

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Blankenship W10425                      Susan Blankenship                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 Oct 2014.

District of Virginia    }  
Bedford County Ss.    } On this the 1 day of January 1830. aforesaid personally appeared in open Court being a court of record for the said County Abraham Blankingship aged about 72 years resident in said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows to wit That he served in the militia for three months under command of Capt Jos Royal[sic: Joseph Royall] & at Yorktown enlisted for three months more under Capt Lewis & marched to Williamsburg & then enlisted for three months under Command of Jas. Scott [James Scott] & marched to old James town & was there drafted as a regular soldier in the infantry on continental establishment under command of Colo [Alexander] Dick, Major [William] Boyce & Cpt. Scott & marched to Norfolk Hampton & other places & was frequently called on as a minute man & in every instance discharged my duty faithfully in defence of my country and obtained an honourable discharge from each of my officers but having no learning have lost them. and do not know what became of them. That he is by trade a cooper and is now blind & unable to work at his trade and is in such reduced circumstances in life as to need the assistance of his country for support. That he has no property except a few Coopers tools which is not worth more than Two dollars and that he was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval services of the United States in the Revolutionary war passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 or of the act of congress passed on the first of May 1820 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the above property except that the overseers of the poor of Bedford County have levyed for my & my wife's relief twelve dollars as parishoners of s'd County That he has a wife living with him about 74 years of age & verry infirm and a single daughter about 35 years of age & her two children aged about 14 & 11 years. That he has made no application for a pension before this because he did not know untill a few months past that any such provision was made for revolutionary soldiers as he has since understood & was able to support himself untill he became blind and that he does not know of any one living by whom he can prove his services in said revolutionary war: having resided in the County of Bedford for 46 years past & not being out of it he can not know who of his old comrades in his countries service are yet survivors or where any one of them resides unless Moses Ferguson & George Voden[?] of Chesterfield County Va who served with him in the Continental service during the revolutionary war was in Battel at petersburg va and at Shirley hundred in va and the Taking of Wallace [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] at yorktown va and that he entered into the Servis of the United States as a Sodier in the year 1779 and was Honourably discharged at old Williamsburg in, Va and the said Abraham Blankenship says from infirmity that he is not able to attend Court  
Abraham hisXmark Blanken[ship]

State of virginia Bedford County to witt  
on this 23<sup>d</sup> day of January 1833 personally appeared before me Samuel Hancock a Justice of the peace for said county abram Blankenship a Resident of said County of Bedford aged seventy three 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832 that he was drafted in the Militia in the county of Chesterfield in the state of virginia where he was born & then Resided to serve three months in the army of the united States in the yeare seventeen hundred and seventy seven he thinks he marched of about the first of June & was discharged some time in September he marched

under Capt Cheetum [sic: probably Henry Cheatham] and Colo. goode [Robert Goode] & Major Bass Commanded the Ridgement we met at chesterfield courthouse and march to williamsburg from there to little york from there to hamton [sic: Hampton] & back to little york and from there to williamsburg and was discharge making full Tour of three monthes I think: there was but the one Rigiment with us in all this tour the next tour I was drafted it was a law that Every sixteen men was to furnish a soldier and it fell to my lot to go for Eighteen months and march'd from chesterfield County under Capt Scott Major Boice and Colo Dicks we went first to petersburg and from there to portsmouth where we staid fourteen or fifteen months we then were marched to Mackeys mills and discharge the 25<sup>th</sup> of august 1779 making a full Tour of Eighteen months Colo forkner [sic: Ralph Falkner] and Colo bannester [sic: John Banister] Commanded some Regiments that were with us the next tour I was a substitute for John Wilson in the same county in the year 1780 I think about the first september I marched from the same County Capt patterson [probably David Patteson] was my captain Colo [George] Robertson was our Collonal goode was our major we marched to petersburg and there we joined Colo. Meads [sic: Everard Meade's] Ridgement from Amelia County we then marched to Smithfield & from there to Williamsburg where we staid several weeks and was marched back to Smithfield and we lay till our time Expired making out three months the next Tour I served was in 1781 I was called out by my numbers to meet the Britches army [sic] then at petersburg we marched on and did meet the the britches army at petersburg and had a smart skirmish [probably Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781] in which we killed several of the british perhaps five or six we took up the bridge to prevent them from crossing but the british by some means did cross and followed us to chesterfield court house & thirty seven of us prisoners then we retreated up to Sherley Hundred [sic: Shirley Hundred] the british pursued us there and begun to land and a sharp firing Insued & we took two boat loades of the british prisoners and killed 5 or 6 the number of prisoners I never new as they were sent off Immediately to Norfolk we then marched to mobbin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] and from there to Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County and was discharged in the month of June 1781 in this tour I served not less than three months Capt [James] Moody was my Captain Colo. Robertson and major harris ware the field officers general lawson [Robert Lawson] commanded the brigade general Stuband [sic: Baron von Steuben] was with us some times I belonged to the light infantry & had no chances of being acquainted with many of the officers as we were always detached of from the main army I have no Register of my age nor I cant Read nor Rite but my father always told me I was Born in the yeare of 1759 I was Born in chesterfield County virginia & lived there till 1784 I then move to Bedford County state of virginia where I have lived Eversence & I am living there now I think I got a discharge for Every Tour I served I think my captain alway give them but not haveing any lerning I cold not Reade them & never Expecting them to be of any accoumpt they are lost or mislaid so I dont know any thing of them now I have no documentary Evedence to prove my service but can prove by Talley nichols my going in the army and I can prove by William leftwich and Elijah Cunduff who lives close neighbours who knows I was always considered a Revolutionary Soldier and that he is also Infirm & unable to attend or go to court house of said county to give in his declaration & he heareby Relinquishes Every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity Except the present and declars that his name is not on the pension Role of any agency in any state

abram hisXmark blankenship

Sworn to and subscribed the day and yeare aforesaid [signed] Sam'l. Hancock JP

Virginia

Bedford county Set

Abraham Blankenship who made his declaration before me on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 1833. in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832 this day again appeared before me a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid and made oath that during the revolutionary war he served more than two years against the enemy in the manner stated in his declaration, That he is so poor and so infirm as not to be able to travel to distant parts of the united States to procure testimony to prove all his different tours of service – that his incapacity to travel about from age and a very sore leg is

known to many of his neighbours – as is also his poverty – and further this deponent has so long resided in Bedford at a distance from the place where he resided during the revolutionary war that he cannot say expressly whether any of his companions in arms during said war are yet living or that he can produce any other testimony than was heretofore produced – given under my hand & seal this 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1833.  
[signed] Sam'l. Hancock jp

NOTES:

I thank Col. Bill Schneck for assistance in identifying some of the officers.

On 11 Dec 1829 Thomas Wyatt, born in Chesterfield County, stated that his father and others had told him that Abraham Blankenship, Sr. had been a soldier in the Continental Line.

In Bedford County on 22 Aug 1845 Susan Blankenship, “late a resident in the County aforesaid, but now temporarily living with a relation in the adjoining County of Franklin,” aged 87, applied for a pension stating that she married Abram Blankenship in Chesterfield County in 1781, that they continued to live in that county for five years before moving to Bedford County, and that he lived there until his death on 8 March 1845. One document in the file is too faded to transcribe. An unsuccessful search was made in Chesterfield County for the marriage of Abraham Blankenship and Susan Wiatt. One Elisha H. Preston, a Justice of the Peace, declared that he had attended the funeral of Abram Blankenship, and that it was one of the largest gatherings he had ever witnessed on any funeral occasion. Polly Blankenship, age 45 and daughter of Abram and Susan Blankenship, stated that she had lived with them for many years. On 27 Oct 1845 John Ayres, Sr., 91, a Methodist minister, stated that Abraham and Susan Blankenship were present when he married Peter Kennett and Milly Blankenship on 31 Oct 1789.