

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joseph Benton S31551

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia } SS

County of Butts }

On this fourth day of February Eighteen hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Inferior court now sitting Joseph Benton Senr a resident of the County of Butts and State of Georgia aged eighty three 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 7th 1832.

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

I was drafted in Franklin County North Carolina and entered the service of the United States in the month of May 1780 under the command of Captain Harrison Meekin [see note below], Major John Nalls [John Knowles], Colonel Axum [Benjamin Exum] and General [Horatio] Gates, and was engaged in the Battle at Rugeley's Mills [Battle of Camden SC between Rugeley's Mill and Camden, 16 Aug 1780]. I was marched from North Carolina to South Carolina. I was acquainted with General De Kalb. I left the Service in the month of August of the same year, having served a tour of three months and that I have no documentary evidence and that I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my Service.

I was again drafted and entered the Service of the United States in the month of February the succeeding year 1781 under the command of Captain Benjamin Eves, Major Bradford, Colonel Thomas, and General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and was engaged in the Battle of Gilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. I was not marched out of the State of North Carolina. I left the service in the month of May of the same year 1781 having served a tour of three months, and that I served six months in all. I have a discharge for the last three months service given by Lieutenant colonel A. Thomas and is now in my possession, during my services in the Revolutionary war my residence was in Franklin County North Carolina.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in Dobbs County North Carolina in the year 1749

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer I have no record of my age

Question 3rd Where were you living when called in Service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer I was living in Franklin County North Carolina when called in service, I have since lived in Chester County South Carolina, and now live in Butts County state of Georgia.

Question 4th How were you called into service. were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?

Answer I was called into service by being drafted.

Question 5th State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer In my first tour General Gates and General DeKalb were with the troops, and in my second tour General Green I recollect to have belonged to the first Regiment in my second tour.

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer I received a discharge from the service of my second tour given by Lieutenant Colonel A. Thomas and is now in my possession

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present

neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behaviour, your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer

I am known in my present neighbourhood by the Reverend James Clayton and Mr. Jesse T. Guinn. but am not known to any who can testify to my services as a soldier of the Revolution. [signed] Joseph Benton Sen

NOTE: Captain Harrison Meekin appears to be the same person whose surname is spelled Meekins or Macon in other pension applications. In addition, he may be the same person as Captain John or Henry Meekin or Macon.