

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Chesney S39297

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia: Monongalia county towit

At a court held in and for the County of Monongalia on Monday the 27th day of July in the year of our Lord 1818 personally appeared Benjamin Chesney aged fifty seven years resident of said county who being duly sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of a late 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"

That he the said Benjamin Chesney enlisted as a soldier for during the war under Captain [John] Rudolph in Col. Lee's legion at the head of Elk [present Elkton], Cecil county, State of Maryland in March 1775 [sic: see endnote]; that he continued with the Legion under Col. Lee during the whole time of the war – was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] – Stony Point [storming of Stony Point fort, 16 Jul 1779] – Powles hook [sic: Paulus Hook NJ, 19 Aug 1779] – Guilford Courthouse [15 Mar 1781] & Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781], in which last battle he was wounded by a shot through the leg.

That after the peace with Great Britain, he, with part of Lee's legion was transported by sea from Charleston in South Carolina to the head of Elk in Maryland and there discharged. That his officers had not good money sufficient to buy paper on which to give the soldiers their discharges – that in all he served more than six years in the Regular Force of the United States. That he is very much disabled, so as to prevent him from gaining a subsistence by his labour and, and that he has not an Estate sufficient to support him without labor – and that he stands in absolute need of the aid of his country for support."

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

Virginia. At a County court held in and for the County of Monongalia, at the courthouse of the said county on Monday the 26th of June in the year 1820 and 44th year of the Commonwealth, personally appeared in open court {being a court of record which proceed according to the course of the common law, with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, and keeping a record of its proceedings} Benjamin Chesney aged about fifty nine years, a resident of said county, 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 as a private soldier for during the war, into Capt. Rudolf's company in Col. Lee's legion at the head of Elk, Cecil county Maryland, about the month of March 1775. that he was with the legion under Col. Lee during the whole time of the war, was in the battle of Brandy wine, Stoney point, Powles hook, Guilford courthouse and Eutaw springs, in which last engagement he was wounded by a shot through the leg, that after the peace with Great Britain he with part of Lee's legion was transported by sea from Charleston South Carolina to the head of Elk in maryland, and there dismissed. that his officers had not good money sufficient to purchase paper on which to give the soldiers their discharges, that in all he served ore than six years in the regular service of the United States. that he yet remains much disabled in his right arm, so that frequently he is not able to lift it to his head, that he feels the fatieuge of his youthful days, and hopes that his country will not forget, "that one good turn deserves another." that he made a declaration to obtain the provission of the act of Congress of 18th of March 1818 before the aforesaid court on the 27th of July 1818 and obtained a certificate from the Secretary of War dated on the 21st day of January 1819 and numbered 5479.

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 to wit – Fifty or sixty acres of land in said county on Scotts run, the land is hilly and difficult to cultivate. I was desirous to have a little home, and was enabled to pay for it by selling my Virginia military land warrant – one mare and colt, two cows, one heifer, two calves, One sow & pigs, a few poultry, one axe, and some little kitchen furniture.

(Signed) Benj'n. Chesney

that he has no trade, that his wife Margaret now about seventy years of age, that he has no children residing with him, or that contribute to his support, that he had a claim upon the government for a horse, saddle and bridle, which he gave up at the end of the war; also a final settlement certificate or ticket amounting to three hundred dollars, and a depreciation ticket or certificate for £50 which claims he never received any part of but considers them relinquished when he obtained a pension as a Revolutionary soldier under the act of 18th March 1818.

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution," approved on the 15th day of May 1828, I Benjamin Chesney of Monongalia County in the State of Virginia, do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution, for and during the war, and continued in its services until its termination, at which period I was a private soldier in Captain O'Neal's [Ferdinand Oneal (O'Neal), pension application R16846] Company formerly commanded by Captain John Rodolph, of Lee's Legion. And I also declare that I was entitled to a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars under a resolution of Congress passed the 15th day of May 1778. And I further declare that I was not, on the 15th day of March 1826, on the pension list of the United States.

September 15, 1828

Benjamin hisXmark Chesney

NOTE:

On 18 Jun 1776 Henry Lee was Captain of a company of Virginia Dragoons, which was attached on 31 Mar 1777 to the 1st Continental Dragoons. He was promoted to Major-Commandant on 7 Apr 1778. His battalion was designated Lee's Partisan Corps, often called Lee's Legion, on 21 Oct 1780, and Lee was promoted to Lt. Col. on 6 Nov 1780.

The file of Benjamin Chesney includes the following, but it is not clear that they apply to him. See the Virginia bounty-land papers of Benjamin Chesnut VAS239.

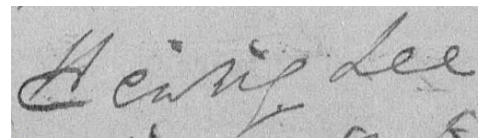
"I Certify that it appears by the Register of Musters of Lees Legion that Benjamin Chesnut inlisted 14th February 1779 for the War.

Dept of War [the rest missing]"

I do certify that Benjamin Chesnut enlisted in the Partisan Legion under my command in the year 1777 & served as a dragoon during the war with fidelity.

Given under my hand in Alexandria this 2^d day of November 1812.

[signed] Henry Lee/ Lt. [Col] Com. s'd. Legin in the revolutionary war

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Henry Lee". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.