

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Cheatham S2429

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Nov 2014.

State of Tennessee } November Sessions of the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for
Giles County } said County for the year 1832

On this 20th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the justices of said Court now sitting & holding said Court, Benjamin Cheatham a resident of said County and State, aged eighty one years since the 8th day of September last, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress June 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein, stated.

Applicant volunteerd & entered the aforesaid services, he thinks in the fall of 1776 [sic], under Command of Capt. Thomas Williams Company & marched out of Charlotte County in the state of Virginia, where he entered said service, to Portsmouth & from thence to Norfolk. On the way from the former to the latter place, On longbridge, which crosses Elizabeth River, he was in an engagement between the American & British [Battle of Great Bridge, 9 Dec 1775] and after the battle was over he assisted in burying the dead & from thence he pursued the british about twelve miles below Norfolk where they took shiping, from thence he was marched back home, into Charlotte County where the troops were disbanded having been in actual service only six weeks on this tour. He next was drafted for the term of six months, he went into this service under the command of Capt. Jamison in Maj. Perner's Batalion & in Col. Holclom's [sic: John Holcombe's] Regiment, he was marched out of Charlotte County through the aforesaid state of Virginia towards place called Guinns Island [sic: Gwynn Island] and were engaged during this whole term in guarding and defending the Country against the encroachment & inroads of the tories & British. He was in no engagement during this service & returned home again into Charlotte County, & was discharged having served the said term of six months. He next was drafted as malitia man for nine months in said County of Charlotte, he went under the Command of Capt. Samuel White in Maj. Holclom's Batalion in General [Robert] Lawson's brigade from thence he marched through Virginia as far as Jamestown, where they had an engagement with the enemy [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] in which applicant was engaged, he thinks Gen. [Anthony] Wayne Commanded part of the troops on the American side in this engagment, he himself was under the command of Gen. Lawson the Americans there drove the British from the ground & forced them to take shiping, & pursued them some distance down the River & the British thence went on to Little York where Lord Cornwallis was captured in October [19] 1781. they then returned home, at the end of the said nine months & applicant was discharged by Gen. Lawson from the said last tour, he reached home on Wednesday, & on the following Sunday he volunteered & went directly to Yorktown & he was present at the Capture of Lord Cornwallis, and saw him surrender his sword to ~~General Washington~~ an American officer being about thirty steps from them when Cornwallis delivered him his sword & heard him tell Cornwallis to put on his hat [see endnote] The troops to which applicant was then attached were permitted to disperse and go home which terminated Applicants services during the war – having served in all, seventeen months & one week. Applicant received one discharge from Capt. Jamison & the other from Gen. Lawson But both of them were stolen from him sometime in September 1815 among some other articles He has no documentary evidence of his services, and knows no person whose testimony he can procure by whom he can establish the said claim. 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.

Benjamin hisXmark Cheatham

Questions to be put to the Court by order of the war department.

1st Where and in what year were you born? I was born in the year 1751 in Chesterfield County in the State of Virginia, 28 miles from Richmond

- 2nd have you any record of age and if so where is it.
My grand father had a record of my age which he gave me but I lost the same together with my discharges.
- 3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live?
When I entered the service I lived in sd Charlotte County, and since I lived Halifax and Charlotte ever since, in said state of Virginia until the year 1827, when I removed to Giles County Tennessee where I now live
- 4th How were you called into service
This question I have answered in the declaration
- 5th State the names of some of the officers &c. This I have also answered.
- 7th Question.
State the names of some of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, & who can testify to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?
I am known to James E. Mason Esq Joseph Quacker[?]. James Goodman, William Goodman
Richard Harwell Coleman Harwell Richard Smith Randall Alsop & many others
Benjamin hisXmark Cheatham

NOTE: Cheatham apparently realized that Cornwallis's sword was not surrendered to Washington, but he did not realize that Cornwallis was not present at the surrender. Claiming to be ill, he delegated the task to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara. O'Hara attempted to give the sword first to the French and then to Washington, but Washington directed him to surrender it to his own second-in-command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln. It is unlikely that a Private would have been close enough to have heard what was said.