

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Bentley S37745
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn16VA
rev'd 12/18/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

[cover page]

Va. Bentley, William

S27745
B. L. Wt.266-300—Capt.
Issued Dec. 12, 1794
No papers
and
Va. half pay

Virginia, to wit:

At a Court of Quarterly Sessions continued and holden for the County of Powhatan in the State aforesaid, at this Courthouse of the said County on the 16th day of April in the year 1818,

On the motion of William Bentley of this County who is desirous of obtaining a pension from the United States under the act of Congress entitled “An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War,” approved on the 18th day of March last, it is ordered to be certified that the said William Bentley has this day made oath in this court in due form that he entered the Service of the United States as a Lieutenant previous to the declaration of Independence, that he was afterwards promoted to a Captain, and that he served in the Army of the Revolution from the time of his entering the service until he was made a prisoner by the enemy¹; that at the time he was taken prisoner he was a Captain in the 5th Regiment of the Virginia line on Continental establishment; and that he remained a prisoner until the close of the Revolutionary War when he was released and left the service: And it is also ordered to be certified that the said William Bentley further made oath in due form that from his reduced circumstances in life he is in need of assistance from his country for support: -- In Testimony whereof I Thomas Miller presiding Justice or Judge of the County Court of Powhatan aforesaid have hereunto affixed my hand and seal the day and date first herein mentioned.

S/ Thos. Miller {Seal}

I was very well acquainted with Captain Bentley during the war of our revolution. As the Virginia Regiments on Continental establishment were reduced from fifteen to about three the commanding officers of the regiments were frequently changing & I think it probable that Captain Bentley served

¹ After extensive research trying to pin down when and where Bentley was taken prisoner, C. Leon Harris found the pension application of Peter DeSpain FPA S14559 in which DeSpain states that Bentley was taken prisoner at the Siege of Ninety Six. That engagement occurred between May 22 and June 19, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ninetysix.htm>

under five or six colonels in the course of the war. I know that in Virginia, during the invasion of Arnold [Benedict Arnold], he served in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Davies.

S/ J. Marshall

formerly Captain in the Rev. Army & now Chief
Justice of the U. States [this note added in a different
handwriting than the rest of the document.]

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[fn p. 5]

Petersburg Va. July 24, 1851

James E. Heath, Esqr.

Dear Sir

The late Col. Wm Bentley who was a Captain in the revolutionary Army and who served to the end of that war is I am advised entitled to half pay during his life deducting the five years commutation pay which I believe he received – will you have the goodness to inform me if this is the case – being one of his legatees, having married his daughter induces me to make this inquiry. I wrote you on this subject some time ago but did not have the pleasure of hearing from you.

Very respectfully

Yr Obt. Sert.

S/ James Ligin

² The War Department interpreted this name as "James Ligon."

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing April 16th, 1818, for seven years service as a Lieutenant and Captain in the 5th Regiment of the Virginia line.]