Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Cook W8630 Jemima Cook VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of New Jersey } Middlesex County Ss: } On this Thirty first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, Personally appeared before the Judges of the Inferior Court of common Pleas in and for the county of Middlesex being a court of record now sitting; Benjamin Cook a resident of the City of New Brunswick in said County of Middlesex State aforesaid 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 7 1832 Viz –

That he was born in Procotion county [?] in the State of Virginia in June 1760 & is now in the seventy third year of his age. That he enlisted at Yorktown in the State of Virginia in the summer or autumn of 1778 as a soldier for three years in the 2nd State Artillery of the Virginia regiment under Capt. John Marshall [pension application S5731], who he believes to be the present Chief Justice of the United States. His colonel was Thomas Marshall - the Lieutenant was also named Marshall, but there was a change in that officer, & Lewis Graham served part of the time. He served as a private in the Fort at Yorktown or Little York in Virginia from the time of his enlistment for the Term of two years when they were ordered to Camden in South Carolina & on their way thither was taken sick and sent to the Hospital at Williamsburgh in Virginia. When he recovered from his sickness he was sent back to the Fort of Yorktown, & continued to serve there till it was taken by surprise by the British under Col. Simcoe [summer 1781]. There were about 40 men in the fort when it was taken, the force of the enemy was three hundred or thereabouts. He was then taken prisoner and put on board of a transport which then lay at Cedar Point in James River, where he was detained for thirty days or thereabouts was then discharged & returned immediately to Yorktown & was present at the capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] aided there during the seige but acted only as a volunteer & was not attached to any company. The regiment in which he had enlisted was not there they had gone to the South. This declarant was in no other engagement during the war nor has he any regular or written discharge from the service. When the seige of York took place the time of his enlistment had about expired or was near expiring. He knows of no written evidence of his service unless there be such evidence in the war office & he has heard that his name is there and that he is returned as killed at the battle of Camden in South Carolina [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780 or Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden, 25 Apr 1781] but has no further knowledge of the matter. Previous to his enlistment he resided in the State of Virginia & since the revolution he has lived in the city of New Brunswick county of Middlesex & State of New Jersey having settled there in the year 1782. He has never received a pension nor applied for one because he thought he could provide for himself & always for the last thirty or forty years had some property which is now much reduced. And He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. [signed] Benjamin Cook

NOTE: On 27 Dec 1848 Jemima Cook, 80, applied for a pension stating that she was married in New Brunswick on 16 Oct 1799 by Joseph Clark, a Presbyterian Pastor, to Benjamin Cook, who died on 7 July 1838. Phebe Priestly, 59, daughter of Benjamin Cook by a previous marriage, certified that she had attended the wedding. As further proof she presented the family record written by Benjamin Cook about 40 years before, which was certified by her son, Samuel C. Cook, and is transcribed below. A letter in the file states that Jemima Cook died on 16 Oct 1849.

Benjamin Cook was Born June 9 1760 Jemima Cross was Born November 11 1768 married By the Revend Mr Clarke October 16 1799 Benjamin G Cook was born September 13, 1800 Samuel C Cook was bornd September 14, 1800 Thomas Hill Cook was born Septem 3, 1802