

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Francis Benty: R789

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Ohio

Geauga County SS. [Several illegible words] day of August one thousand and eight hundred and thirty two. Personally appeared Francis Benty before the Honourable Joshua Collett and Ebenezer Lane Judges of of the Supreme Court at Chardon Court House in and for said County of Geauga and State of Ohio, now sitting Francis Benty a resident of Painesville Township in the County and State aforesaid. 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein Stated. Admiral de Tiernay[?], General [Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de] Rochambeau, Captain Luenier, Lieutenant Sunda[?], sometime in May in the year 1780, at Elsas [Alsace], formerly the Province of Elsas, near the City of Strasburgh [sic: Strasbourg] in France. Your Claimant entered the service as a Volunteer and Private from Strasburgh which was the residence of your Claimant at the time he so entered the service and repaired to Brest he Sailed for America with the first division of the French Fleet under the Command of Admiral de Tiernay and was on the water about six weeks at the expiration of which we sailed into Newport [10 Jun 1780] where we lay untill in the Spring of 1781 when he joined the land Troops under the Command of General Lafayette, General Rochambeau Captain Luiner, Lieutenant Sunda the other officers is not within his recollection and Marched to the White Plains in the State of N.Y (your Claimant being a foreigner at that time does not recollect the particular places through which he marched) from here he marched to Fort Washington in order to retake it but failed in the attempt and immediately returned to White Plains where we Lay some days the number your Claimant does not recollect but some [illegible word] as fifteen when we crossed the River and Marched to Yorktown in Virginia in order to take Cornwallis in which engagement your Claimant Participated [see note below]. And that he left the service soon after the Battle some time in December 1781, the day he does not recollect and that he has no documentary evidence. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service, and that his name is not on the pension Rool of the agency of any State, and your Claimant would further state that there is no minister in the immediate vicinity with whom he is acquainted whom he can procure to certify as to his character and services. Sworn to and Subscribed this tenth day of August A.D. 1832. [signed] Francis benty

Question 1st. Where and in what year was you born?

Answer. I was born in the province of Elsas near the City of Strasburgh in France in the year of our Lord 1754.

Ques 2^d Have you any Record of your age; and if so where is it?

Ans. I have not

Ques. 3^d. Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Ans. When called into the service I lived within six or eight miles of the City of Strasburgh in France. Since the Revolution I have lived in different parts of the State of New York until within two years past which two years last pas[t] I have resided in Painesville Geauga County Ohio where I now live.

Ques. 4th. How were you called into the service were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?

Ans I did volunteer.

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

Ans 5th General Lafayette, Lieutenant General Rochambeau, Captain Luener, Lieutenant Sunda. I was with the troops formed of the first division of the French fleet the Line

or Regiment I do not recollect. I volunteered while in France to go and serve in the American Revolution and sailed from Brest a Seaport in France with the first division of the french fleet under the Command of Admiral de Tiernay. we sailed into Newport, from here we marched to the White Plains in the State of NY. I was present at the attempt to retake Fort Washington, and in the Battle in which Cornwallis was taken

Ques 6th. 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 did not receive a discharge.

Ques. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character fro veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans Ralph Granger Esq'r., Samuel Butler, [illegible] Cables
[signed] Francis benty

NOTE: In July 1781 Washington and Rochambeau considered a siege of the British in New York City, but on 26 July they decided they lacked the men and equipment. I could find no record of an attempt to recapture Fort Washington. Learning soon after that Admiral de Grasse planned to sail into Chesapeake Bay, near where Cornwallis was awaiting reinforcements, Washington and Rochambeau decided to march for Virginia. Their armies left New York on 18 Aug, the Siege of Yorktown began 28 Sep, and Cornwallis surrendered on 19 Oct 1781.