

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Humphrey Becket S2066

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 1 July 2017.

Virginia

At a Court held for Albemarle County the sixth day of July One thousand eight hundred and eighteen Humphrey Bicket a resident of this County aged sixty one years, personally appeared in Court, and being first duly sworn, according to law, on oath doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress Entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary War." That he the said Humphrey Becket inlisted in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia, in the Company commanded by Charles Porterfield of the eleventh Virginia regiment, commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan, in the month of January 1777, that he continued to serve in the said Corps or in the Service of the United States for three years when he was discharged from said service, honorably in the County of Frederick & State of Virginia, that he was in the battles at Sommerset Courthouse [sic: Somerset Courthouse NJ, 20 Jan 1777] At Amboy in New Jersey [8 Mar 1777] and Manmoth Courthouse, New Jersey [sic: Monmouth, 28 Jun 1778], that he is in reduced Circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his possession or power of his said service.

Albemarle County, Virginia Viz.

On this 5th day of May 1828 personally appeared in Open Court, being a Court of Record for the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia Humphrey Beckett resident in said County aged Sixty nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth, on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the first of May 1820. That he the said Humphrey Becket enlisted for the term of three years on the [blank] day of January 1777 in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Daniel Morgan [sic] in the line of the state of Virginia, on the Virginia Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said Corps, until the expiration of three years, when he was discharged from the service at Middlebrook, in the State of New Jersey, that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any state except Virginia, and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension that heretofore he has been enabled to work and with the aid of his wife to support himself and family without having recourse to the liberality of his country, but now being aged and infirm and his wife totally helpless he is obliged to ask the aid offered by the said acts of Congress. And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, (that no change has been made in my property by sale gift or any other manner since the 18th of March 1818 except that the property is less productive in consequence of the great pressure of the times in the part of the country in which I reside Viz two hundred acres of land estimated at thirty five dollars per annum, Two Cows, two small horses, ten head of hogs, two beds, a small parcel of table and kitchen furniture. My occupation is that of a farmer, but my age and infirmity (being a cripple for the last eighteen moths) renders me unable to work, and my family consists of my wife Susannah aged sixty nine years, and unable to work, and nearly blind, one daughter Patsey aged Thirty and my daughter Jemima aged about twenty five, who are the principal support of both my wife

and myself

Humphrey hisXmark Beckett

Nelson County Virginia September 28th 1828

This is to Certify that I Thomas Massie [pension application W7403] who was Major to the Second Virginia Regiment in Continental Service, in our revolutionary war Do verily and firmly believe that the Bearer hereof Humphrey Becket was a regular Continental Soldier in that War, and served under General Morgans command – from the account Becket gives me (after interrogation) of many occurrences that happened during that period, as I served occasionally under Morgans command I do verily as I have expressed above, believe that he was a regular Continental Soldier say about Fifty years ago – and I think I have a faint recollection of his person. Given under my hand Thomas Massie

[In the following, some letters missing at the edge of the page have been inferred.]

Augusta County Va 23rd Jan'y 1829

To The Honourable Richard Rush,

Sir Humphrey Becket a soldier of the Revolution resident in the County of Albemarle, has handed to me your communication relative to his claim to the benefit of an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution, but that you are willing to re-examine the case “with the aid of any additional evidence he may be able to furnish”

Believing that I am the only person living who had access to my Brothers, Captain Charles Porterfields, Register of Enlistment, Mr. Becket has applied to me for my certificate on the subject.

I therefore certify that some time in the Winter of 1776-77 Humphry Becket Enlisted in Captain Charles Porterfields company in the 11th Virg^a Regiment on continental Establishment, commanded by Colo Daniel Morgan, to serve for the term of three years or during the War. That the said Company and Regiment join'd the main army at Bounbrook [sic: Boundbrook] (State of Jersey) I think, in the month of April 1777: That during the campaign of that year Colo Morgan was detach'd with a corps of Riflemen to join the Army of the North (so called) under the command of Gen'l. Gates – That Humphry Becket being an expert Rifleman was selected as one of said corps, and fought under Morgan at the Battle of Stillwater [Bemis Heights NY, 7 Oct 1777] &c. until the surrender of Burgoyens Army at Saratoga [sic: Burgoyne's army, 17 Oct 1777], and that he continued in said Rifle corps, my recollection is, until some time in the year 1779, when he was ordered by Colo Morgan, as a driver, to take charge of a waggon and team in the Publick service, drawing the pay, clothing and rations of a soldier: – Thus far within my own knowledge. In the winter of 1779-80 I passed on from the North with the Virginia Troops to Charleston So Carolina and having shared the fate of the Garrison at that place [surrender and imprisonment], on the 12th of May 1780 have no farther personal knowledge of H. Becket's services, but from the best information I have been able to collect do verily believe that he continued as a waggoner at the Barracs near Charlottesville [Albemarle Barracks], where Burgoyens Army (prisoners) were stationed, and on the terms above stated until the end of the war when he received a regular discharge, which discharge he says was lost in the bustle of a change of residence he made with his Family – To all which he was desirous of making oath before me, which I declined, presuming it might not be such evidence as you woud consider admissible: – Nevertheless from my knowledge of his truth and integrity, poor and decrepit as he is, I am persuaded he would not take a fals oath to obtain any pecuniary consideration whatever.

A large portion of the Virginia Soldiers were enlisted for the term of 3 years, or dureing the war, and I am under the impression that at the end of 3 years, some of the Soldiers so enlisted claimed their discharge, and that a board of Officers convened for the purpose, decided against the claim, of which however from the lapse of time and a declining memory I am not possitively certain; – But this I do know that the survivors of Captn Charles Porterfield's Company continued in service until the end of the war, some of whom were made prisoners at Charleston – Hence I infer the Humphry Becket was equally bound to the service.

I will only add that I could state some of his deeds of [illegible word] which I had from his Commander, by whose side he fought, particularly at the Battle of Stillwater; I will not however trouble

you with the detail, but will say that on the score of intrepidity and faithfulness, so long as he performed the duties of a Soldier there is not one man now living who has stronger claims on the munificence of his Country than Humphry Becket. Most respectfully/ Your obt. humble St

Ro. Porterfield/ a Cap't. &c [Robert Porterfield, pension application S8965]

This 29th day of Sept. 1832 Humphrey Beckett a citizen & resident at this time of Pendleton County Kentuck came before me a justice of the Peace for s'd county of Pendleton (Ken) & made oath that when a Citizen of Virginia & resident of Albemare County afsd state he made oath that he applied for a Pension, under the act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 & that after being put upon the Pension list – but afterwards he was dropped or struck from the Pension Roll of account of property that he was placed on the Pension list as a private soldier & he refers to his papers in the war office for the officers & corps to which he was attached, that he is now resedent of Pendleton County Ken [illegible word] to as above before me & signed this day above written.

and this affiant further states, that previous to his leaving Virginia on the application of Col Wm F Gorden a member of Congress, who was about applying to the United States Government for a pension for this affiant, he gave to him his Pension Certificate, and what he has done with it this affiant is unable to say – as he never has returned it to this affiant &c

State of Ohio

Pickaway County Ss. Humphrey Becket makes oath and says That he is the identical Humphrey Becket named in the foregoing certificate dated 2nd day of February 1819. That he drew a pension under said certificate at Richmond in Virginia until 1820 when his pension was discontinued on account of his having too much property to allow him to draw under the law of 1820. That since 1820 he has received no pension. He further states that he enlisted in the state line of Virginia in February 1777 for three years or during the war of the Revolution under Captain Charles Porterfield in the 11th Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. Daniel Morgan, that he served under said enlistment until the close of the war and then received an honorable discharge from said Morgan, which discharge has been long since lost. He further states that he resided in the State of Virginia until October 1831 at which time he removed to Kentucky Pendleton county, and remained there until last October, when he removed to Pickaway County, Ohio, where he now resides and where he contemplates remaining the residue of his days. He therefore makes this declaration to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of 7th June last. He states that he is not on the pension list of the agency of any state to his knowledge since 1820 aforesaid, and that he hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension excepting the one for which he now applies.

Sworn to and subscribed this 3rd day of January 1833 Humphrey his Bmark Becket

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

January 1st day 1780

I do hereby certify that Humphrey Beckett a Soldier in the 7th Virg'a Reg't under my command has served the full time that he engaged for in s'd Reg't with a great deal of credit and is hereby discharged from the service of the United States of America . given under my hand the Day & date abovementioned

To all whom it may
concern

Dan Morgan
Colo 7 Virg'a Reg't
Dan'l Morgan B.G.

The above soldier enlisted the 1 Jan'y 1777 and discharged 1 Jan'y 1780

29 May 1783

[Copies certified by Treasury Department.]

NOTES: Several documents in the file are not transcribed here, because they add nothing. On 3 Dec 1826 Charles Brown, practicing physician, stated that Becket had for several years been "labouring under a Rupture which incommodes him very much." In a letter dated 9 Dec 1833 Becket stated that he was living near Columbus OH.