

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Bennett S18714

f37NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/26/10 rev'd 4/10/15 & 7/2/18

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 2]

[copy]

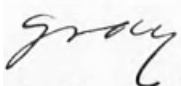
State of South Carolina

To the Honorable the Speaker & members of the House of Representatives

The humble petition of Reuben Bennett sheweth that after the dreadful calamities & monstrous hardships of the revolution he has still to encounter some of the consequences of that period. He suffered greatly from cold & the inclemencies of the times & from the severe trial he thinks that the relicts of it are injuries to him now as it has hastened on the weakness of his [indecipherable word, looks like "gray" or "grdy"]¹ & effects [affects] his body. Your Petitioner at that period did not hesitate to do his Country whatever he conceived would advance her interest & establish her independence. He fought in her cause & suffered in her defense. The prime of his youth was spent in her service the very time he should be laying in a score for his old age but his Country got his services & he has been unable to procure for himself such an estate as will save him from the most severe labor. His services were chiefly in this State. He fought in the battle of the Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] under General Green [Nathanael Greene] & continued with him for the space of twelve months, He joined him at Camden and continued with him and all his marches & routes until he served out his time as aforesaid – was with him at Dorchester, Round O, and at Governor Bulls. He served under Robert Raford [probably Robert Raiford] Captain of a volunteer Corps a tour of twelve months during all which time he continued in the low country – & was in several encounters or skirmishes whilst with him. Your petitioner states that he has done various other services and many of them in this State. Your petitioner has a wife who is old & is besides a lame woman. He also has two daughters that live with him dependent on him for a support. Your petitioner is now getting too old to labor and cannot subsist without. He has but a few years more to live being 68 years of age. Your petitioner states that as the prime of his life was spent in the active service of his Country & he is poor thereby he entertains [entertains] the hope that his sinking years & his precious loss estate will in newer your Honorable body to grant him a pension which is his prayer.

Test S/ Jacky Perry

S/ Reuben Bennett, Sn, X his mark

¹ 

South Carolina Lancaster District: Reuben Bennett the petitioner came before me and states on oath the material facts set forth in his petition are true.

Sworn to before me this 9th December 1825

S/ Jeff R. Camull, JP

S/ Reuben Bennett, Sn, X his mark

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South Carolina Chester District:

Stephen Crain² of said district appeared and made oath that he was enlisted in the first Regiment of North Carolina of twelve months men shortly after the battle of Guilford in 1782 [sic, March 15, 1781] that he then became acquainted with Ruben Benit [Reuben Bennett] who was then in same Regiment that they marched from North Carolina under General Jethrow Sumnar [Jethro Sumner] that there first Colonel was John [p 14] B. Ashe Regiment was afterwards divided that said Bennett was under Colonel Wik Dickson [sic, Dixon?] in Captain Robert Rayford's company that he has seen him frequently in this Regiment and became intimately acquainted with him about the time of the battle of Eutaw Springs in South Carolina that they were together in Cannot in South Carolina at the High Hills, the Round O and Bacons Bridge until they were discharged at Governor Bulls plantation on the 1st day of May 1783. That this person to whom he has delivered this deposition is the same identical Reuben Bennett.

Sworn to and subscribed December 7th 1825

S/ Stephen Crain [copy of signature]

before me S/ Joseph Gaston, JQ

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The Committee on Pensions to whom was referred the petition of Reuben Bennet praying for a pension Respectfully reports that they have considered the same and recommend to this House that the prayer of the petitioner be granted and that the said Reuben Bennet be placed on the pension Roll, December 1826

(Signed) John M. Comb, Chairman of the Committee

In the House of Representatives December 7, 1826

Resolved that the House do agree to the Report ordered that it be sent to the Senate for Concurrence

By order of the House

(Signed) R Anderson, C. H. R.

Senate December 15 1826

Resolved that Senate Concur. Ordered to be returned

(Signed) Job Johnston C. S.

South Carolina Lancaster District: On this 9th day of December 1850 Personally appeared before me Simon Bennett, Son of Reuben Bennett Revolutionary Soldier deceased, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed the 7th of June 1832.

That this declarant the aforesaid Simon Bennett in behalf of himself and the Surviving Children of his father Reuben Bennett, deceased, declares, that the said Reuben Bennett was a private Soldier, in the Army of the Revolution, as the heirs understand and as such he served the

² [Stephen Crain W9823](#)

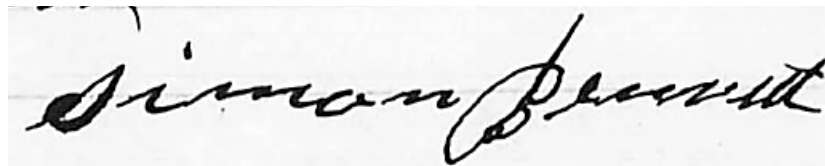
United States against the Common Enemy, that the said Reuben Bennett entered the Service of his country, in Warren County North Carolina, for a period of nine months, as he understood, called the nine months drafts, in Captain Rayford's [sic, Robert Raiford's] Company, Colonel Johnson Regiment, General Sumner, and marched to the State of South Carolina, where they joined the forces of Major General Green in 1781 under whom he continued to serve until his term expired when [he] volunteered and served on to the close of the War, and was discharged at Round O near Governor Bulls residence, in South Carolina, and was in the Battle of Eutaw Springs South Carolina and in hearing of Gates defeat near Camden, on his way to South Carolina. – Declarant further says that his Father the above named Reuben Bennett was a pensioner of the State of South Carolina at the Rate of \$60 per annum from the year 1826, or 1827, and being old and frail did not avail himself of the provision made by the General Government by Act of 7th of June 1832.

Declarant well recollects seeing his father's discharge, which is now lost or mislaid, and that he has now no record evidence of his Father's services, nor does he know any person now living by whom his Father's Services can be identified, but believes he served 12 or 15 months as above stated.

Declarant, further says that his Father, the said Reuben Bennett, departed this life in Lancaster District, South Carolina, on the 14th day of November 1847 leaving the following children surviving but know Widow, to wit: Mary Beckham, William Bennett, James Bennett, Reuben Bennett, Simon Bennett, Silliman Bennett, and Jane Bennett all of whom are believed to be living and all of lawful age, he further says that Reuben one of the above named has not been heard from for the last 14 months.

Sworn to & subscribed before me in open Court December 9th 1850
S/ James H Witherspoon

S/ Simon Bennett

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Simon Bennett". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 23: finding dated December 10, 1850 in Lancaster County South Carolina that Reuben Bennett a revolutionary soldier and pensioner of the State of South Carolina died in his residence in Lancaster District South Carolina on the 14th day of November 1847 leaving the following children surviving but no widow: to wit, Mary Beckham, William Bennett, James Bennett, Reuben Bennett, Simon Bennett, Philemon Bennett & Jane Bennett.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$74.99 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 22 months and 15 days service as a private in the North Carolina line during the revolution.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts³ relating to Reuben Bennett
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 445A
Transcribed by Will Graves

AA24

7/2/18

³ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

[Note: This file contains the originals of several of the documents transcribed above including the original of the affidavit given by Stephen Crain which is signed by him as follows:

Stephen Crain

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South Carolina Lancaster district } We the under Subscribers do Certify that we are well acquainted with Reuben Bennett the within Petitioner & knew him to be now living & a man of good Character and do verily believe the facts set forth in his petition to be Just and true.

15th of November 1826

S/ A. Coiel, JP

S/ Jacob Hughes

S/ Peter Fleming

S/ Barnwell Beckham

S/ William Thompson

S/ Cullen Johnston

S/ Jason Clark

S/ Robert Douglas

S/ Ervin Luns, X his mark

S/ Startwell Sims

S/ William Canthron, X his mark



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South Carolina Lancaster District }

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives

The humble petition of Reuben Bennett Sheweth that he was a Soldier of the Revolution. That he volunteered in the year 1780 or 1781 (as well as his recollection serves him) that he served in the State of South Carolina Sixteen months, commanded by General Greene, Major Blount and Captain Robert Rayford, That he was in the Battle at the Eutaw Springs which was the only General engagement that he was in, but was in several small skirmishes. That he is now Seventy Six years old and entirely dependent upon his own labor for support, his family consisting entirely of females – he Therefore prays your Honorable body to take his case into Consideration and Grant such relief as to your Honorable body may seem meet, and your petitioner will ever pray

10 November 1836

S/ Simon Beckham

S/ Reuben Bennett, X his mark

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South Carolina Lancaster District } personally appeared Reuben Bennett and on Oath saith that

the reason why he has not petitioned the United States for a pension (According to the Act of Congress passed in the year 1832) was that he was informed that it would be useless to petition the General Government without being able to prove by living witnesses his Servitude, (which he cannot do) and further that he knew of some petitioning without the living witnesses and none of them have succeeded in getting a pension.

Sworn to before me 10 November 1836

S/ Simon Beckham, QU ex officio & Clerk Court

S/ Reuben Bennett, X his mark

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The State of South Carolina

To the Honorable the Senate & House of Representatives of South Carolina

The petition of James Bennett respectfully Sheweth unto your body, that he is the Administrator of all & singular the goods & chattels of Reuben Bennett late a revolutionary pensioner, residing at the time of his death in Lancaster District South Carolina. That his intestate the said Reuben Bennett departed this life on the 14th day of November 1847 & before he had received either his certificate or annuity of pension for the past year and that the State of South Carolina was justly indebted to the said Reuben Bennett at the time of his death, and to your petitioner as the Administrator of the said intestate, for the annuity of his pension from the time & date he last draw up to the time of his death 14 November 1847.

Your petitioner therefore prays that your Honorable body may pass an order or resolution directing that the pension so do you & owing to his intestate may be paid to him and he will ever pray & so forth – November 30, 1847

S/ James Bennett, X his mark