

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Parks S31897

f34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 8/6/09 & 10/29/17

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 22]

Georgia Hall County: Personally appeared before me Henry Parks<sup>1</sup> who being duly sworn saith that he is personally acquainted with Benjamin Parks the applicant in the foregoing application and served a tour of duty in the revolutionary war with said Parks at which time the applicant acted in the capacity of Captain in the Regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Armstrong of Surry County North Carolina deponent does not know how long said applicant acted in the capacity but has frequently understood that he acted in that capacity about 2 years.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of September 1832

S/ Aaron Brown, JP

S/ Henry Parks Senior

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Parks Senior". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface, possibly a document or parchment.

[p 3]

State of Georgia, Hall County} SS

On this the fifth day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before John Nichols, Samuel Finley and Thomas Tate Judges of the Inferior Court of Said County now Sitting at a Court of Ordinary Benjamin Parks Senior a resident of Hall County & State of Georgia aged eighty Six years the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March last 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.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and Served as herein Stated.

That in the month of September 1777 he took the oath of allegiance in Bedford County State of Virginia and shortly after was drafted into Service, he cannot recollect the names of any of the officers. The call was for a three months tour but the orders being countermanded before we were attached to any Regiment we returned home again deponent states he lived in Bedford County Virginia at the time and shortly after returning deponent removed to Surry County North Carolina and was drafted into Service again in the month of April 1780 for three months but Served four months during which he was marched to a place called Ramsour's Mill reached there the day after an engagement [Battle of Ramseur's Mill, June 20, 1780] had taken place between the Army commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and the Tories in which

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<sup>1</sup> [Henry Parks S31898](#)

engagement the Tories were defeated with the loss of several killed and sixty prisoners taken deponent was placed as one of the guard to take the prisoners to Salisbury in North Carolina where he remained two weeks the prisoners being then removed deponent was marched to the mouth of Rocky River remained there a day and night and was then marched into what is called the Scotch Settlement near the Cheraw hills deponent being placed at night on Picket guard took a Tory returning home from the British camp, marched then to the Cheraws and took Sixty British prisoners and their boats without resistance on their part also one hundred and sixty stand of arms, at this place deponent thinks he received the appointment of Ensign from Colonel Armstrong which certificate is herewith sent marked A marched from thence to Rugeley's Mill our Captain (Absalom Bostick) quit the Army and went home deponent was then promoted to Lieutenant in the Company deponent being all the time under the command of Captain Bostick (until he quit the Service) Colonel Armstrong and General Rutherford after reaching the Mills (having been in Service upwards of four months) deponent having learned that his family was likely to be in a distressed Situation he hired a Substitute of his own rank his name he cannot recollect and went home remained at home but a short time when he was called on by Colonel Armstrong to raise a company to march to Kings Mountain which he did and took command of it as Captain and marched with the Company one day's march when he was called back by sickness in his family, after being at home two or three days deponent received intelligence that 300 Tories had embodied at the Shallow ford of the Yadkin River upon which he dispatched an express to Captain Francis [Henry Francis of the Montgomery County VA militia] & Major Cloyd [Joseph Cloyd of VA] were on their march to the Kings Mountain with 100 men deponent turned out himself and collected about 20 men Colonel Gordon of Wilkes County having heard of the circumstance came to our assistance with about 20 men when we were joined by Captain Francis & Major Cloyd we marched towards the Ford of the River but met the Tories about a mile from the Ford and defeated them killing 16, wounding some, and took them prisoners and 40 horses [Battle of Shallow Ford, October 14, 1780]. Captain Francis was killed in this engagement & his son wounded deponent acted in the capacity of Captain he then went home remained a short time when hearing that the Tories were doing considerable mischief raised his company again and went in pursuit of them up to the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains then back to the Yadkin but could not come up with them then joined the Army where Colonels Allen & Hearndon [perhaps Lieutenant Colonel John Herndon], Major Franklin [perhaps Jesse Hardin Franklin] and General Lenoir [William Lenoir] was the whole Army of which they had the command consisted of only about one hundred and fifty men Started to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] who learning that we were on the road to join him sent orders for us to return home and protect the Settlements against the Tories. General Greene was at the time at Guilford Court house North Carolina deponent continued to serve in the Capacity of Captain until the end of the War and cannot say positively but says to the best of his Knowledge he served in that capacity two years though never received any commission.

Deponent states that he was born in King George County State of Virginia the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1746 that he has a record of his age at home.

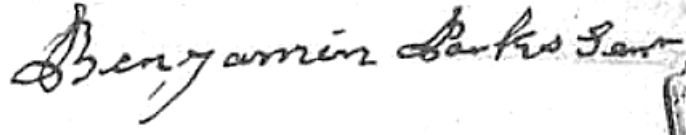
That he lived 18 years in Burke County North Carolina after the War then moved [to] Haywood County North Carolina remained there nine years and then removed to Franklin County in the State of Georgia remained there seven years then removed to Hall County State of Georgia where he now lives. That he never received a discharge for his Services. That he never received any commission.

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/ John Nichols, JIC

S/ Benjamin Parks, Sen.



[James Whitten, a clergyman, and Henry Parks, Jr., gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

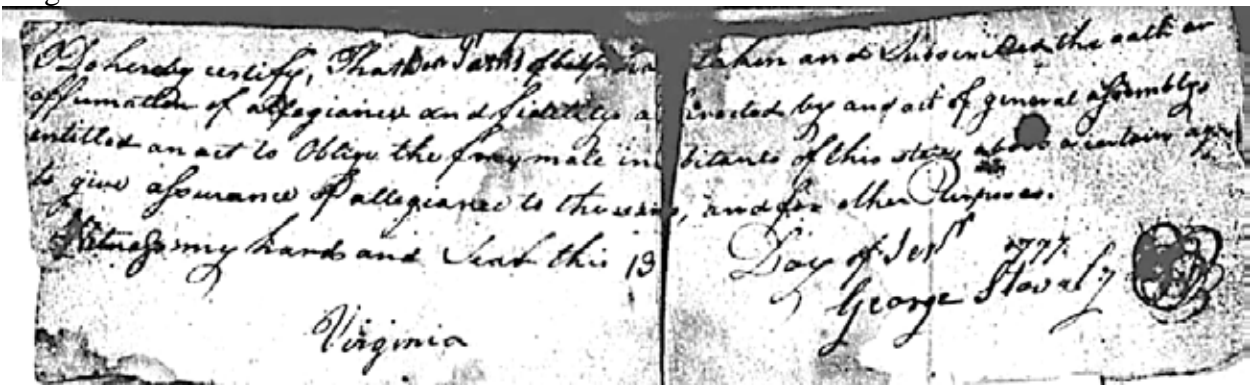
[p 24]

I do hereby certify that Ben Parks of Halifax hath taken and subscribed the oath in affirmation of allegiance and fidelity as directed by an act of general assembly entitled an act to Oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other Purposes.

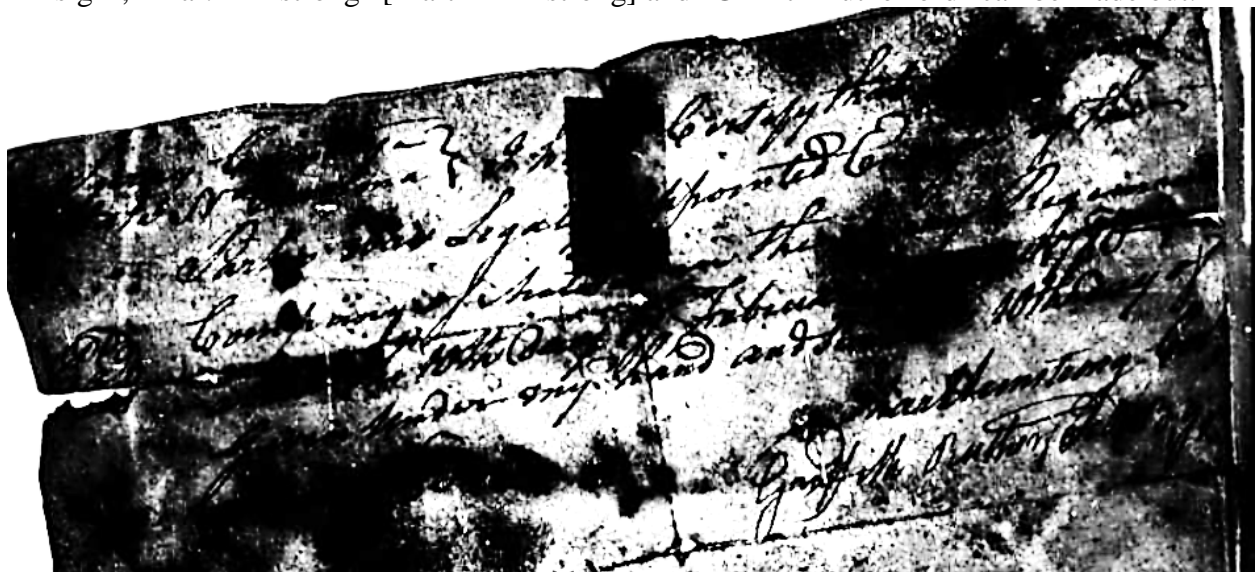
Witness my hand and seal this 19th day of September 1777

S/ George Stovaly

Virginia



[p 22: this page also contains what appears to be the certificate by which Parks was appointed an Ensign, but the document is largely illegible. The words "Surry County, North Carolina" "Parks" "Ensign", "Mar. Armstrong" [Martin Armstrong] and "Griffith Rutherford" can be made out.



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[p 30]

Georgia Hall County} Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Inferior

Court in and for said County Benjamin Parks Senior who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. Sometime in the month of April 1780 I was drafted into Service for a three month tour of Service as a private militia man under Captain Absalom Bostwick and attached to General Rutherford's Regiment and marched to a place called Ramsour's Mill and from thence to Salisbury and from there to the mouth of Rocky River thence to the Scotch Settlement & thence to the Cheraw Hills where I received the appointment of Ensign we then marched to Rugeley's Mills at which place I was promoted to Lieutenant in the company I had then served four months but our orders from General Rutherford was that none should quit the service until we had faced the British and I learning that my family were likely to be in great distress hired a substitute whose name I cannot recollect and went home. I have not been at home more than 2 or 3 weeks when I was called on by Colonel Armstrong to raise a Company to march to Kings Mountain which I succeeded in doing that is to say I raised twenty men and took command of them and marched one day when I was called back on account of sickness in my family after being at home 2 or 3 days I received intelligence that 200 Tories had embodied at the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River upon which I dispatched an express to Captain Francis & Major Cloyd who were on their march to the Kings Mountain I turned out and raised about 20 more men Colonel Gordon having heard of the circumstance also came to our assistance with 20 men when we started to march to the Ford but met the Tories & defeated them I then went home and in 2 or 3 days took my company and marched to the foot of the Blue Ridge then marched back to the Yadkin River and joined the Army under the command of General Lenoir & started to march to where General Greene lay near Guilford C. House but received orders to return home. I cannot say positively but to the best of my recollection and opinion said that I was three months in performing the last named Service in addition to the first four months, and after returning home I was almost constantly employed in scouting and skirmishing through the Country until the end of the War for which last mentioned Service I relinquish all claim for a pension being informed that such service is not recognized by the War department as military Service. I also relinquish all claim as an officer not having received any commission but claim for the 2 first mentioned tours as a private Soldier.

<sup>2</sup>Ans. 1. I was born in King George County State of Virginia on the 25th day of March 1746.

Ans. 2. I have a record of my age at home made by my father in his Bible.

Ans. 3. I lived in Bedford County State of Virginia when first called into Service; I lived in Burke & Haywood Counties twenty-seven years immediately following the Revolutionary War and since that in the State of Georgia in Franklin & Hall County's & the last 12 years in Hall County where I now live.

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<sup>2</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

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 as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

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

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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. 4. I was drafted into Service first & then volunteered

Ans. 5. There were no regular officers with the troops where I served except General Rutherford Colonels Armstrong & Gordon & Major Cloyd.

Ans. 6. I never received any discharge or Commission

Ans. 7. Stephen Palmer Esquire James Stevens, John Hollingshed, the Reverend James Whitten, Henry Parks, Jr & Joshua Baker are persons to whom I am known in my neighborhood who can testify to my character for veracity and the opinion which he is entertained of one as a Soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of January 1834.

S/ Benjamin Parks, Senior

S/ Jn. M McAfee, JIC

[p 11]

State of Georgia Hall County } Personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County Benjamin Parks Senior who being first sworn saith that a certain certificate of appointment as Ensign dated the 10th of February 1780 was given him by General Rutherford & Colonel John Armstrong [Martin Armstrong?] and that he knows of no other Benjamin Parks who was then living in says upon his oath unequivocally that said Certificate was given to him and intended as a brevet for his own use & benefit.

And this deponent further saith that he supposes he was mistaken in his declaration and the amendment to it as to the year in which he was drafted into service and indeed is certain of that fact as the certificate bears the date it does: deponent recollects well that it was in the spring of the year when he was first drafted and that the leaves were just putting out on the trees which is his reasons for saying that it was in April and now says that it was in April 1779: that he was drafted into Service and is confirmed in that opinion from the date of the certificate and recollects that it was in the Spring preceding the date of his certificate as Ensign that he was drafted.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of April 1834

S/ Benjamin Parks Senior

S/ William Lindsey, JP

[p 34: someone named Benjamin Parks granted a power of attorney in Lumpkin County Georgia on April 20th, 1852 granting his attorney power to pursue the claims due "my father".

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B Parks". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private and Ensign in the North Carolina militia for 10 months.]