

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

Pension Application of Robert Beard S1789

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } On the [blank] day of October 1832 personally appeared before me Levi
Washington County } Bowers one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County (at
the residence of said applicant) the subscriber Robert Beard a citizen of the County & state aforesaid aged
sixty nine ([illegible word]) March next, who being first duly sworn, by me, (he being prevented from
attending court on account of bodily indisposition) made the following declaration in order to obtain the
benefits of the act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832 that he entered the service of the United States
under the following named officers, in the revolutionary war & served as herein stated towit, being at the
time a resident citizen of Augusta County Virginia being born & raised there he was placed upon the
muster roll of the said Virginia Militia, of Augusta about the close of the year 1780, haveing then for the
first time become liable to perform military duty he volunteered in the beginning of the year 1781 to
perform a tour of duty to go against the British, in the war of the Revolution, at the time Cornwallis was
on his march through Virginia [beginning in May], he enrolled under Capn John Cunningham in
Staunton and set out to perform his tour of duty from said place on the tenth day of January 1781 without
having any higher officers than Colonals, they being Col. Sampson Mathews & William Mayer[?], &
under them marched from Staunton to a point below Richmond Virginia where sundry of the Militia who
had been unprovided with arms (himself amongst the number) and at the magazine or arsenal drew arms
and after which a an arrangement was made that he was put into Capn. Camarons [probably Cameron's]
Company, under the organization of the Company before they arrived at Norfolk which was the place of
destination of the troops expecting there to meet the British Army under [blank] at that point or vicinity
the British haveing shortly before burned Norfolk [see endnote], but when the american troops arrived at
Norfolk, the British was at Portsmouth where they had remained for some time, & after some
cannonading & skirmishes with the enemy, where they remained until the expiration of his term of three
months had expired, and was verbally discharged with the other troops at Norfolk by his said Capn
Cameron, there having been a difficulty on account of the officers attempting to keep the men longer in
service that their term of enrollment, which service was three months exclusive of the time of travel in
going & returning – that after his return home the news of Cornwallis fortifying at Little York (reached
the vicinity) & the militia were called out to go to the seige, this declarant was put to driving a waggon
under Capn Still who was waggon master, and was engaged in halling the cannon & artillery for G'l.
Lafayette's [sic: Lafayette's] portion of the army when going to join the main army under G'l. Washington
to Little York, & was engaged in waggoning until after the capitulation & was dismissed from service &
returned home some time late in October & did not obtain a written discharge, having been in service
from the preceding summer until said term of time.

That he has no documentary evidence nor does he know after strict enquiry of any person by
whom he can prove his said service, after the great lapse of time which has intervened, that he is unable
to attend Court from bodily indisposition, nor is there a minister of the Gospel in his vicinity by whom he
can establish the facts required by the instructions of the war Department. Robert hisXmark Beard
[Certified by Jacob Miller and S William Beard.]

NOTE: Norfolk had been burned by Commodore George Collier and Gen Edward Mathew in May 1779.
British troops under Gen. Benedict Arnold established winter quarters at Portsmouth on 19 Jan 1781, and
Gen. William Phillips took command there on 20 March. Cornwallis entered Virginia in May and
encamped at Yorktown on 1 Aug. The siege at Yorktown began on 28 Sep and continued until the
surrender on 19 Oct.