

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jonas Belote S21066

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } On this 14th day of April 1834 personally appeared before the Justices of
Fayette County } the Court of pleas & quarter Sessions sitting for the said County Jonas
Belote a resident of said County & State aged 73 ["3" apparently written over "2"] years the 8th December
last as appears by reference to the Church Register in the County of Accomack [sic: Accomack] State of
Virginia, who being first 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 June 7th 1832

"That he entered the service in the spring of the year 1777 under Capt Wm Sneed [William Sneed], under
Col. Cobbin in the County of Accomack and at the general Muster of that year at White Marsh Muster
Ground I took the Oath of Allegiance under the government or proceedings of the Colonists, Field
officers Col. [John] Cropper, Col. [Southy] Simpson, Major Smith Sneed [sic: Smith Sneed]; that he was
[illegible word] that time untill some time in 1781 when Corn Wallis was taken [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct
1781], occasionally in actual service. [one or two illegible words] & probably no requisition for foreign
service were made upon their County, owing to its peculiar exposed situation on the [Chesapeake] Bay
and the Creeks therefrom, they were kept at such points in the different neighborhoods as was most
exposed to the landings of the British the inroads of the Tories and the plunder of the negroes who kept a
regular intercourse with the enemy, which was considered important in that quarter to be restrained.
That when not in active service he was a minute man to attend at the Court house at Onancock at the
firing of the Cannon (the signal adopted in case of interception. His residence was at that time in the
County of Accomack in Virginia. In the latter part of 1777 and first of the year 1788 [sic] he was in actual
service in the Garrison at the mouth of Onancock Creek for three months one month at a time, being
relieved at monthly intervals sometimes by other Guards. He served one Month more under — Whaley
[Zedekiah Walley of Maryland] in the Onancock Barge, to go into Maryland to Cajers straits [sic: Kedges
Straits] called 60 Miles, on which expedition they had a skirmish & Whaley's Barge was blown up by the
Magazine Chest the balance of our barges made their escape. The enemy at length agreed to give up the
prisoners they had taken on the occasion, providing we would take their wounded with ours in the
Onancock to the hospital Capt Toppin [sic: Garrett Topping] then marched us to Watchpreag [sic:
Wachapreague VA] about 9 miles to take a vessel that was taking tobacco and provisions out of the
warehouse, has here a skirmish, and 2 weeks more service — we were then marched to Pungoteag [sic:
Pungoteague] Creek to intercept the enemy from getting provisions, had here a skirmish with them, and
one week or more service — At another time a similar expedition water, one weeks service at the same
place. We were then ordered by Captain Toppin to different parts of the County in pursuit of parties of
Tories & herein three weeks more service — Another expedition we were ordered by Col. Cobbin to Wats
Island [sic: Watts Island] 14 or 15 miles — one week or more on this expedition in service — States that in
the year 1781 he was 5 weeks more in service by order of Col. Cropper under Captain Toppin in pursuit
of Tories, about 16 men taken and carried to Richmond for trial. One of who was the Church Parson and
another a leader of the name of John Custis We were stopt by the French Flats at the mouth of little York
[Yorktown] and we there received a pass port[?] [illegible word] known from Count De Grasse [sic:
Compte de Grasse] the Admiral — Making all the service which he can now recollect distinctly enough to
swear to, seven months & one week, although he was in fact much longer in service.

States that for the reason above mentioned, he nor his company, nor indeed the militia of the County
were in any of the general engagements during the war, but in repelling the scouts of Tories and
preventing the negroes from communicating with the enemy he had [illegible word] dangerous service to
perform. During all his service he acted as a private soldier, and had no regular discharge owing to the

nature of his service & that of his County.

He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the facts, and that he knows of no surviving witness, although there may be some living in some place who were his comrades in the war but he is unable to make the necessary search for them. He hereby relinquishes 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 beyond this application, and that for the different short periods of service above stated he was not engaged in any other pursuit for times which he claims a pension [signed] Jonas Belote

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Interrogatories put by the Court to the applicant as follows

1 Where and in what year were you born? Answer. I was born in Accomac County in the state of Virginia the 8th December 1760

2nd Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Answer. On the Church Parsons Register in accomac County, Virginia

3 Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war; and where do you now live

Answer. I was called to service in Accomac, I have lived since in North Carolina Stokes County, Smith County Tennessee & now in Fayette.

4 How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute; & if a substitute for whom?

Answer I was a volunteer in the Militia.

5 State some of the names of the regular officers that were with the troops where you served, such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your services. Answer. Col. Colbin, Col. Cropper, Major Smith Sneed & Adjutant W. B. Gibb were officers under whom I served, amongst others.

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given & what has become of it? Answer. From the nature of our services, no regular discharge in writing were given as I recollect of at least I never received one nor expected it to be necessary

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your Character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

answer Milton Moore, Hiram S. Morgan, both Clergymen, Doctor John H. Moss, Joel L. Jones Sheriff of this County & Sam'l. B Harper former Sh[?]

State of Tennessee }
Hardiman County } On this Tenth day of April A.D. one thousand Eight hundred & fifty five, personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within & for the County & State aforesaid Jonas Belote aged ninety four year a resident of Hardiman County in the State of Tennessee who being Duly Sworn according to Law, Declares that he is the identical Jonas Belote, who was a volunteer Soldier, in the Company Commanded by Captain Garrett Toppin in the Virginia ridgment of volunteers Commanded By Colo. Roberts, in the revelutionary war in the United States with Great Britain that he volunteered at the villedge of nincock, but the applicant being far advanced in years cannot recollect the day & date of his enlisting but States that he was in actual Sirvis in said war for the Term of six month & was honorably Discharged By his commanding Officers, & at this time Receives a Pention for the above named Services,

he makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty Land to which he may be entitled under the act approved March third Eighteen hundred & fifty five, he also declares that he has not received a warrant for Bounty Land under this or any other act of Congress, nor made any other application therefor [signed] Jonas Belote