

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Samuel Beard S2980

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Tennessee } Court of pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term 1832  
Henderson County }

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for the County of Henderson in the State of Tennessee, Samuel Beard a Citizen and resident of the said County and State aforesaid aged seventy eight years last June 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

This Declarant entered the service of the United States about three or four weeks after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse [15 Mar 1781] as a volunteer Militia Private from the County of Bottetourt [sic: Botetourt] in the State of Virginia his place of nativity in the company of Volunteer Militia from the said County & State commanded by Captain Joe Prior [sic: Joseph Pryor] his Lieutenant was John Beard his Brother. in this Company this declarant marched from Bottetourt County to Bottom's Bridge below Richmond on James River [sic: Bottoms Bridge on Chickahominy River] and joined the Army under the command of Brigadier General Muhlenberg – but to what Regiment he was attached or who was the immediate Commander of the same this Declarant has no distinct recollection consequently he can make no statement on oath. This Declarant declares and states that at the time he joined General Muhlenburg's Brigade on James River that Generals Washington Rochambeau and LaFayette with the regular army lay on the opposite side of the river – a few days after this the whole including his brigade being moved on to little York and invested the Town. So soon as Lord Cornwallis was Captured [19 Oct 1781] the Company to which he belonged was discharged and this declarant returned home. The Company to which this declarant belonged was Drafted from the Regiment commanded by Colonel Skillings [sic: George Skillern] in this Company this Declarant marched on to the borders of North Carolina this tour lasted only for about six weeks and was some short time before the Battle of Guilford, but how long this Declarant Does not now recollect. This Declarant states that he has no Documentary evidence nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service – This declarant 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 [signed] Samuel Beared

The amended Declaration of Samuel Beard in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open Court it being the circuit Court held in and for the County of Henderson State of Tennessee and also a Court of Record Samuel Beard a Citizen and Resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy nine years in June 1832 who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following amended Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

This Declarant states that in his former Declaration he Omitted to mention his previous services in the United States on the frontiers of Virginia in the neighborhood of the Warm and hot Springs and the adjacent mountains this tract of Country he believes is now embraced in the Counties of Bath and Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier] not supposing or having been apprised that he was entitled to any thing for those services under the present act of Congress.

First Tour of service. This Declarant states that in the year 1779 in the month of April or first of May of that year he entered the service of the United States as a private Militia Volunteer Soldier from the County of Bottetourt in the State of Virginia in the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Deckerson or

Deckinson [sic: John Dickenson]. This Regiment was composed altogether of Volunteers from the said County of Bottetourt and the service of which was for the protection of the Frontiers of Virginia against the incursions and ravages of the Shawnee Indians who were then investing in large Bodies those Frontiers and which as before stated were in the neighborhood of the hot and warm springs and compose as he believes the Counties of Bath and Greenbriar. The Companies composing the Regiment were Detailed off on those frontiers in order to give more security and at the same time of extending the line of observation to give more Efficiency in checking those incursions and at the same time chastising those Savages. This Declarant states that he faithfully served from the month of April or first of May 1779 until the month of Appril or first of May 1781 as private Militia Volunteer Soldier During all of which Tour of service he acted as a Spie thus making two entire years of service in the Untied States. his Officers were Colonel John Deckerson or Deckinson the commander of the Regiment, his Captain was John Beard his Brother who afterwards served as Lieutenant under Captain Prior his Lieutenant was by the name of John Paterson his Major's name not recollected. The companies of this Regiment acted as Scouts and were not stationary and moved wherever danger called and the exigency of the Frontiers required their services in the Summer Spring and Fall they were in continual and active service in the Winter they forted or rather took up their quarters in Forts upon those Frontiers.

[The following paragraph marked "omit"] (From this Tour of sevice as thus stated This Declarant received a written discharge and which he has long since lost never supposing that it would have been of any service to him and which was signed by his Colonell John Deckerson or Dickenson  
Thus Ends the first Tour of Service

Second Tour

This Declarant States that in the month of April in the year 1781 [several words lined through and illegible] he entered the service of the United States as volunteer Militia Private Soldier in the Regiment of Botetourt Militia commanded by Colonel \_\_\_ Skilling or Skelling, in the company commanded by Captain Joe Prior his Lieutenant was John Beard his former Captain in the Indian Service and his Brother as before stated that in this Tour of service although the most of the Company to which he had joined were Drafted this Declarant nevertheless was a volunteer This Regiment Commanded by Colonel Skilings in a Body never marched or joined the army when called upon they respectively stood their Draft and served accordingly being detailed off which called upon by Companies. This Tour of service commencing in April the exact day of the month (1781) and ending in [two or three words lined through] 1781 of the same year making this Tour of Service from nine to ten months as the War Department in their wisdom may think [one or two illegible words] for the historical facts as to this Tour of Service and to the [illegible word] of the [end of page; one or more pages may be missing] of the Army under General Mulenburg at Bottom's Bridge on James River when Generals Washington La Fayette and Rochambeau lay on the other side of the River (James) he begs leave to refer to his former Declaration and of which this is prayed to be taken as part.

[The following paragraph marked "omit."] This Declarant states that no Clergyman being in his neighborhood whom he can call to testify as to his [two or three illegible words] being a soldier of the revolution he applied as under the directions of the Secretary of to two Respectable Citizens To Wit Felix W Henry Esquire an acting Justice of the Peace of Henderson County and John Cooper of the same County men of the highest respectability for the short period of service as stated in his former Declaration under the command of Captain Alexander Handley [Alexander Handly] the Department may or may not allow him.

This Declarant states that at the time of his joining Captain's Prior's Company he furnished a waggon and Team for the purpose of conveying provisions for the Army and which waggon for eight months after conveying the provisions of Capt. Priors Company was constantly employed in conveying provisions for the combined Armies of America and France then before York Town in Virginia for which he has never received one cent

This Declarant states that he was regularly discharged by Major \_\_\_ Wilson his Christian name not now recollected

Thus ends the third tour of service including the second Tour under Captain Joe [illegible] it being so short (six weeks) this Declarant claims nothing for the same unless the Department thinks proper to give the same to him  
[signed] Samuel Beard

#### Questions By the Court

Question 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born? In the County of Bottetourt in the State of Virginia, in the year 1755

Question 2 Have you any Record of your age and if so where is it

Answer I have the record in my mother's Bible set down by my Father now at my son's House a short distance from my Residence

Question 3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live

Answer. Whilst in the service of the United States the whole Tour being for two years and eight months and in all of which he served as a private soldier he then lived in Virginia and from thence to Kentucky and [illegible word] Tennessee

Question the 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into Service were you Drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if so for whom.

Answer in all my Tours of Service I was a volunteer.

Question the 5<sup>th</sup>. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the Troops where you served such Continental and Militia Regiments and the General Circumstances of your services –

Answer. Though answered [illegible word] by the Deponent he again states that in his services in the Frontiers of Virginia including the first Tour his Colonel was John Dickson Capt. John Beard John Patterson Lieutenant in John Dickerson of Bottetourt County and which service lasted for two years during this service I had no communication with the army contending with the British consequently knew none of the officers of the Militia, Continental or Regular Officers, but when I joined the Army under the command of General Mullenburg and which army day after the arrival of our Company then lay on the opposite of James River Commanded by Generals Washington Lafayette Rochambeau and which crossed over to our side Colonel Scammell was the Ajudjutant General [sic: Adjutant General] of the American Army and fell before York in making a Desperate attack upon one of the Bastions of the British [Alexandria Scammell of NH, mortally wounded on 30 Sep 1781, died as a prisoner 6 Oct]

Question 6<sup>th</sup> did you ever receive a Discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given?

Answer. In my first tour of service on the Frontiers of Virginia from April or May 1779 to April or the first of May 1781 in both those Tours I was only a private militia Soldier and received my Discharge from Colonel Dickerson as before stated

My second Discharge was from Captain Joe Prior dated at the City of York Town Virginia Both of which discharges I have long since lost –

7<sup>th</sup>. 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. As heretofore in my former Declaration I can refer to Felix W Henry Esquire an acting Justice of the peace of Henderson County in the State of Tennessee and John Cooper of the County and State aforesaid also to James Ross James Millican and Robert Davison