

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Reynolds R8709

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Lewis County }

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 1833 personally appeared before me James M Camp a Justice of the peace in and for the said county of Lewis in the said state of Virginia Benjamin Reynolds a resident citizen of Lewis county in the State of Virginia aged seventy four 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 of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. that he entered the service of the United under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in March 1777 He was drafted to serve a tour of six months in the Virginia militia - he was drafted from Richmond county Va. under captain Samuel Randall Col. Baytop [see note below]. was marched into Westmoreland county from thence to Northumberland continued there sometime from thence Col. Baytop marched his regiment into Lancaster County continued there along the bay till October 1777 when he was discharged by captain Randall. Then in April 1778 He substituted for a man named Ball to serve six months in the Va. militia under Captain George Randall a brother to his former captain Samuel Randall. He joined a regiment in Northumberland commanded by Col. Redman marched down into Lancaster from thence crossed the Rhappahannock [sic: Rappahannock] river into Middlesex county to Smiths store The regiment was sent in detachments to different places in Middlesex and Matthews counties to prevent negroes running to the enemies boats which hovered along the coast to capture slaves. He was kept there untill in November 1778 and discharged by his captain having served six months this tour as a private in the militia, and having served six months in 1777 in the same capacity He returned home Then in March 1779 He was drafted to serve a tour of six months in the Virginia militia under captain Fauntleroy [probably John Fauntleroy] Marched from Richmond county Virginia in latter part of March 1779 to Westmoreland county Joined a regiment commanded by the same Col Baytop marched down into Northumberland thence to Lancaster crossed over to Middlesex thence into Matthews thence to Gloucester. Thence to Elizabeth City Thence into york during two marches we were watching the enemy in their ships trying to prevent their capturing slaves. The British took a great number of little sloops schooners &c about Norfolk in the Bay - Elizabeth river James river York and Rappahannock this was done mostly in the spring or first of summer May and June. from York County crossed York river into King and Queen County to the Rappahannock and there in October 1779 he was discharged by captain Fauntleroy crossed Rappahannock river and went home to Richmond county having served his full tour of six months as a private in the Va. M'a. We were there told that Sir George Collier and General [Edward] Matthews were the British officers who done so much mischief along the Bay and rivers this year [9 - 24 May 1779]. In March 1780 He entered into a company of Va. M'a. for six months as a substitute for a man named Smith He marched from Richmond county courthouse under captain James Henderson Colonel Taliafero marched across the Rhappahannock into King and Queen thence into Middlesex. Thence to Matthews. Thence over to Lancaster. Thence to Northumberland thence up to Westmoreland mostly guarding against the escape of slaves to the enemy's boats which were frequently in the bay and rivers capturing slaves. He was discharged in Westmoreland county in October 1780 having served this tour full six months as a substitute and private militia man Then in March 1781 He was drafted to perform a tour of six months under captain John Smith Col. Crump Marched to Westmoreland thence to Northumberland Thence to Lancaster. thence to Middlesex. Thence into Matthews. Thence into Elizabeth City passing through Gloucester thence up into York. Thence down again into Elizabeth city Thence to yorktown in all this movement of Col. Crumps regiment he was watching the river and Bay for the enemys forces and to be ready to act in concert with the French fleet then in the bay and lastly in york river in October we marched up to york town Cornwallis having then arrived there where in that month Oct'r. [19<sup>th</sup>] 1781 He surrendered to the forces under General Washington. There sometime in October he thinks the 29<sup>th</sup> he was discharged by captain Smith having served this tour at least six months as a private

militia man. Here he saw Generals Washington. Lay Fayette [sic: Lafayette]. [Benjamin] Lincoln. [Anthony] Wayne. [George] Weedon and [Peter] Muhlenberg and others besides many Cols and Majors most of whose names he has forgotten. He returned home to Richmond county. Then in March 1782 He volunteered to serve a tour of six months under Captain Johnson Colonel Williams was again marched to Westmoreland Thence across to Northumberland. Thence to Lancaster continued there sometime crossed over to Middlesex. Thence over into Matthews county thence through Gloucester to Elizabeth City County. Thence up to Richmond City there guarded the Magazine untill in sometime in November when some troops from Augusta relieved the troops of Col. Williams he was discharged by his captain having served more than six months this tour as a private soldier in the Virginia Militia This tour ended his military services in the war of the revolution. He served more than three years in all as a private soldier in the Va. M'a. from the year 1777 to 1782. He has no documentary evidence knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. There are no clergy men residing near him he hereby relinquishes his 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Benjamin hisXmark Reynolds  
The said Justice of the peace propounded to the applicant the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the war department to which he answered thus. Viz.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. That He was born in Richmond county Va. in the year 1759.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. That he has no record of his age.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. That he was living in Richmond county Va. where he was born. That he lived there till the year 1809 when he removed to then Harrison but now Lewis County where he still lives
- 4<sup>th</sup>. That he was drafted in 1777 substituted in 1788 [sic] for Ball in 1779 drafted again. in 1780 substituted for Smith in 1781 drafted and lastly in 1782 volunteered
- 5<sup>th</sup>. He saw and knew Col. Meeter [possibly Garrett Vanmeter] General Weedon Major John Lee Captain Blackwell. Col [Theodorick] Bland and many others he saw that he did not know some in the State service and some in continental service. The general circumstances of his services are set forth above as near as he can after the lapse of half a century
- 6<sup>th</sup>. He rec'd. discharges from all his captains viz 1<sup>st</sup>. capt'n Sam'l. Randall 2 capt'n George Randall 3 Capt'n Fauntleroy. 4 Capt'n ["John Smith" lined through and "Johnson" written over] 5 capt'n Smith 6<sup>th</sup> capt'n Johnson some of them countersigned by the col. they are all lost.
- 7<sup>th</sup>. He is known his neighborhood amongst others to David S. Cox and Paul Shaver [pension application S7504] they can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution there are no clergyman living near him. There are some itinerant preachers to whom he is little known to frail to travel about. he mixes little with the world.

Benjamin hisXmark Reynolds  
We David S Cox and Paul Shaver residing in the county of Lewis do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Benjamin Reynolds who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration. That we believe him to be 74 years of age. That he is reputed to have been a soldier of the revolution and we concur in that opinion. Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] David S. Cox

Paul hisXmark Shaver

#### NOTES:

James Baytop was a lieutenant and captain in the Continental service until 12 May 1779. He became Lt. Col. of Militia from Gloucester County in 1781.

A note in the file reads "Benjamin Reynolds Va Suspended— Letter 5 Nov 1833[?] to Jna Wamsley—" Suspension may have resulted from suspicion about the large number of tours for six months each, when the usual militia tour was for only three months. Jonathan Wamsley prepared a large number of fraudulent claims by tricking illiterate old men into putting their marks on false statements. Many such fraudulent claims were investigated in 1834 by W. G. Singleton. See the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111) for details.