

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Grist W1170

Catherine Grist f38NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/11/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of South Carolina in, Pickens District: SS

On this second day of October 1832, Personally appeared before the Honorable Richard Gantt in the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas for the District aforesaid, Benjamin Grist, a resident of the said District of Pickens in the State aforesaid aged Seventy-three 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 Enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1779 (as well as he recollects) with Captain Peter Hederick [sic, Peter Hedrick?]¹ and served in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Maban [Robert Mebane] in the North Carolina Line under the following named Officers: he was in the battle at the Catawba [River] N.C. under Captain Clendennen [John Clendenan of the Orange County NC militia Regiment?] & Colonel Belford² – At the Battle at Lindley's Mill [September 13, 1781]³ under the same Officers where he was wounded in the head, his skull broke, was in the skirmishes at Jacob Skeaden's [?] Mill and at Colonel Ralston's on Drowning Creek of Little Pedee [River] – He was Dismissed on the 4th of July 1782, for 10 days he was never called on again nor was he ever regularly discharged. He had served over two years & should have served out the three years but for the Peace – He has now no witness near him except Buckner Smith⁴ who was with him one Eighteen months & who now resides in Pickens District. He the said Benjamin Grist 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 Agency in any State.

Kept sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William L. Keith, Clerk

S/ Benjamin Grist, X his mark

We have been long acquainted with Benjamin Grist above named, and do believe he was a Soldier in the War of the Revolution as he states.

S/ Joseph Grisham

S/ Robert Gaines

S/ Samuel Maverick

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South Carolina, Pickens District

I Buckner Smith of the District aforesaid do certify that I was well acquainted with Benjamin

¹ This name is spelled "Hederick" throughout all the documents in this file. Based on other sources, however, it appears that the name is more often found as "Hedrick." I have used the latter form in this transcription.

² I cannot identify either this engagement or a Col. Belford of the NC service. As a pure guess, the veteran MAY have been confusing Major Tibby Belford of the Randolph militia who is thought to have been at the Battle of Camden.

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html

⁴ [Buckner Smith W1325](#)

Grist within named, him & myself were Regular Soldiers in the war of the Revolution & part of the time served in the same Company and I know a part of his Statement is true, was with him in the Battle at Lindley's Mill where him & myself were both wounded. I have no doubt but his whole statement & declaration is substantially true.

Sworn to & subscribed the second day of October 1832 in open court.

S/ William L. Keith, Clerk

S/ Buckner Smith, X his mark

[p 7]

The State of South Carolina

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Quorum for Pickens District and State aforesaid, Benjamin Grist of the said District, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, That he cannot state precisely the length of his Service believes that he Entered in October 1779 and that he served faithfully as a private till the End of the War and was dismissed on the 4th day of July 1782. This deponent had been two or three Tours in the militia. This deponent sayeth on oath that he had served over two years & a half at the time he was dismissed on his Enlistment. Also that he is very poor & had to go on foot to get Casper Hedrick to make proof for him – And when he went to Georgia Hedrick was unable to go to a Magistrate – and there was none in Commission in the County he lived in. It was with great difficulty he could travel to find Casper Hedrick. This deponent does not know of no other living witness except Buckner Smith & the above named Casper Hedrick who can testify to his services.

Sworn to some of August 1833 Before

S/ Nathan Boone, JP

S/ Benjamin Grist, X his mark

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The State of South Carolina

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Quorum for the District of Pickens in the State aforesaid, Buckner Smith of said District, who being duly Sworn, deposeth and saith, That he lived in Orange County N. C. and that he Enlisted under Captain Clendennen of Colonel Lytle's Regiment afterwards commanded by Colonel Maban [sic, Robert Mebane] for three years or during the War. That Benjamin Grist now also of said District did Enlisted under Captain Peter Hedrick of the same Regiment and after Captain Hedrick died, the said Benjamin Grist was transferred to Clendennen's Company, and they Grist and this deponent did serve for Eighteen months in the same Company, from December 1779 or January 1780 till July 1782 as well as he recollects; The said Benjamin Grist was a private, during all the service they did together, and this deponent believes that the said Benjamin Grist did other services, he lived about 10 miles distant & deponent heard of his being often out on duty, but deponent was not with him – deponent saith that he knows Grist was in the Battles he describes & was wounded as he states – And that Colonel Belford died before Colonel Lytle took command. That Lytle died & then Colonel Mebane took command of the Regiment. The said Benjamin Grist & deponent belonged to the same mess.

Sworn to 3rd June 1833 Before

S/ Nathan Boon, JQ

S/ Buckner Smith, X his mark

[p 23]

State of South Carolina, Pickens District

Personally came Jesse Smith⁵ before me the subscribing Justice and made Oath in due form that we all of the acquaintance he had with Benjamin Grist the present pensioner in the time of the American Revolution was by being with him for several days when the said Grist was serving in the mounted Militia under the command of Colonel Dudley [Guilford Dudley?].

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of October 1835

S/ Jas. Osborn, JQ

S/ Jesse Smith, X his mark

[p 37]

The State of South Carolina

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Quorum for the District of Pickens and State aforesaid Casper Hedrick⁶ of Lumpkin County Georgia (late of this District, and State) who being duly sworn deposed and saith, That as well as he now can recollect in the year 1779 in Rowan County in the State of North Carolina, he the said Casper Hedrick and Benjamin Grist did both Enlist on the same day under Captain Peter Hedrick⁷ for three years or during the War. This deponent is positive the said Benjamin Grist & deponent served at least Eighteen months together, the Captain the Father of deponent got wounded & he was taken with him to wait on him & the said Grist & this deponent got separated. But he this deponent does verily believe that the said Benjamin Grist did do more than two years Faithful Service – And in 1782 the said Grist & him were dismissed for ten days & were never again called into Service – This deponent was with the said Grist at the Battle at Lindley's Mills & at Jacob Skeadon's Mills in a skirmish also at a skirmish at Colonel Alston's. This deponent does know that the said Benjamin Grist was in much active service & that he was dismissed at the close of the War as he states (July 1782)

Sworn to the seventh day of August 1833 Before

S/ Nathan Boon, JQ

S/ Casper Hedrick, H his mark

[p 12: On October 4, 1853 in Rabun County Georgia Catherine Grist, age not known but very old, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Grist of Pickens District South Carolina; that her husband was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$80 per annum which he drew in Charleston South Carolina; that she married him April 2, 1834; that her husband died February 2, 1836; that she remains a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 9: On October 4, 1853 in Rabun County Georgia, William D. Teague of Rabun County, Ga. gave testimony that he witnessed at his father's house in Pickens District South Carolina the marriage of Benjamin Grist to Catharine Grist by William Moten a Baptist Minister. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 9: Likewise on October 4, 1853 in Rabun County Georgia, Mary Collins gave testimony that she

5 [Jesse Smith S21490](#)

6 The following letter appears in this file: "Pleasant Retreat, Lumpkin County Georgia June 10th, 1835

Dear Sir: we drop you a few lines with regard to one certain Casper Hedrick Senior who has made application for a pension for his services in the revolutionary War, it is reported and generally believed that the said Hedrick was not old enough at that time to have served in that war, as such it would not be doing Justice to the publick to grant him a pension, we was in conversation with a gentleman on the 7th Instant who stated that – he has known him for upwards of 30 years and has never heard of his serving as a revolutioner [sic] previous to a short time since. Your most obedient servants, S/ A. B. Barker, S/ H. B. Williams."

7 Also known as Johann Peter Heyerich]

was present at the home of Mr. Teague when the veteran and his wife were married. She was not actually in the house at the time but learned from folks who were in the house that the marriage took place. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]