

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Bayse Beech (Beach) R652

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit:

On this 22^d day of February, 1839, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Mary Beach, a resident of said County and State aforesaid, aged 90 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 4th 1836:

That she is the Widow of Richard Bayse Beach, who was a Private in the Continental line and militia service of the State of Virginia, in the War of the Revolution – She declares that she knows nothing as coming within her personal knowledge, respecting the services of her late husband in the War of the Revolution, not being with him in the service, although married before the commencement of his services – except what she has time after time heard from him in his life time and from others who served with him, on whose statements she has the utmost confidence. She recollects very distinctly, hearing him say that he was a considerable length of time in actual service, engaged in many battles, and suffered many hardships and privations. That she during the time of his absence in defence of his country, was left alone to support and protect herself. That from bodily infirmity, old age, and the consequent loss of memory, she cannot call to recollection the exact history of her husbands services as detailed by him in his life time: she therefore, prefers to depend on the Public Records of the Army of that period, and the accompanying certificates of old, credible and reputable soldiers who served with him at the time, and whose certificates are prayed to be considered a part of her declaration. – That, for the same reason, she cannot state precisely how long he was in actual service altogether, but would suppose, he was at least 15 months; for which length of time, she claims a pension –

She further declares that she was married to the said Richard B. Beach on the 14th day of August, 1774, that her husband the aforesaid Richard B. Beach died on the 7th day of April, 1810. She further declares that she was married before the expiration of the last period of her husband's service, and that she has remained a widow and unmarried ever since the death of her said husband the said Richard B. Beach, and is still a widow – and that she has never since married – as will appear from proof annexed.

Mary herXmark Beech

Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit:

I do hereby certify, that I was intimately acquainted with Richard B. Beach late of Lunenburg in the War of the Revolution, and know the fact from personal knowledge, that he enlisted in 1777, in the County of Chesterfield in the Regular service under Capt Fowler for the term of Twelve months, and was attached to the 5th Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, commanded by Col [Burgess] Ball and General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]. He marched from Chesterfield to Valley Forge the Head Quarters of the American Army, and was engaged in the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778]. He served the said term faithfully, and was honorably discharged from service. I farther certify, that he was a soldier in the militia service of Virginia, and was drafted under Capt Moore for three months, and marched to North Carolina, and was engaged in the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. Col Cock [Nathaniel Cocke] and General [Robert] Lawson were commanding officers. These facts come within my personal knowledge, being with him in the same company's and Regiments the whole time. I am in the 80th year of my age, and was a soldier of the Virginia Continental line, and Militia.

John hisXmark Mohorn

Virginia: Charlotte County to wit: [26 Mar 1839]

I Seth Farley of Charlotte do hereby certify, that I was acquainted with Richard B. Beach late of Lunenburg County in the War of the Revolution, and recollect distinctly that in 1781, he was drafted in the Militia from Lunenburg County under Capt Moore for the term of three months, and marched to North Carolina, and was engaged in the Battle of Guilford. I was attached to Capt Walkers company from the same county, and saw him frequently during the time, which enables me to say that he served the said term faithfully and was honorably discharged. I further certify, that said Richard B. Beach, as I have always understood, and believe the same to be true, before he moved to Lunenburg County from Chesterfield, in 1776 or 1777, enlisted under Capt Fowler in the Virginia Continental line for 12 or 18 months, and marched to the North. How long he served, I am unable to say. I am in the 81st year of my age, and was a soldier of the Revolution. [signed] Seth Farley

NOTES:

John Crute (pension application S24980) stated that Richard Bayse Beach had served as a private in the Virginia Continental line for one year under Capt. Fowler.

On 25 Apr 1839 Elizabeth Elles stated that her sister, the former Mary Akin of Chesterfield County VA, was married to Richard B. Beech of the same county in the summer of 1774 by Parson McRoberts. Ellison Clark, the Justice of the Peace, stated that Mary Beech had "lost the use of her limbs, and has for many years been mostly confined to her house and yard." The file includes the family record transcribed below.

Mary ann Cheatom darter of William Elless Jnr and nancy his Wife Was born the 12th day of December 1809

Bethiah Bailey the daughter of Phebe Bailey was born July 10th 1815

James B Beech was born October 11th 1775

Wm. B. Beech was born February 8th 1779

Pheby B Beech was born Sept. 14 1782

Lodwick B Beech was born September 10th 1786

William Elless[?] Jr and nancy herfield[?] was mard the 23th day of January 1809

~~Mary McGuire[?] Was married January 3rd [two illegible words]~~

Lodwick B Beech Jr & Elizabeth Beech was Married August 28th 1811