

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Benjamin Bridges R1193

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS

Jefferson County }

on this 27 day of May 1834 personally appeared in open court before John M Hewett Judge of the Jefferson circuit now sitting Benjamin Bridges aged 75 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7 of June 1832

This declarant states that he was living in James City County State of Virginia when he entered the service of the United States and served as here in statated that in the month of January 1778 that he volunteered under Capt John Dames [possibly John Darnes] for a tour of three months and was put aboard of a Virginia Vessel that was lying in a public dock year in the James River he states that said vessel was ladened with Military Stores and supplies for the different forts and garrisons on said River, and that under the command of Capt Dames they in this vessel proceeded up James River landing at the several garrisons and supplying them according to their necessities. this declarant states that in this kind of service he was actively and usefully employed as a seaman until his said three months expired when he was discharged by his said Capt Dames in the month of April 1778

The declarant further states that in the Month of April 1778 that he volunteered for a tour of twelve months for the purpose of guarding and protecting Williamsburg then the seat of Government of Virginia he states that he was marched from James City County and stationed as a guard in said town of Williamsburg and was under the command of Coln David Mason who was commander in chief of the garrison. he states that whilst he was there stationed that he received the appointment of Issuing Commissary from the Commissary General and in that capacity he states that he acted for twelve months giving satisfaction both to the commissary General and Soldiers he states that in the month of May 1779 at which time his twelve months being expired he resigned the office and returned home

This declarant further states that in the year of 1781 Gen [Benedict] Arnold invaded Virginia and that in the month of January 1781 the Militia were called out for the purpose of repelling the invasion when he the said Benjamin Bridges was again called into the service and was marched from said County of James City under the command of Capt Andrew Banke and remained in the ranks as a private for fifteen days after marching to the River. he states they had to retreat up into the country and met Gen'l Lafayettes Army at Richmond and was with his army during their retreat up into the country. he state that he received the appointment of waggon master in Gen Nelsons [Thomas Nelson's] Brigade in which capacity he states he acted retreating and advancing until the 22 of June 1781

This declarant states that independent of the service specified in above declaration of which he has a perfect and distinct recollection that he did perform other services called out for short periods to answer certain immergencies which will appear in an amendment to the foregoing declaration [not found]. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his service but independent of respectable traditinary evidence which he now offers to the court he can prove by respectable living testimony that he did render the greater part of the service stated in his declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll fo the agency of any state

Sworn and subscribed this date and year aforesaid [signed] Benj Bridges Sen'r.

Answers to the Interrogatories propounded by the Court

I was born in James city County State of Va in the year 1759 and have a record of my age as taken fathers family register and when I entered the service of the United States I was living in James City County Va

where I remained until the year of 1795 I then moved to Ky and I now live in Jefferson County Ky – and when I first entered the service Capt John Dames who commanded the vessel whilst I was stationed at Williamsburg then Gen Mason and Coln Mobile [sic: Nicholas George Moëballé] of the Militia during Arnolds invasion there were where I served Gen Lafayette Gen [Anthony] Wayne of the regulars I never received a written discharge but was always honorably discharged. I never received a commission but had several appointments as stated in this declaration. and I will name Peter M. Cary Clergyman and James Pickett who can testify to my character for veracity and reputation as a soldier

NOTES: On 27 May 1834 one Isham Bridges, 67, stated that he was living in James City County and knew part of the service of Benjamin Bridges. The claim of Thomas Bridges was denied because his service as guard and wagon master were not considered to have been as a soldier. On 26 Aug 1853 Harrison Bridges assigned power of attorney to obtain a pension for the service of his father, Benjamin Bridges, deceased.