

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Benjamin Higginbotham S5542

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, Amherst County to wit.

On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of the County Court of Amherst now sitting Benjamin Higginbotham, a resident of the County of Amherst in the State of Virginia aged seventy five years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That in the year 1779 he was called out as a Militia Man from the County of Amherst and marched under the command of Captain Richard Ballenger to the Barracks in Albemarle County where he remained three months in guarding British Prisoners. At the end of three months he was discharged and returned home to the County of Amherst, and was again called out in 1781 and marched under Captain James Dillard from the County of Amherst and joined Genl Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army in North Carolina the day after the battle at Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] and remained in that army until his term of service expired, which was for three months, at the end of that time he was discharged and returned home and afterwards in the same year last mentioned. he was under the command of Samuel Higginbotham called on to perform another tour of duty, and was engaged in driving cattle from the County of Amherst to Williamsburg for the main army. he was engaged in that service three months, was then discharged, and was no more engaged in service during the War of the Revolution. He resided in the County of Amherst at the time he entered the Army and has lived there ever since. he served during the war three tours of duty of three months each, making in all nine months, and was in each case a drafted Militia Man. When he was at the barracks he recollects seeing Colo. [Francis] Taylor, and Captain Porter and Captain Price when in North Carolina and attached to Genl Greens Army. he recollects seeing Genl. Green the commander in Chief, Colo [Charles] Lynch, and Capt. James Dillard under whom he served. He states that he has no documentary evidence proving his service and is compelled to rely upon the testimony of a few surviving soldiers with whom he served, whose certificates accompany this declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any rate

Benja Higginbotham

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid —

And the Court proceeded to propound the several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department Viz:

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in the County of Amherst in the State of Virginia sometime in the year 1757.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it? I have none.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Ans. I then lived in Amherst County and have lived there ever since.

4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?

In every instance I went as a drafted Militia Man.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served &c.

I recollect Cols Taylor, Capt. Price and Capt. Ballenger at the Barracks in Albemarle County. I recollect Gen'l. Green, Colo. Lynch and Capt. Dillard in North Carolina.

6. Did you receive a discharge from service?

I received no discharge

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood &c?

I can refer to all of my neighbours to sustain my character as a man of truth. And I here refer to some who know of my services, William Cashwell [pension application W3771], Henry Cashwell [S9153], Philip Smith [R9830], William Hartless [S5498] and James Smith.