

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Benge S38530

fn45NC

Transcribed by Will Graves 7/1/06

rev'd 8/25/10 & 8/14/14

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

State of Kentucky, Clay County

On this 27 day of April 1834 personally appeared before the Hon. Joseph Eve, Judge of the 15 Judicial Circuit in open court, David Benge aged 74 in August next, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of The United States as he now believes in ⁷⁸ or '79 in Wilks [sic, Wilkes] County, North Carolina under Capt. Lewis^{O. Gordon} in the 2nd Reg't as he now believes (but will not be positive) in the North Carolina Line, whether on State or Continental line ^{he does not know} but they were called Continentals. The Reg't was commanded by Col. Armstrong. He enlisted for nine months. After his enlistment he was marched to Charlestown in South Carolina and was there at the siege and surrender of the Town and was taken prisoner when General Lincoln surrendered the city. He had been in service ~~upon~~ something like ¹² or thirteen months. But before the surrender his time had expired & he again at Charleston enlisted under Capt. Joseph Lewis ^{who succeeded Gordon} for nine months more, ~~who was shortly promoted to Major~~. On his first enlistment Micajah Lewis (brother of Joseph) was his Major. There was [sic, were] so many changes of officers that he does not remember his Lts or Ensigns. Before he was taken prisoner he was in no battles except the siege of Charlestown. The last enlistment he understood it to be in North Carolina line under Col. Armstrong afsd [sic, aforesaid] whether State or Continental troops he can not say. He remembers Genl Pinckney, Genl Lincoln. Shortly after the surrender there was a call for more men[,] he believes in June after he volunteered (time not specified but he believes he was gone 8 or 9 weeks in service) to join Genl Gates. He volunteered in Wilkes County under Captain Joseph Lewis afsd and Micajah Lewis was his ~~Capt.~~ Major & the Reg't was commanded by Col. Rutherford. They were marched adjoined Genl. Gates near Sollosbury [sic, Salisbury], N.C. and then were marched under Genl. Gates until his defeat by Lord Cornwallis, in which battle he was in. His Captain & company returned home. He again volunteered in Wilkes County, N.C. for 3 months (shortly before the battle of King's Mountain) under Captain Joseph Lewis, his Major M. Lewis afsd under Col. Cleaveland [sic, Benjamin Cleveland] with whom he marched to King's Mountain & fought in the battle, in which both of the Lewis afsd were wounded. He often saw Cols Campbell, Sevier, Shelby & Col. Williams who was killed. After the battle he was detained with the wounded men in Burke County,^{N.C.} under Doctor Dobson until he had between five and six months, when he ret'd [sic, returned] home without getting a discharge, there being no officer there,

by permission of the Doctor. In February following he was ordered out, under Capt. Joseph Lewis afsd, Micajah Lewis was Major and the Reg't under Col. Cleveland. This took place in Wilkes County, N. Carolina. They were ordered out to join Genl. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at the Shallow ford on the Yadkin^{River} in N.C. when he was retreating from the South, but the British got between Col. Cleveland & Green & they could not reach Green. When they could not reach Green, Col. Cleveland marched on to Hawes River in N.C., Major Lewis rode out of camp to examine if there was an enemy about, when he was shot & killed, both thighs being broke by the enemy. Col. Cleveland instantly retreated and marched back home. This trip was about two months—He was discharged but not in writing. Shortly after the battle of Gilford [sic, Guilford County Courthouse] he entered the service in Wilkes County under Capt. Chs. Gordon [sic, Charles Gordon] in the State line of N. Carolina for six months as he understood to fill out his tour of nine months under his second enlistment. His Major he does not remember, but his Col. was Capt. Joseph Lewis afsd who had been promoted. He was marched to Solsbury [sic, Salisbury], N.C. where the Reg't was stationed and after he had served six months, he was discharged at Salisbury, N.C. by Capt. Gordon afsd. In 81' he volunteered in the fall under Col. Ben Herndon & took a trip against the Cherokee Nation and was gone about 7 or 8 weeks but saw no Indians except a squaw. He was honorably discharged. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn & Subscribed to this day & year afsd

S/ David Bengé, X his mark.

1. He was born (in the year, for answer he refers to his age) in Albemarle County, state of Virginia—Has no record of his age. When he entered the service he lived in Wilkes County, N. Carolina, since he lived in N.C. Then in the year 1790 he removed to Kentucky and now resides in Clay County, Ky. He always entered the service on his own account & for himself & not as a substitute. As to the manner of his entering the service he refers to his declaration, afsd. As to the officers, the character of the troops, the names of his officers & the circumstances of his service he refers the Hon. Secretary to the foregoing declaration. Owing to old age & the lapse of memory he can not now remember names as well as formerly. As to the manner of his discharges he refers to this declaration—those that he rec'd in writing he has long since lost and he knows of no person by who he can prove his service. As to his character for truth he refers to his neighbors Col. Paul Pigg, Col. Elijah McQuortor and to Col. Danl. Garrard.

[George Stivers [?], a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Col. Daniel Garrard gave a supporting affidavit as to the character of the applicant.]

[Note: veteran died March 3, 1854]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.66 ½ per annum for 1 year and 5 months service as a private in the NC militia.]