

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Benjamin S34643

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 July 2017.

[29 Apr 1818]

Joseph Benjamin, a Citizen of the United States of America, and at this time residing in Cecil County in the State of Maryland, doth depose and declare, That he enlisted in the Summer of 1775 in the Legion of Light Horse commanded by Col. Henry Lee [sic: see endnote], in the Company attached to, or composing a part of said Legion, commanded by Captain Peyton [Henry Peyton VAS238], that he continued in the said Legion about three years, when the Term for which this Deponent had enlisted having expired he was discharged from the said Service, and then returned home, this Deponents health being very much injured in consequence of his having been Trumpeter in the said Legion and that this Deponent by reason of his reduced Circumstances in life needs the assistance of his Country for support, possessing no kind of property whatever except a few Household Goods —

State of Maryland Cecil County To Wit.

On this Eleventh day of September 1820 personally appeared in Open Court being a Court of Record for the Second Judicial district of the State of Maryland proceeding according to the course of the common Law with a Jurisdiction unlimited in amount and keeping a Record of its proceedings Joseph Benjamin aged Seventy two years resident in Cecil County in said district who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows; That he enlisted in Amelia County in Virginia in the Commencement of the War in the Troop of Light Horse commanded by Capt Henry Lee in the Regiment commanded by Col. Bland [Theodorick Bland VAS1859] that Capt Henry Lee was afterwards promoted to the command of the Legion and the Troops to which he belonged was commanded by Capt. Peyton in which he continued untill the three years for which he had enlisted had expired, when this Deponent was discharged in New Jersey by Gen'l. [Charles] Lee, which discharged this Deponent hath since lost. That he made a Declaration in conformity to the Act of the 18th March 1818 on or about the 29th April 1818 and obtained a pension under said Act his Certificate being numbered 12.600.

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Sworn to in Open Court

[signed] James Sewall

Schedule

One old Bureau, one common cupboard, one Cow, two pigs, two pine Tables, six old chairs, a small quantity of kitchen Furniture, The whole not exceeding in value thirty two Dollars – That he has debts owing to him to the amount of about Six Dollars and owes Debts to the Amount of about Sixty five Dollars –

That I am by trade a shoemaker but from age loss of eyesight and from being afflicted with a Rupture he is unable to pursue it. That he has no family but a Wife aged Sixty nine years who is very infirm, and one Daughter aged fourteen years —

Joseph Benjamin

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Maryland Cecil County To Wit

Be it Remembered that in this second day of August in the year 1821 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the State of Marylands Justices of the Peace in and for the County appeared Joseph Benjamin a Resident of Cecil County in the State of Maryland who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangely of Almighty God did depose declare and say that he enlisted at Portsmouth in the State of Virginia in the Summer of 1776 in Captain Lee's Company Troop attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Bland, that he was afterward transferred to a Troop commanded by Captain Peyton, and which formed a part of the Legion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee, called Lee's Legion, that after three years had elapsed, being the term for which this Deponent had enlisted, he was discharged at Burlington in New Jersey by Colonel Lee which discharge this Deponent hath long since lost.

Sworn Before Alex'r Kinkead

State of Maryland Cecil County Sct.

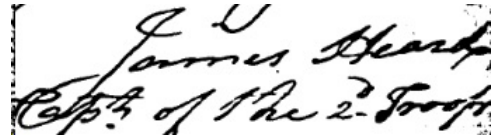
Be it Remembered that on this 2nd day of August 1821 personally appeared Robert Crouch [S34717] of Cecil County in the State of Maryland, and made Oath upon the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that Joseph Benjamin within named was a Trumpeter in the Legion commanded by Colonel Lee, in Captain Peytons Company at the time this Deponent joined the said Legion which was in the year 1778 and that the said Benjamin continued in the said Legion until he was discharged which was at Burlington in the State of New Jersey.

Sworn Before Alex'r Kinkead

I Certify that Joseph Benjamin inlisted in the Service of the United States in the year seventeen hundred & seventy six in the Troop of horse commanded by Capt Henry Lee as a Musician and continued to serve as such until the year seventeen hundred & seventy nine, was then discharged by Lt Colo Henry Lee at the time he was quartered in Burlington New Jersey.

Princeton New Jersey
August 9th 1821

James Heard [S540]
late Capt. of the 2^d Troop
of Dragoons – Lee's Legion

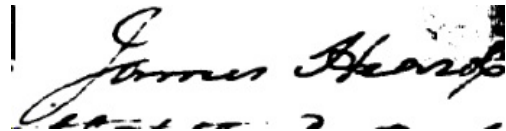


[same paper]

I Certify that Joseph McClan [VAS559] enlisted as a Dragoon in the Legion Commanded by Lt Colo Henry Lee in the year seventeen hundred & seventy eight and was promoted to the rank of a Sergeant and continued to serve as such, until the conclusion of the

Revolutionary war
Princeton New Jersey
August 9th 1821

James Heard
late Capt of the 2^d Troop
of Dragoons, Lee's Legion



[The following is from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Maryland } Certificate of Joseph Benjamin aged 74 years
Cecil County }

Be it remembered that on this 27th day of November 1822 Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County Joseph Benjamin of Cecil County State of Maryland who being duly sworn according to Law deposeth and saith that he enlisted in the service of the United States in 1776 in the State of Virginia under the command of Captain [Samuel] Sherwin in a Company Called Minute Men – they ware ordered to hampton from hampton to Portsmouth the Company was then going to be Disbanded and the said Joseph Benjamin enlisted again in the service of the United States for three years under the Command of Henry Lee who was then Captain of a troop of horse under the Command of Coln

Bland from there they were taken to the northward Henry Lee then got a Majors Commission and Commanded three troops of horse – he the said Joseph Benjamin was put in the first troop Commanded by Capt Payton and served as trumpeter his time out to the satisfaction to his officers and that he was regularly discharged in Burlington in the State of New Jersey in the year 1779



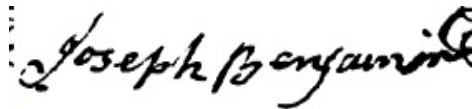
State of Maryland } Be it Remembered that on this 27th day of November 1822 Personally came
Cecil County } before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County Robert
Crouch of Cecil County and State of Maryland who being duly sworn according to Law deposeseth and
saith that he is personally acquainted with Joseph Benjamin and that when he the said Robert Crouch
enlisted in the service of the United States Joseph Benjamin was then in the service of the United States
and a Trumpeter in Major Henry Lees first troop of horse Commanded by Capt Payton and that he
continued in that service for about one year after his knowledge of him and that he was regularly
discharged from the service of the United States in Burlington in State of New Jersey.



NOTES:

Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee was a Captain beginning 18 June 1776 and was promoted to Major on 7 April 1778. Lee’s Legion was not formed until 21 Oct 1780, and he was promoted to Lt. Col. on 6 Nov 1780.

The rejected-claims file contains a power of attorney signed by Benjamin as shown:



A document in the file states that Benjamin died on 7 Oct 1825.