per annum the exact amount not now recollected, who was a private in Capt Millers[?] company of Infantry in the 3d Virginia Regiment.

She further declares that she was married to him the said Bartlet Belcher on the 20 day of of [sic] July in the year seventeen hundred & ninety nine (1799) in Patrick County State of Virginia; that she was not married to him prior to his being in the Service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1800 at the time above stated, that her said Husband died on the Eighth day of April 1848 at his house in Lee County aforesaid That there is no record of said marriage

Sworn to & subscribed on the day and year above written before me}

William H. Gilbert JP} Alice herXmark Belcher