

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Head VAS1463

vsl 16

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/8/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

I do certify that Benjamin Head served as a Soldier in the first Regiment of Light dragoons from the 17th Sept. [?] 1777 until the 6th day of May 1780 at which time he was taken at Leneud's Ferry in South Carolina and exchange the 14 Day of May 1781. Given under my hand this 7th of October 1783

[Indecipherable signatures but the index card file at [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indicates this document was signed by Capt. John Wyatt and Col. George Baylor]

A Copy

Petition for Bounty Land

The Heirs of Benjamin Head – Captain Continental line

The name of Benjamin Head is not on the Army Register, as Captain. It has not been found on any of the Rolls of officers or returns to, or reports of, Boards of Officers. There is no proof of Record, that he was an officer of any grade.

Four witnesses – (who are said to be respectable) & who have testified in behalf of the Petitioners, say that Benjamin Head entered the service early as private continued in service to the end of the war, and was at the end of the war Captain of Cavalry.

I report this claim as doubtful – because the name of Benjamin Head has been nowhere found (as an officer) – and because the absence of his name the Army Register, and the Rolls of the Army has not been, in any manner, accounted for –

The Petition & evidence accompanying it are respectfully submitted to your Excellency
S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c

to his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

State of Virginia – Corporation of Fredericksburg Sct.

This day came before me John Chew a Justice of the peace in and for the Corporation aforesaid Richard Lane¹ who testifieth and saith that he is seventy-four years of age, that he was raised in the County of Spotsylvania, & that he resided in the County of Spotsylvania at this

¹ Perhaps the same man as [Richard Lane R6136](#)

time, that he was well acquainted with Benjamin Head, a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, that the said Head enlisted in Service in the year 1776 in January under George Stubblefield for the term of two years in the County of Spotsylvania, and marched from the County of Spotsylvania in the Spring of that year in Stubblefield's Company to Hampton or Williamsburg – marched to the Head of Elk, & continued in the northern Army – he reenlisted in the War, was in the Horse. In Colonel Bland's [Theodorick Bland's] Regiment ^{he was a Captain} & continued in said Service to the end of the war, – was married in King William County while in the service – After the war was ended, lived in Spotsylvania County & died there in August 1808. Given under my hand this 9th day of July 1833

S/ Richard Lane, X his mark

State of Virginia Corporation of Fredericksburg to wit

I George Smith of Clay County State of Illinois formerly of Sumter District South Carolina now in the eighty fourth year of my age do hereby certify that I was a Soldier in the Revolutionary War & was attached to General Greens [presumably Nathanael Greene's] Brigade that I was well acquainted with the service of Benjamin Head of Colonel __ Bland's Regiment of Course of the Virginia Continental Line, that the said Head was a brave Soldier in whom the most implicit Confidence was placed, that he had the confidence of all the officers of his Regiment & more particularly the confidence of Colonel Bland, that the said Head was sent on several important expeditions that required the utmost trust and confidence & that in consequence of meritorious & patriotic Services in the Army he was Recommended by Colonel Bland & was Commissioned a Captain in the said Colonel Bland's Regiment of Horse in the year 1780. This affiant was well acquainted with Captain Benjamin Head before & after he was Commissioned officer, at the time General Green commanded the northern Army, the said Captain Benjamin Head was Recommended by Colonel Bland to General Green as a Confidential and trustworthy officer to carry dispatches to General Lincoln then commanding in the Southern [sic] at Carleston [Charleston] South Carolina, this affiant knows that the said [the image of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point]

[next page]

The war & that the said Captain Head was taken a prisoner while in the Southern Army as this affiant understood & believes. Given under my hand this 3 day of June 1833

S/ George Smith, X his mark

[p 11: very poor image of what appears to be an affidavit signed by Francis Turnley, 72. From what I can decipher of the affidavit, it appears to read substantially like the affidavit of Richard Lane, transcribed above.]

To the Honorable the Executive of Virginia; The Petition of the Heirs of Benjamin Head deceased respectfully sheweth

That their father Benjamin Head entered the service of his country in the year 1776 as a soldier under Captain George Stubblefield, and after fulfilling the term of his enlistment as a Soldier enlisted a second time for three years or during the war – in which he continued until its close – they show that after his second enlistment the said Benjamin became attached to the Horse under the command of Colonel Bland and finally from his good [several words written over and indecipherable] was promoted to the Post of Captain – in which capacity he rendered many useful services & remained in the Army until the close of the War – as your Petitioners

humbly concur [?] is manifest from the evidence of credible persons here with presented.

In consideration of [one or more indecipherable words] your Petitioners pray that the Executive will allow them as the Heirs said Benjamin such portion of [the image of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point]

State of Virginia Corporation of Fredericksburg

This day came before me John Hart a Justice of the peace in & for the Corporation aforesaid John Pierce who testifieth and saith that he resides in the County of Spotsylvania and that he was born & raised in the County of Spotsylvania & his age is 81 the 20th of next December. That he was well acquainted with Benjamin Head a Soldier of the Revolution, the said Head was raised in the County of Spotsylvania, & died in that County the 19th of August 1808 – the said Benjamin Head enlisted in Service in July 1776 in the County of Spotsylvania under George Stubblefield, marched from the County of Spotsylvania in the Spring of that year, in March from the County of Spotsylvania in Captain George Stubblefield company to Hampton or Williamsburg, from there to the head of Elk, was in the northern Army. Served out his first enlistment, continued in the service, enlisted a Second time under Spotswood Dandridge, served out a second tour of service, was attached to Colonel Theodorick Bland's Regiment of Horse, Benjamin Head's second enlistment was for three years or during the War. This affiant believes that during the war – The said Head was a Brave and valuable soldier & rendered [word too faint to discern] service to his Country was much beliked by his officers & particular Colonel Bland who reposed in the said Head the greatest confidence & trust – And of the said Head's services I can mention, while Burgoyne's men were prisoners of war and stationed at the Albemarle Barracks, Drummond the American commander [several words cut off at the bottom of the page] his misconduct & the said Head [the image of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point]

[next page]

was promoted a Captain in Colonel Theodorick Bland's Regiment of Horse for his bravery and good conduct in 1780 and was the Bearer of dispatches from General Green Commanding in the North to General Lincoln then commanding in the South at Charleston South Carolina, was a prisoner of War at the South – after he was released from being a prisoner of War, continued yet in service and was at the taking of Corn Wallace [Cornwallis, October 19, 1781], at the siege of York & was a Captain in service at the end of the war.

S/ Jno. Pierce²
John Pierce
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² Perhaps the same man as [John Pierce S5933](#)