

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Efford Bentley S16637

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Alabama, Madison County, County Court of Madison County, SS.

On this 21st day of February 1833 personally appeared in open court before me Samuel Chapman Judge of the county court of said county now sitting Efford Bentley, a resident of said county of Madison & State of Alabama, aged Seventy three 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 June the seventh 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the revolutionary war, under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That in the year 1776 he was placed on the muster roll in a company commanded by one Capt. Walker [possibly Dr. Thomas Walker] as well as he recollects, in the county of Amelia in the State of Virginia where the applicant then resided & where he was born & raised. He states that in the year 1 of 1777 & between that period & the year of 1780 he performed three tours of duty as a militia soldier – that each tour was about two months service – that on one occasion he march down to Williamsburg & on another to Hampton in the state Virginia – he has no recollection of any of his officers during these terms of service. The applicant further states that in the month of July 1780 he was called out in the militia service from the County of Amelia in the State of Virginia, & was attached to a company commanded by one Capt. Fulks [Gabriel Fowlkes, Jr.] to the best of applicant recollection that the company rendezvoused at Hillsborough in North Carolina & that there were four Regiments of the Virginia militia that rendezvoused at that place. That these regiments to the best of the applicants recollection were under the command of Gen'l. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] – that the company to which he belonged was attached to a regiment commanded by one Col. [George] Stubblefield as well as he now recollects & that in this company the applicant acted as Sergeant – that he here saw Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates & Gen'l. Stephens that he was on one occasion the bearer of an order or note from Stephens to Gates whilst the army lay at Hillsborough The applicant states that the army marched from Hillsborough about the first of August 1780 & were ordered by Gen'l. Gates to join his army near Camden in South Carolina. That they marched through North Carolina into South Carolina & joined the army commaned by Gen'l Gates at a place called Rugeleys Mills near [12 mi N of] Camden. That on the night of the day on which they arrived there [15 Aug] they were ordered on to Camden where the British were encamped – they according took up the line of march – crossed a bridge at Rugeley mills & that on their march during the night [16 Aug] they were met by the British advance guard – that a firing commenced & that about day break next morning a general engagement ensued – which ended in the defeat of the American army [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780]. They then retreated to Hillsborough, the army greatly scattered. He states that he was in this engagement but that he now has no recollection of any of his officers except those before mentioned. The applicant further states that after their return to Hillsborough he was attached to a company commanded by one Capt. Clark to take charge of about 50 or 60 Tory & British Prisoners & carry them down to Richmond in virginia – that they done so, but that the Governor refused to receive [illegible word] them & ordered the Capt. to take them to Winchester, which they did, & where the Prisoners were received – The company then set out for home & on their return were discharge, the applicant thinks on the last of Sept. 1780, making a term of service of about three months – The applicant further states in the spring of the year 1781 he joined a volenteer company of light horse, commanded by one Capt Littleberry Moseby [sic: Col. Littleberry Mosby] who was from the County of Powatan [sic: Powhatan] adjoining the county of Amelia where the applicant resided. That the company marched down to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] where they joined the volenteer troop of horse commaned by Col. Call, as the applicant believes. That whilst there he was with some troops that were ordered down James river to reconnoiter & watch the movements of the enemy – that whilst on the scout

they discovered the British in vessels, below City Point making up the river – the enemy landed at City Point & next day marched up to Petersburg under the command as the applicant understood, of Gen'l. [William] Phillips & [Benedict] Arnold, where a severe engagement ensued [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781] & which terminated in the surrender of Petersburg – the American Army then retreated up towards Richmond & Manchester where they remained until they were discharged. He states that he was in this engagement at Petersburg & was out this tour about six weeks. The applicant further states that in the year 1781 he joined a company in the County of Amelia raised for the purpose of collecting & carrying beaves down to the American army then at Little York – that they collected about thirty or forty beaves & drove them down to, or into the neighbourhood of Little York & delivered them to the Commissary or proper officer – this was at the time of the surrender of Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] – that this service lasted about six weeks & was to be taken as part of his duty as a soldier. He states that he has no recollection of the name of the officer who commanded this company.

The applicant states that he has no documentary evidence of any of his terms of service & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to the same. He states that he was born in the County of Amelia in the state of Virginia, lived there until the year 1811 & after that lived in the adjoining counties of Cumberland, Powhatan & Buckingham until the year 1823 when he removed to the said county of Madison in the State of Alabama where he has resided ever since & where he now resides. He states that as time has so reduced the number of his revolutionary brethren, he is compelled to rely upon his own statement, drawn from a memory greatly impaired by age & which may on that account, in some particulars be defective, but which in general he believes to be substantially correct. In conclusion, the applicant states (that in as much as his declaration is unsupported by any positive proof, & must rely upon his own statement for a favourable action of his case,) therefore he would beg leave to remark, that from the ordinary course of nature his days of existence must be but few – that his lamp of life must soon be extinguished, & on that account he could have but little inducement, to attempt an imposition upon a government, for which he has endured so many privations & sufferings in assisting to establish, & which he hopes may continue to flourish & exist, long after his frail & worn out body shall have been consigned to the tomb. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever, except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatever
Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year first above mentioned, in open court.

[signed] Efford Bentley

NOTE: A document in the file states that Bentley died in July 1837.