

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Obadiah M. Benge R743 Sarah fn27NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/25/10

[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 Alabama DeKalb County: On this 22nd day of February 1843 Personally appeared before me Pollydore Nailor Judge of the County Court of said County of DeKalb and State of Alabama at his residence in said County, Obadiah M. Benge, who from age and infirmity is unable to appear in open court, aged seventy-nine years, 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, passed June 7th 1832.

He entered the service of the United States as a private soldier under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, "He 1st belonged to a company of Captain James Sheppard which he joined in the month of May 1780 , for the term of nine months, when he entered the service he was between sixteen & seventeen years old, and was forced into the service by his step-father, John Fielder, as a substitute for one James Green, his said stepfather received from said James Green a horse, bridle & saddle for the same, He resided when called into service in Surry County in the State of North Carolina. He remained under the said Captain Sheppard as a mounted man, scouting and ranging through the said County of Surry and the adjoining Country for the purpose of counteracting the operations of the Tories, until the fall of the same year, when he with his company was marched for Kings Mountain in the State of South Carolina, and on the way in Burke County in the State of North Carolina, they were joined by other troops for the same point, on meeting said troops in Burke County, he, was there by consent of the captains transferred to the company of Captain McDowell or Captain White, one being a Lieutenant and the other a Captain, but he is not now able to say which was Captain & which Lieutenant. This transfer was made on account of this declarant's having an older brother in the company to which he was transferred. Here his Colonel was Benjamin Cleveland, we were then marched to Kings Mountain, which this Declarant thinks is in South Carolina, and on their approach to Kings Mountain they were joined by other troops under Colonel Shelby and Colonel Campbell, and in October or November, he under Colonel Cleveland, went into the Battle of Kings Mountain. He was in the front rank, marched up a Hollow towards the enemy and the Battle began, and when this Declarant had his gun to his face for the 3rd or 4th fire, he received a wound in his right arm which entered near the body on the inside and near the body, the ball ranged back under his shoulder blade where it yet remains, and from which he is to a great extent has ever since been a cripple, after the Battle was over and on the following day, his said brother being killed in the

same, this Declarant was taken to the house of a distant relative about four miles distant from the Battleground where he remained about 3 months. He never again joined the Army, his company being disbanded or discharged. He never obtained a discharge. He never had any Documentary evidence of his services, and he knows of no one, living by whom he can prove the same, but he will state a fact which was done in his favor. It is this, In 1791 as will be seen by the enclosed commission, he was made a Captain, in his neighborhood, and some 4 or 5 years afterwards, when he resigned the same the court martial made an order and presented him with an attested copy, the names of all the members of the Court being signed to the same. He, this Declarant being then about to remove to Davidson County Tennessee, or as it was then called Cumberland, in which it was stated among other things, "That he Declarant was a true Whig, a brave soldier and had been wounded in the Battle of Kings Mountain, and recommending him to all the good people of Cumberland as such" which paper he has lost or mislaid, he has not seen it for many years. He states as reasons why he has never before applied for a Pension that for the last twenty years and until the Cherokee Nation of Indians was sent West, he resided among them by permission of the head men of the Nation, and that he never until lately was properly advised of his privileges or rights to obtain the same. 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.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of February A.D. 1843

S/ O. M. Benge

S/ Polydore Naylor, Judge

Interrogatories:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Albemarle County Virginia cannot say in what year, but suppose it was in the year 1763.

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

Answer. I never had any.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in Surry County in the State of North Carolina when called into the service, afterwards I remained in said County 14 or 15 years, when I removed to Davidson County Tennessee, where I remained some 8 years, thence I removed to what is now Franklin County Tennessee where I remained until 1814. I then removed to what is now Walker County in the State of Georgia, which was then in the limits of the Cherokee Nation with whom I obtained a permit to remain in order that I might teach them some of the arts of husbandry, I continued with them until a few years ago and when the people of Georgia drove them & me from our homes. I then removed to where I now reside in DeKalb County Alabama.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was forced by my step Father to be the substitute for one James Green

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I do not know who were regular officers and who militia, I knew Colonel Shelby, Colonel Cleveland & Colonel Campbell & Colonel Williams who was killed, Joel Lewis & Micajah Lewis were both wounded, cannot say they were regular officers. I believe the whole

Army was made up a drafted man & volunteers. The circumstances of my service as I can now recollect them were, that I was forced into the service by my step Father, John Fielder as a substitute for James Green for the term of 9 months as a mounted man for the term of 9 months and continued in service until the Battle of Kings Mountain where I fall on foot & I believe all the mounted men did likewise.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I never did, neither did I ever received any pay for the same.

7th 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. Colonel Hugh P. Caperton, Col. Franklin Slaton, John Longacre Esqr. Doctor Hugh Pogue, Col. David Cawlfild & Alexander McCormac

S/ O. M. Benge

[fn p. 14: Jacob W. Gipson, a clergyman, George C. Benge & John Davis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 19: captain's commission in the Surry County, NC militia, dated June 3, 1791 and signed by Alex Martin, Gov.]

[fn p. 8: family record]

Hill folded May the 7:14

Patessey Benge was Born September the 22 1786

Elesebeth Benge was Born June the 30 1788

W. B. Benge was Born March the 22 1790

G. C. Benge was Borne febuwary the 21 1802

Robart Benge was Born June the 1 1803

[fn p. 9: on July 21, 1852 in DeKalb County Alabama, Sarah Benge filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Obadiah Benge; that she was married to him in Franklin Tennessee by George Tubbs a magistrate she thinks subsequent to the year 1800; that her husband applied for a pension in his lifetime; that he died in DeKalb County Alabama on the 23rd day of March 1846 without having been allowed a pension.]