

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Arnold S2920

Transcribed by Will Graves

f28VA[SC]

2/20/08 rev'd 7/30/14

[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.]

State of Tennessee, Warren County: Circuit Court January term 1833

On this 31st day of January 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable James C. Mitchell Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of the Circuit Courts of Law & Equity of the State of Tennessee, now sitting, in the County of Warren in said State, Benjamin Arnold, a resident of said County of Warren and State of Tennessee aged Seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein be stated. -- He was drafted in Lawrence [sic, Laurens] County, in the State of South Carolina to go and guard Arrington's Station in the upper part of South Carolina, on a River which he thinks was Tugler River [sic, Tugaloo River?], against the Indians. He was under the command of Captain Ford, whose given name he does not remember; neither does he remember the names of any of his other company officers. He thinks Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] had the command of the detachment of troops at this Station. He served upon the tour of three months, but he cannot remember the day, month or year on which he was drafted and entered the service. He thinks he was about seventeen years of age. During this tour of service, he, together with the troops to which he belonged were frequently engaged in scouring and reconnoitering the Country along under the mountains in search of the Indians or to discern if they were making any incursions upon the white Settlements; and they occasionally discovered a scouting Indian, or a few Indians together, and several times, fired on them; but never had anything like a general engagement; nor does he certainly no that they ever killed any of them. They were also sometimes engaged in scouring the Country after the Tories, who always fled on their approach, and they never had any engagement with them. The forces with whom he cooperated during this tour were all Militia, and they had no intercourse as he believes with any Continental troops. At the end of three months, for which time he was ordered into service, declarant was discharged and returned home. He received a written discharge from Captain Ford as he thinks, but he has long since lost it, or it has been destroyed.

Shortly after his return home, but he cannot state accurately the length of time, nor can he state the day & year, he volunteered his services, and joined the troops under the command of General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] not far from the Cowpens, at the residence of a man by the name of Charles Moore, on Tiger River [Tyger River]. He joined Captain McDowell's Company, the names of his other company officers he does not remember. The Regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Colonel Cleveland according to the best of his recollection; and James McDowell, who he thinks was a relation of the captain's was one of the Majors. After joining the Army he marched to the Cowpens, where the battle [January 17, 1781] was fought between General Morgan and Colonel Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] who had the command of the British forces. Declarant was in this engagement. He thinks if his memory serves him, there were six hundred and thirty of the British killed and taken

prisoners in this engagement. He remembers to have seen Colonel William Washington in the engagement; and that he commanded the American Light Horse. The battle commenced early in the morning; he thinks shortly after sun rise; and occurred according to his recollection, on the 17th day of January 1781. He has a distinct recollection of the date, on account of its being the first battle in which he was engaged. After this engagement, declarant marched with the Army, having with them, under guard, the prisoners taken at Cowpens, to Baty's Ford [Beatties Ford]; and were then fired on while crossing, by the British under Cornwallis, who had pursued the Americans; but declarant does not remember that any of the Americans were killed by the fire. Declarant understood amongst his fellow soldiers, that after they had been fired on by Cornwallis, a message was sent him, informing him if he did not desist, all the British prisoners would be put to death; and there was afterwards no more firing. Declarant marched on from Baty's Ford to Salisbury, at which place, some time after reaching it, he was discharged. He received a verbal discharge from his Captain, having been in service, and on active duty on this Tour, as near as he can remember, 2 ½ months. Declarant then returned home, or to his Grand Father's with whom he resided in Laurens County South Carolina, as already stated, his Father being dead; and his Grand father then removed into Henry County in the State of Virginia, he accompanied him. And about six weeks after declarant went to Henry County Virginia, he substituted himself to perform a three months tour of duty in the place of a man by the name of Cox, who had been drafted. He went out on this tour in Captain George Harston's [George Hairston's] company, in which he thinks ___ Dillard [possibly John Dillard] was Lieutenant. This was in the year 1781, but he cannot state the day or month; he is under the impression that it was some time in the spring of the year. He marched into North Carolina his Captain being the highest officer in command, until they joined the Army under the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] on Deep River, near Rugeley's mill. General Lafayette, or as he was commonly called by the Soldiers La Marquis, was also a commanding officer with General Greene at that time. The Company to which declarant belonged, joined the Regiment at this place, commanded by Colonel Perkins, and it was in a few days, perhaps not more than one or two days after the battle at Rugeley's Mill that we joined the Main Army. From this place declarant marched in pursuit of the British, back into Virginia, and proceeded down near James town; from thence he marched up to a place near Richmond, called Moppin Hill [Malvern Hills], where General Greene then had his head quarters. At this place, declarant remained a considerable time, though he cannot state accurately, how long. But he remained here until he had served out his term of three months, when he was discharged in writing, which discharge he has lost or it has been destroyed in some way unknown to declarant. After receiving his discharge, declarant went in to Amherst County Virginia, to where an uncle of his, Hendrick Arnold, resided. When he reached there, his uncle had just been drafted to March against the British, and he substituted himself in his uncle's place; and marched immediately in Captain David Woodruff's Company to join the American Army, that was then marching towards little York against Cornwallis. He is not certain, but if he remembers right, he Lieutenant's name in his company was Brown. Colonel Merriwether [probably Thomas Meriwether] was Colonel commandant of the Regiment to which he belonged, and Samuel Higginbotham was a Major in the Regiment. Before reaching the Main Army, news reached them, of the surrender of Cornwallis, when they wheeled and marched back to Amherst Court House, where they were dismissed, with directions to meet them on a certain day and receive their discharges. Declarant, however, considering the war then ended, and not supposing the discharge would ever be of any service to him, and living 15 or 16 miles from the Court House, did not go on the day appointed to receive his discharge. Declarant states that according to the best of his recollection, the time he was out on this tour was six weeks; and the whole time he served during the war was nine months and a half; perhaps it might have been a few days more, but he is certain it was that much.

Declarant was born in Buckingham County Virginia, on the 28th day of January 1762. He has no record of his age. His Father left a record of his age in the Family Bible, which he has seen; but he does not now know what has become of it. He lived as he has already stated in Laurens County South

Carolina, when he first entered the service. Since the revolutionary war, he has lived in Amherst County Virginia about 10 years; in Henry County Virginia about 15 years; thence he removed to Rowan County North Carolina, and lived there about five years; thence he removed to Greenville district South Carolina where he lived 12 years or upwards; thence he removed to Warren County Tennessee where he now resides as he has ever since resided.

He states he is known to John & Elias Hopkins, the Reverend W. Wells [could be Wills] , David Banks, Matthew Banks, William Nichols, John Freeze, and various other persons who he believes will testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

Declarant states he has no documentary evidence of his service, and he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify as to their personal knowledge of his services.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ P. Henderson, Clerk

S/ Benjamin Arnold, X his mark

[John K. Wells, a clergyman, and Elias Hopkins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$31.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 ½ months in the Virginia [South Carolina] militia.]