

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Talbert S16548

f20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/4/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. 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. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Georgia, Baldwin County

On this 27th of February 1833, personally appeared in open court before Lucius Q.C. Lamar, Judge of the Superior Court of said State and County now sitting, Benjamin Talbert, a resident of the 319th district in said State and County, aged sixty eight years of the 18th day of November 1832, 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.

In the early part of 1780, to the best of his recollection, but he is not certain of the year, he entered the service as a volunteer at Fredricksburg [Fredericksburg], Virginia for a tour of three months under Captain White. He then marched to Williamsburg where he remained three months. He was under the command of other officers not remembered and the Marquis La Fayette.

He was afterwards, in the same year, drafted for a tour of three months and joined the American forces at Davenport's Ford, on the south prong of the Pomonky [Pamunkey River], under Capt. Nich. Payne [Nicholas Payne]. He then marched to Williamsburg and had been there but a short time, when the American forces retreated from Cornwallis and Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] and joined Gen. Wayne at the foot of the Little Mountains, near the Rappahannoc [Rappahannock River]. He then marched with the army, to give battle to Cornwallis, who retreated towards the Little York. He was then in an engagement, in which Cornwallis was attacked in crossing James River, just above old Jamestown. He then remained with the army, about 15-18 miles above Williamsburg, while Cornwallis was in that town. While the army was at this station, he formed one of an advanced party which was stationed during the day at Bird's Tavern, at night, approached the British lines. During this service, one morning just after daybreak, while the men were laying near Allen's Tavern, with their arms in their hands, Tarleton's horse, each having a foot soldier mounted with him, made a sudden attack on the advanced party, who were much inferior to the English in numbers. The English infantry dismounted, reformed, and the cavalry charged. Col. Mathis, who commanded the American party, called out to them to save themselves and fled at full speed, being mounted. A number of the Americans were killed and wounded and the rest were dispersed. The applicant could not rejoin the army, until the next day. After this, he marched to where there was a magazine, near Williamsburg. He then marched with the army to Springfield, about six miles from Little York, and was there, when Gen. Washington arrived with his staff and advanced guard. The three months for which he was drafted, having expired, he was discharged a short time before Gen. Washington commenced his entrenchment at Pigeon Hill, above Little York. During this tour, he

was under command of Maj. Hardy and Col. Merriwether [probably a reference to Colonel Thomas Meriwether] and a part of the time under Col. Mathis, especially at the route at Allen's Tavern. The army was commanded by Gen. Wayne and LaFayette [Lafayette].

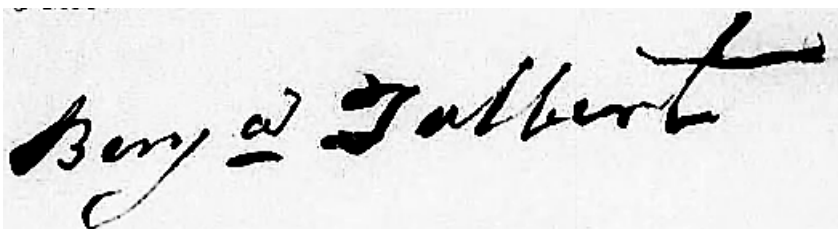
In the same year, after the capture of Cornwallis, he served as a substitute for Oswald Smith, a drafted militiaman. This service commenced a Fredericksburg, Virg. & he marched as one of the guard that conducted a portion of the English prisoners taken at Little York, to Nolden's Ferry on the Potomac, where they were put under the charge of Maryland troops and he was discharged at that place.

He has not preserved his discharges and he has no record of his age and he is not able to prove his services by any witness who can be produced at court. He lived in Virginia for five or six years after the War, and since that time, he has resided in the counties of Wilkes and Baldwin in Georgia.

He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and declares, that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Benja. Talbert

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benja. Talbert". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

We, Edmond Brantley, a clergyman residing in the said County and Tomlinson Fort, also residing therein hereby certify that was well acquainted with Benjamin Talbert, who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing declaration that we believe him to be about sixty-eight years of age, that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed, in open court the day and year aforesaid....

S/ Edmd. Brantley, M.G.

S/ Tomlinson Fort

Answers of Benjamin Talbert to the questions propounded by the War Department

To the 1st He was born in Spotsylvania County Virginia in the year 1764

“ 2nd He has no record of his age.

“ 3rd He was living in Spotsylvania County, Virginia when called into service: he lived at the same place for about five years after the revolutionary war; he then removed to South Carolina, & worked at various places as a bricklayer, for about 12 or 14 months; he then removed to Wilkes County, Georgia, where he resided about 12 years; he then removed to Clarke; & after about two years to Hancock, & after a seven or eight years, he removed to Baldwin County, where he has resided to the present time.

“ 4th When he first entered the service, he was a substitute but does not remember the man's name, for whom he was a substitute: in his declaration, it is improperly stated, that he volunteered; he meant, that he voluntarily became a substitute: another mistake occurs in his declaration, as to the manner of his being called into service the second time, he was then also a

substitute for a man named Graves, whose first name he has forgotten. The third time mentioned in his declaration, he was a substitute for Oswald Smith. Between the time of his substituting for Graves & for Smith, he was drafted, in a company the names of whose officers he does not remember. The adjutant was Major Hardy, Meriwether was the Colonel; he was in the Army, & had not gone home, although Graves' time, for whom he had been a substitute, had just expired, when he was drafted – it was at Springfield. He was about a month in the service, at this time, & was discharged on account of bad health; & he was about 15 days in service as a substitute for Arnold Smith.

“ 5th He remembers, while he was in the service, seeing Generals Washington, Wayne & Lafayette; & he believes Major Hardy was a regular officer: he does not remember any militia officers, besides those whom he has mentioned in his declaration.

“ 6th I received one discharge from Captain White, one from Captain Payne, one from Colonel Meriwether, & one from an officer whom he does not remember. They are all lost or destroyed.

“ 7th E. Brantley, T. Fort, Richard Rowell, William Scoggins, Gen. James Watson & many others.

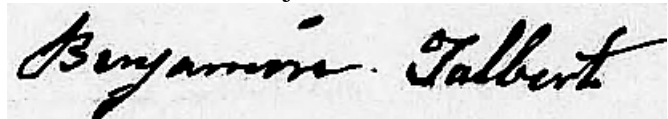
Georgia, Baldwin County

Before me personally appeared, Benjamin Talbert, who being duly sworn, deposeth & saith that the foregoing answers are true & that by reason of old age, & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, viz., for seven months & 16 days, as a private: during which time he was not employed in any civil pursuit; & for such services he claims a pension. He is not able to produce any witness to prove his services.

Sworn to & subscribed before me, the 29th day of July 1833.

S/ John A. Cuthbert, J. J. C.

S/ Benjamin Talbert

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Talbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping underline.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.77 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months and 16 days service as a private in the Virginia militia.]