

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Bernard Cheatham R1897 Judith Cheatham VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Nov 2014.

State of Virginia Charlotte County to wit:

On this 11th day of December 1839, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Judith Cheatham, a resident of said County and State, aged 79 years, 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 July 7th 1838, entitled “An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows –“

That she is the widow of Bernard Cheatham, late of Charlotte County, Virginia, who enlisted in the Minute or Regular service of Virginia, and was drafted in the Militia service of Virginia, as a private soldier of Infantry, in the War of the Revolution. She declares that she does not know any thing, as coming within her personal knowledge of the services of her late husband in the Revolutionary War, having married him some years after the close of the War. She has repeatedly heard from him in his life time, and from others, whom she believes served with him, that about the month of August or September 1775, in the County of Chesterfield, he was enlisted in the Minute service of Virginia, as a Minute man or Continental service, for the term of Twelve months, under Capt [John] Markham, marched to Williamsburg, thence to Portsmouth, and was stationed for a considerable length of time at that place, and near Norfolk. that he was at Portsmouth at the time Governor Dunmore was expected to land with some troops from his vessels of war, then in the Chesapeake bay; and that he reached the Great Bridge, near Norfolk, the day after the battle fought at that place [9 Dec 1775]. That Col [William] Woodford was the commanding officer. She recollects also his stating that [British] Capt [Charles] Fordyce was killed in the battle. That afterwards he was stationed principally at Portsmouth, and the lower part of Virginia, until his term of 12 months expired. That in the year 1781, he was drafted in the militia for three months, under Capt. Moore, and marched to Yorktown, and witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. He entered other service besides the above mentioned, but she cannot at this time call it to memory. That he suffered many hardships and privations during his service. She cannot state precisely how long he served altogether but would suppose he was in actual service at least 15 months, for which length of time she claims a pension. She has no documentary evidence, the papers of her husband being lost or destroyed many years since; nor does she know any living witness in this section of the Country, (being unable from bodily infirmity to go abroad) by whom she can prove the services of her late husband. If in Chesterfield when her husband enlisted, and was drafted, she has no doubts an abundance of evidence might be obtained. She therefore relies in a great measure on the public Records of the Army, and such traditionary evidence as she can obtain here and elsewhere, in support of her claim—

She further declares, that she was married in the County of Charlotte to the said Bernard Cheatham on the 10th day of December 1791, by the Rev'd. Edward Almond; that her husband the said Bernard Cheatham, died on the 23 day of January 1818; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January, Seventeen hundred and ninety four: to wit, at the time above stated. Judith herXmark Cheatham

Virginia: Charlotte County to wit: [1 May 1840]

I John Crafton of Charlotte, do hereby certify, that I was well acquainted with Mernard Cheatham, deceased, in the War of the Revolution; and recollect that in the year 1775 he enlisted under Capt Markham, in the Virginia Minute Service, or continental line, for the term of one year; which term, I have every reason to believe, he served faithfully. I know the fact, he enlisted, or was drafted, in the Minute, or Continental service in Sept'r 1775, under Capt Markham in Chesterfield, for one year, and was in 1st Va. Regiment, commanded by Col Patrick Henry & others. He served the said term faithfully. His widow is still living in Charlotte – where he married her. I am 80, years old. John Crafton

NOTE: The file contains a copy of the marriage record of Bernard Cheatham to Judith Kampton. A supporting statement was made in Charlotte County by one Elkanah H. Cheatham. On 12 May 1840 Mary Beach, 94, also stated that she remembered Bernard Cheatham enlisting in Sep 1775.