

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

Pension Application of James Beard R669
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS
County of Rockingham }

On this third day of November 1845 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace of Rockingham County and State of Virginia, James Beard a resident of said County and State aforesaid, eighty four years of age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress pass'd June 7th 1832. That he entered the service under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated;

He was under the command of Col. Benjamin Harrison, Capt. John Rush [pension application R9090], and Capt. George Huston & Lieutenant Thomas Lewis all of Rockingham County & State of Virginia, was a soldier and draughted for the term of six months, served out his time and was discharge. He was acquainted with Capt. Nathan Lamme and Gen'l Anthony Wayne in the Regular service of the United States, was in the battle of Hot water [6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 Jun 1781], drawn up in a line of battle at James Town, at the Siege of York Town and at the taking of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781].

“He hereby relinquishes, every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any other state.

[signed] James Beard

- 1 Where and in what year were you born?
Ans. I was born in Augusta County, and State of Virginia, in the year sixty one (1761)
- 2 Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?
Ans. I had a record of my age, but my Mother took the book that contained it to Indiana some years since, she is dead, and I do not know what has become of it.
- 3 Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War; and where do you now live?
Ans. I lived in Rockingham County and State of Virginia, lived there since the Revolutionary War and now live there.
- 4 How were you call'd into service, were you draughted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute; and if a substitute for whom?
Ans. I was call'd into service by competent authority and was draughted
- 5 State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Malitia Regiments as you recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.
Ans. Gen'l. Anthony Wayne & Capt Nathan Lamme were Regular Officers, and Col. Benjamin Harrison commanded a portion of the Malitia at the time I was in service, was in the battle of Hot water, drawn up in a line of battle at James Town, at Siege of York Town and at the taking or surrender of Lord Cornwallis.
- 6th. To a Soldier. Did you ever receive a discharge from service; and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?
Ans. I did, receive a discharge from Capt. George Huston, and I have it, and send it with this declaration.
- 7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in you present neighborhood, and can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?
Ans. Peter Miller a Clergyman and Samuel Fisher both of Rockingham County and State of Virginia. also; Jacob Baker of said County & State aforesaid

I do certify that James Beard who has been [illegible word] was a Draft from Capt John Rush in the State of Virginia for six month has Been Discharg from service By me
October 19th 1781

Georg Huston Capt.
8th Virg'a Regt

State of Virginia } S.S.
County of Rockingham }

On this third day of November 1845 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for, Rockingham County and State of Virginia James Beard a resident of said County and State aforesaid, eighty four years of age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress pass'd 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the united States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

He was under Col. Benjamin Harrison and commanded by Capt. George Huston both of Rockingham County and State of Virginia. He was draughted soldier for twenty days tour, against the tories from Capt. George Hustons Company Rockingham County and State of Virginia, and entered service in the Spring of 1781. (The day and month not recollected) Served out the twenty days tour against the tories by crossing over the North Mountain [Great North Mountain in present Hardy County WV] at Brocks or dry River Gap to the west against Gen'l. Claypole [sic: John Claypoole] (who was the Commander of the Tories) Col. Benjamin Harrison with his command with Col. [Abraham] Bird (from Shandore County Virginia) with the men and officers under his command at Gen'l. Claypoles house on the west side of said North Mountain, Gen'l. Claypole with the most of his tory followers, had left for the mountains, or places unknown, However, some of his men came in and surrendered themselves, and Gen'l. Claypole himself sent in a letter to Col. Benjamin Harrison asking for peace – and that he and his men willing to take up arms in favor of their own Country, afterwards Capt Johnson, (who commanded a company under Gen'l. Claypole) raised a company from among the tories and was with Col. Benjamin Harrison at the battle of Hot water, during the battle every one of his men left him, as well as officers, except his Lieutenant (whose name I have forgotten) During the campaign against the Tories, one of them was shot in the calf of his leg, the ball lodged against his shin bone. Doc't. Michael A Dacon, (Sergeon to Col. Benjamin Harrison Regiment) was requested to extract or cut it out and dress the wound of the tory, he refused, and said, d_n the tories let them find their own Doctors, the tory was then carried in a sheet by four or six of Col. Benj. Harrison's men, to Gen'l. Claypole's house and left. There were no Regular officers, or soldier out on that expedition that he recollects. He has no documentary evidence, and he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. That he served as a draughted soldier, served with an embodied corps, call'd into service by competent authority; that he was in the field, and for the time during which this service was performed, he was not employed in any civil persuit.

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 of the Agency of any State.

[signed] James Beard

1 Where and in what year were you born?

Ans In Augusta County and State of Virginia in the year (1761) sixty one

2 Have you and record of your age and, if so, where is it?

Ans. I had a record of my age, my Mother took it to Indiana some years since. She is dead, and I do not know what was done with it.

3. Where were you living when call'd into Service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War; and where do you now live?

Ans. In Rockingham County and State of Virginia, at the time, since and I now live there.

4. How were you call'd into Service; were you draughted, did you volunteer, or were you a

substitute; and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was draughted.

5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served; such Continental and Malitia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of of your service

Ans. Col. Benjamin Harrison Capt. George Huston and Capt. Ezekiel Harris from Rockingham County and Col. Bird and Capt. Bird of Shanadore County & State of Virginia were Malitia Officers and and at the time Col. Bird was at a Fort west of the North Mountain, and had not force enough to disperse the tories, and made a requisition for more force. Col. Benjamin Harrison was ordered to raise a regiment by a draught, the draught was a heavy one, and twenty men from each Company in Rockingham Co'y & State of Virginia were draughted; and went to the assistance of Col. Bird, I being one of them. On the approach of Col. Harrison & his men the Tories left for the mountains (or the most of them) and afterwards returned (or many of them) and gave themselves up. Col. Harrison & Col. Bird with their commands met at Gen'l. Claypoles house. Gen'l. Claypole at the time was the commander of the Tories and had left with most of his men by the time they reached his house. There was a tory shot as related in a former part of this declaration. There were no Continental or Regular officers in this twenty days tour

6 To the Soldier} Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service; and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Ans. I do not think I did; If I did, I have lost it

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Ans. Peter Miller a Clergyman, and Samuel Fisher, both of the State of Virginia and Rockingham County. Also; Jacob Baker of said County & State aforesaid.