

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Popham S8968

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Maryland Anne Arundel County to wit

On this twenty first day of August in the year eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared before the Orphans Court of said County [undeciphered word] Benjamin Popham a resident of said County aged sixty nine 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That he was born about the last of October 1763 it was in Anne Arundel Manor in said County, that he has no record of his age & his information is derived from his father & mother That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated He entered in Captain David Lynns company in the fourth Regiment of the Maryland line which was then commanded by Major Oxborough [sic: Alexander Roxburgh] some time in August or September 1781 whilst the Company was on the march against Lord Cornwallis He resided in this County at the time of he entered into service & had left home as a substitute for Dr. William Murray who had been drafted into service. That he was present during the siege of Yorktown and at the time of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. That he was marched with the British prisoners taken at York to Frederick Town. from Frederick town he was some time after marched to Annapolis where he was discharged in the year 1783 after the peace [15 Nov 1783; see endnote] That he received a written discharge from General [William] Smallwood as he believes but he does not know what has become of it. That he has ever since the war resided and now resides in Anne Arundel County. That he is known to Doctor William Murray and William OHara and Doctor Martin Fenwick and Major Osborn L Harwood of West River in Anne Arundel County and Virgil Maxey the Solicitor of the Treasury at Washington And he believes those gentlemen can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any other than that of the State of Maryland

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Benjamin hisXmark Popham

Land Officer; Annapolis, September 5<sup>th</sup> 1832;

I Certify that it appears by a roll or list of men, recruited for the Maryland line in 1782; remaining in this office, That the name of Benjamin Popham; appears upon said list, as having enlisted for the term of three years; and I further certify, that in the margin of remarks, opposite said Benjamin Pophams name; is the following entry; "Recruited by Capt'. D. Lynn in Frederick Town;"

George G. Brewer/ Reg'r. L'd. Off. W.S.Md.

[A letter from James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, dated 6 Oct 1832, noted the supposed discrepancy between the date of Popham's enlistment in his declaration and that given in the certificate from the Register of the Land Office.]

District of Columbia Washington County to Wit

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 before me the the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County & district aforesaid appears John Taylor and makes Oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that Benjamin Popham was a Soldier in Revolutionary Army & to his own knowledge was at the seige of York when the British under Lord Cornwallis surrendered to the American Forces under Gen'l. Washington

NOTES:

At the time of Cornwallis's invasion of Virginia in the spring of 1781, Maryland drafted a large

number of militiamen into Continental service for nine months or until 10 Dec 1781. Popham appears to have been a substitute for such a draftee and then reenlisted sometime in 1782. His pension certificate dated 11 May 1833 was for \$40 per year for only one year of service.

A Treasury-Department document states that Ann Busey, one of six children of Benjamin Popham, received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 21 Sep 1838.

The file contains a letter to the Pension Commissioner from Edward Denver of Annapolis, dated 18 June 1844, stating that Benjamin Popham had been pensioned at \$96 per year and had made a will leaving all his property to Denver's wife, who would therefore be entitled to part of the pension still owed.

On 23 March 1853 the following assigned power of attorney to James L. Franklin of Annapolis to obtain any additional pension owed for the services of Benjamin Popham: "Benjamin Popham the son, Elizabeth Margaret Popham, now Elizabeth Margaret Holland and Edward Holland husband of said Elizabeth Margaret being the children, and George Washington Popham, William Henry Popham and Sarah Ellen Popham, now Sarah Ellen Butts, and the said John Butts husband of the said Sarah Ellen the grandchildren of Benjamin Popham deceased, all of Anne Arundel County." A letter to the Commissioner of Pensions from the attorney stated that any sum awarded "will be a great relief, however small the amt, to them, as they are in a destitute condition & charge them nothing for my services."