

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Cochran R2081

Hannah

fn23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/23/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of South Carolina Abbeville District: SS

On this 27th day of October 1845 personally appeared before David Lesly Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the District in State aforesaid Hannah Cochran aged eighty-four 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 Benjamin Cochran who was a private militia soldier, in the Revolutionary War, on the side of Liberty in the service of the United States from the first breaking out of hostilities, until after his intermarriage with the applicant Hannah Cochran, who in this Declaration narrated her husband's services, previous to his marriage, as she has often heard him speak of them. She says that her husband Benjamin Cochran was twenty years older than herself, and in the middle age of life when he first entered the service of the United States as a volunteer militia soldier of the North Carolina Militia in Mecklenburg County North Carolina under Captain White or Captain Shelby (she does not recollect the name of the Colonel) that her husband was marched to South Carolina, and was in the battle of Stono in South Carolina, heard her husband speak also of volunteering with others under Captain White to intercept some wagons loaded with powder destined for the British service, and of having destroyed the powder by firing it in which service her husband bore a conspicuous part, and for which his life and others with him including Captain White were sought for by the British and Tories, and for safety sought refuge in the said State of Georgia and was absent one year when Captain White and her husband returned to their houses in Mecklenburg County North Carolina, where the powder was destroyed, these services were done and performed by her husband previous to his marriage with the applicant –

The applicant Hannah Cochran states that from her own personal knowledge, her husband after his marriage to her, was a volunteer in North Carolina militia from Mecklenburg County to oppose the British in crossing the Catawba River in North Carolina and was in the battle at the River when General Davidson was killed she does not recollect under what officers her husband volunteered at this period when General Davidson was killed, she recollects that her husband was but a short time out in this service not more than a week. – That subsequently her husband was drafted for three months service in the United States under a Captain McNulty Mecklenburg County North Carolina and in the North Carolina Militia that her husband was

marched to South Carolina, where a Colonel Watson and a large body of Tories were embodied on the Pedee River who were completely routed and dispersed, by Captain McNulty and other American forces. She the applicant cannot state, anything further in relation to her husband's services in the War of the Revolution but is induced to believe that her husband, must have done active service from the commencement of the War of the Revolution until his marriage with, or two the Applicant, and after his marriage, as already stated, the tour of duty of three months last mentioned was in the year 1781 and after this latter service her husband was not again called to do service. She the said Hannah Cochran further declares that she was married to the said Benjamin Cochran in the month of November in the year 1780, that her husband the aforesaid Benjamin Cochran died in the month of March 1819, that she was married to him prior to his leaving the service, and that the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated. That she has no record of her marriage, or of her birth, neither has she any record or any documentary evidence of her husband's services in the War of the Revolution, and can only judge from the character of the war waged in North as well as South Carolina that her husband must have been in continuous service against the British and their more dreaded allies the Tories, she further states that she has remained a widow since the death of her husband Benjamin Cochran and desires to be admitted to the benefit of this as well as all subsequent Acts of Congress passed for the relief of the widows of Revolutionary Soldiers and further says in conclusion, that from her advanced age and the fact of memory, she is not able to specify particularly the many trials, incidents and periods of her husband's service against the British and Tories, as he often narrated them, of one thing, however, she is certain that her husband was a true Whig and friend of his country in her struggle for Liberty and Independence and that there is no fraud in this application directly or indirectly. That there is no person living that her brother John Newell that she knows of who could corroborate the Statements made in this her declaration and refers to his subjoined affidavit in aid of this application for relief as an indigent old widow of a faithful soldier.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written in open Court before
S/ David Lesly, Judge

S/ Hannah Cochran, X her mark

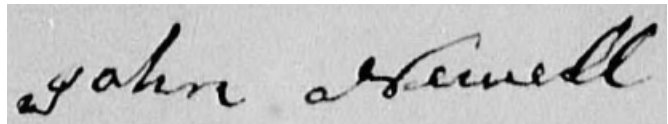
State of South Carolina Abbeville district: SS

I John Newell do solemnly swear on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, that I have seen, and read the foregoing Declaration of my sister Hannah Cochran, and fully confirmed the statements she has made, as I often heard her husband Benjamin Cochran speak of his services in the Revolutionary War and I am of Opinion that I heard him speak of being at the siege of Savannah, and at Camden but will not state these latter places with certainty, heard the said Benjamin Cochran speak also of being at some place, or engagement where he had to lie close, to avoid the enemy shot, and heard him speak of other incidents of his service but which the deponent does not distinctly recollect. I know personally that Benjamin Cochran was in the skirmish or battle when the General Davidson was killed, and that he was subsequently called into service, to serve three months under a Captain McNulty of the North Carolina Militia, and I am perfectly satisfied that Benjamin Cochran, must have served fully 12 months in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, as a private militia Soldier. I further swear that my sister Hannah Cochran was married to Benjamin Cochran in the month of November 1780, although I was not present at the marriage I am fully impressed of the fact, and the accuracy of the date from to circumstances first that my father was very much opposed to my sister Hannah marrying Benjamin Cochran, who was so much older than his sister a difference of 20 years in

their ages, and the result was a runaway match, and I was compelled by my father to accompany him in search of the runaway couple were married before we found them, and secondly from the fact, that another couple relatives of the family, were married at the same time my sister Hannah & Benjamin Cochran were married the fact of the two couples standing up and on the same floor to be married was publicly known, and often spoken of by both friends and relatives. I have therefore a personal knowledge of the fact, that day the said Hannah Cochran & Benjamin Cochran were married and that they lived together as husband & wife from November 1780 until his death in the month of March 1819 that they had ten children born in North Carolina from whence they removed to South Carolina Abbeville District in the year 1804 when the family or survivors of them still reside, I further swear, that I can confidently assert that there is no Fraud directly or indirectly in the Application of Hannah Cochran for a pension and believe that twelve months service or allowance of Benjamin Cochran Revolutionary service in the Militia of the United States would be just, reasonable as satisfactory. I further swear that I know of no Record or Document of any kind that would aid in the investigation of the application of Hannah Cochran the widow as aforesaid.

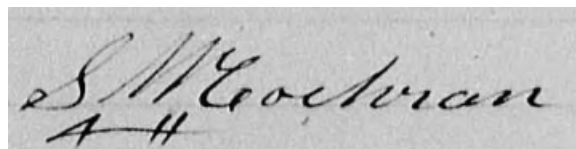
Sworn to and subscribed this 27th day of October in the year of our Lord 1845.

Before S/ Jno. F. Livingston, Clerk S/ John Newell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Newell". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[fn p. 9: On January 17, 1846, in Abbeville District South Carolina, Samuel W Cochran, gave testimony that he is the fourth child of Anna and Benjamin Cochran; that his parents at one time many years ago had a Bible record of the births of their children and that according to that register he was born September 22nd, 1786; that such record was destroyed and there is no record in existence of them ages of his parents children.]

S/ S. W. Cochran

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. W. Cochran". Below the main signature, there are two smaller, less distinct marks that appear to be "A H".