

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Benjamin Fisher S39520

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia/ Third Judicial Circuit towit

On this [blank] day of May 1818 before me the undersigned a Judge of the General Court and Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit came Benjamin Fisher of the County of Stafford (one of the Counties of the said Circuit) aged 57 years and being by me duly sworn made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress intituled "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 Fisher enlisted for and during the war at Carters ferry [at present Cartersville VA] upon James River in Cumberland County State of Virginia in the month of August 1781 under a recruiting officer named Thompson or Tompkins his grade and Regiment not now remembered by the declarant, but the declarant remembers that it was a Regiment of Cavalry on Continental Establishment. That immediately after his enlistment and before the declarant had been mustered in any Company, he was taken into the Family of the Baron Steuben as his Bowman. That in this capacity he joined the American Army at Williamsburg and was at the Siege of York in Virginia [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. From there he marched northward as far as West Point and at that place, upon the conclusion of the War, he was regularly discharged, and obtained a written Certificate, which he filed in the Auditors Office of the State of Virginia in order to obtain his arrearages [arrearages] of Pay & has never seen it since. That he is in reduced circumstances and needs the aid of his country for support and that he has no evidence now in his power of his said services

District of Virginia County Court of Stafford

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1820 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record, made so by law for the said County of Stafford Benjamin Fisher aged fifty eight years, seven months & [blank] days – resident in the County of Stafford aforesaid, in the said district of Virginia who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows, viz: That he enlisted in Tappahannock in the County of Essex, in Virginia, in March 1781, in a company of foot commanded by Capt. Woodson, belonging to the Regiment commanded by Colo [Thomas] Gaskins of the Virginia line, for the term of eighteen months. That he marched from Tappahannock to the Barracks in the County of Chesterfield in the state of Virginia, that on the arrival of the Company, in which he enlisted, at Chesterfield, they were, being raw recruits, put under the instruction of Inspector General Steuben and daily exercised, until the Troops in 5 or 6 weeks, were marched up to Cartersville where he left the foot service & enlisted in Capt. Thompson or Tompkins's Company of horse (the name of the Capt. he does not distinctly recollect) who was recruiting troops to join Col. William Washington in the Southern service – that he never however served Colo. Washington being taken by Steuben into his immediate service, in which he acted as Bowman, dragoon & in other capacities until the the termination of the war. That whilst he remained in the service, he was engaged in a skirmish at Pigeon Hill & was present at the seige of York – that after the seige of York he went with Steuben to Philidelphia remained with him during the winter & continued in his service until he was discharged at West point. That Gen'l. Steuben affixed his signature to the discharge of this Declarant, which discharge he returned to the Auditor's office of the state of Virginia all which was stated in his original Declaration made in conformity to the act of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, & the regulations of the war department prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of may 1820, that under said declaration so made, he was allowed a pension of eight dollars pr. month as pr. pension certificate number 12,191, And I the said Benjamin Fisher 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. The said Benjamin Fisher further declares that he is by occupation a Labourer, which occupation he finds difficulty in prosecuting because of the fall of a horse in the streets of Philidelphia on which he was riding whilst in the service of Gen'l. Steuben, by reason of which fall, his ancle was much injured & a weakness was produced which increases as the Declarant advances in his life, & is severely felt by him whilst occupied in ploughing – by the said fall he was otherwise injured in his body. that his family consists of his wife named Sinai, aged about forty six three daughters viz: Catharine, aged fourteen, Judith aged about eleven – Sally aged about five & one son named Uel, aged about eight years, all in good health.

Sworn & declared to on the day & date above.

Schedule of the property of Benjamin Fisher

one horse - blind - aged about 16 years – one Cow – one Calf & one small yearling – one Cart – two Chests – five chairs – one small cupboard one sow & four shoats one Cary plough – one Harrow – three weeding hoes – two pots & one dutch oven – one old Loom – one spinning wheel & a few articles of Crockery ware & a few spoons (pewter) – knives & forks he has due to him one open account, about four dollars, and is indebted about as much (exclusive of bedding & wearing cloathes) the whole valued by the Court at \$74½.

Benjamin Fisher

NOTE: A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Chesterfield Courthouse lists the following: Benj'n Fisher, age 17, height 5' 2½", dark hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, tailor, born and residing in Essex County, enlisted as a substitute in Essex County for 18 months on 10 April 1781.