

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jeremiah Bentley S39192

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 Aug 2017.

To the Honorable the Secretary of the War Department of the United states of America

The petition of Jeremiah Bentley, respectfully sheweth, that he is a citizen of the United States in the State of Tennessee. That on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 1777 he enlisted in the county of Amelia, & State of Virginia, as a private soldier in the War of the Revolution between the then thirteen United Colonies & Great Britain, for the term of three years on the continental Establishment under a certain Robert Foster [W19270; Lieutenant], who was either a Lieutenant, or ensign (but your petitioner is not confident which) in a company commanded by Capt James Foster, in the 15 Virginia Reigment, and in General Woodfords [William Woodford's] Brigade of Continental troops; That on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1788 [sic], he joined General Washingtons army at Valley Forge; at which time, said Capt James Foster being dead [since 15 Nov 1777], your petitioner served under a Capt James Mason (to the best of his recollection) in the Reigment and Brigade above mentioned. That in the Spring of 1789 [sic] he was placed under the command of General Anthony Wayne, and served in a company of light Infantry commanded by Capt Samuel Booker [BLWt315-300]; That he fought in the battle at Stoney Point [Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779]; and was at the Seige of Charlestown by the Brittish in 1788 [sic: Siege of Charleston SC, spring 1780]; at which, he was taken prisoner by the enemy [12 May 1780], and kept on board a prison ship for the term of nine months; when he was taken sick, and sent to the Hospital in Charleston, from which he privately escaped on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, at night, in the year 1781, and returned to his home in said Amelia County in the state of Virginia. That his term of service for which he had enlisted had expired some time before he made his escape from the enemy as afores'd. in consequence of which he did not again join the army; but some short time afterward he received, in the city of Richmond, in the state of Virginia, from a certain Col William Davis [sic: William Davies], by the direction of his said former Captain Samuel Booker, an honorable discharge; which he kept for near twenty years; when thinking it was of no value, he destroyed it; so that he cannot now produce it – your petitioner would further beg leave to state, that after having served under Genl. Wayne as before stated, he was, at Trenton in New Jersey, placed under the command of Capt William Moseley, in the first Virginia Reigment, Woodfords Brigade of Continental troops, in which said company, Reigment & Brigade he served until he was made prisoner as above stated. The most of the persons who knew him in service, are either dead, or live at so remote a distance from your petitioner that he cannot with any convenience procure their testimony; that he is now according to the information of his parents, in the fifty ninth year of his age. That he is very infirm; having his left shoulder dislocated, for thirty odd years ago, so that his arm is nearly useless to him. He is also much afflicted with the piles, so that from his age and infirmity, he is unable to gain a livelihood by his own exertions. That he is very poor, and has a wife who is about two years younger than himself, to maintain. That he stands much in need of assistance for a support from his country. He has received no pension from his country, & his pay was of very little service, being of depreciated money. He hereby relinquishes his claim to every pension by the laws of the United States allowed him, previous to the passage of an act, entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed by the Congress of the United States 9<sup>th</sup> [sic: 18<sup>th</sup>] March 1818, and signed by the President on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the same month. He therefore prays to be placed upon the pension list agreeably to the provisions of said act – 4<sup>th</sup> June 1818

Jeremiah hisXmark Bentley

State of Tennessee

Sc eill:

This day personally appeared before me Alfred M Harris Judge of the 6th Judicial Circuit of the state of Tennessee the under signed Aaron Woosley [S39134], who upon oath says, that he was well acquainted

with Jeremiah Bentley (the same Jeremiah Bentley who has petitioned for a pension) during the revolutionary war. That he knows of said Jeremiah Bentley having served, in a company commanded by Capt James Foster, in the 15<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, either in the year 1777, or 1778 upon the continental establishment. He does not now recollect the length of time which said Bentley served – said Bentley messed, when in service as afores'd with two of the brothers of the affiants [possibly Moses Woosley S6442 and William Woosley S42080]. He has no doubt but that said Bentley served as stated by him in his affidavit hereto annexed, tho he does not know of the battles in which said Bentley fought, not being in the same company with him. 28th July 1819. Aaron hisXmark Woosley

State of Tennessee } April Term 1821  
 Lawrence County Court }

on this second day of April 1821 personally appeared in open court being a court of record created by statute of unlimited civil Jurisdiction on the law side of said Court holden quarterly in and for said County Jeremiah Bentley of the County and State aforesaid a resident, age sixty one years on the first day of May 1820 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows that he said Bentley enlisted for the Term of three years on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 1777 in the State of Virginia in the Company of Captain James Foster in the fifteenth Regiment Commanded by Colonel Ennis [sic: James Innes VAS1344] in the line of the State of Virgina of the Continental establishment and continued to serve under the same Captain untill his death when James Mason succeeded to the command under whom he continued to serve untill the Spring of 1779 when he was enroled in a company of Wayns light infantry commanded by Captain Samuel Booker on Christmas of the same year the infantry was discharged and was placed under the Command of Captain William Mosely of the first Regiment commanded by Colonel Russel [sic: William Russell BLWt1849-500] he was taken prisoner at the down fall of charlestown S.C. from which imprisonment he expected[?] and was discharged by Colonel Davis at Richmond in the 1781 and that he made his Original Discharg from a pirson on the 4th Day of June 1818 and that he was placed on the prision list role of the West Tennessee agency by pention certificate number 13059 and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 I have no trade but that of farming my family contains of my self aged as aforesaid and my wife aged forty four years I am infirm and unable to work for my living my left shoulder is Out of place and my arm is withered away besids when I attempt to work hard I am sujet to the bloody flux my wife is helthy and able to support here self

Jeremiah hisXmark Bently

Schedule of property

One mare Bridle Saddle and Saddlebags five Books one Shall Chest one old Silver watch three Brushes two Bottles one Razor case and shaving glass one handsaw drawing knife one pair of drawing Chains two Gilblets two augers and two Chisels one tin Cup Seven hogs year olds Six Shoats four months old one yearling two Calves one oven and skillet two pair Pot hooks two pots one coffee mill Compass and Rule Coffee Pot four cups three cups and saucers four earthern plates one Tea pot one puter Basin and Dish and four Puter plates one candle stick one sett of knives and forks Six Iron Table Spoons two Pales and Piggens Washing tub one lubber One Flax wheel one pair Cotton Cards Big wheel three Chairs three Ewes and one Lamb I having thirty dollars due me in good hands Daniel Bentley my son owes me two hundred and thirty dollars but the said Bently has left the Country without making any provisions for its payment. One umbrella Jeremiah hisXmark Bentley

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

I do Certify that Jeremiah Bentley inlisted as a soldier in the 15th Virg'a Regm't the 28th of Aug't 1777 and serv'd as a soldier Three years. Given under my hand this 2d day of Aug't 1783.

Copy J. Pendleton Jr

Sam' Booker  
2<sup>d</sup> Virg'a Reg't

NOTE: The federal file contains a letter dated 21 Aug 1854 stating that Jeremiah Bentley died in May 1841 leaving an heir one John Bentley who was a blind invalid.