

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Lawrence W21547

Rachel Lawrence

f41SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

rev'd 3/24/10 & 7/4/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina, District of Pickens

On this Eighth day of January 1844, personally of appeared before the Court of Ordinary Mrs. Rachel Lawrence (formerly Rachel Weems) a resident of the District and State aforesaid, aged over Eighty years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th, 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of Benjamin Lawrence who was a private and officer in the War of the Revolution, that she was acquainted with her late husband Benjamin Lawrence some time previous to her marriage to him, that they then lived neighbors in Abbeville District in this State, that she knew a good deal of his services as a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, or rather of his absence from home, leaving & returning with the Army, and said to be in service, that he was in the Cavalry and infantry both, that she is unable to state that this late day under what officers he served in the Cavalry, but is satisfied he served under Col. Anderson [Robert Anderson's] in the Infantry and that he was an officer during some part of the time, that he wore a Uniform & Epaulets and was called Captain, that she cannot of course say much of the country through which he marched, but understood that he had been through North & South Carolina & Georgia, that he was in the battle of Kettle Creek,¹ Siege of Augusta,² Midway and others not now recollected. She does not know whether he was drafted or a volunteer, but thinks the latter.

She further declares that she was married to said Benjamin Lawrence (as well as she can recollect and from the best information she can obtain, she has no record of the fact) on the fifth day of March in the year seventeen hundred and eighty three; that her husband, the aforesaid Benjamin Lawrence died on the twenty second day of April one thousand eight hundred and twenty six; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service (as was thought entirely, tho' he was afterwards out on excursions after Indians, if not Tories) but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz., at the time of above stated.

¹ Kettle Creek February 14, 1779 <https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790214-kettle-creek/>

² Siege of Augusta (first/Clarke) [September 12-18, 1780] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800914-augusta/>

Siege of Augusta (second/Clarke) [May 22-June 6, 1781] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

S/ Rachel Lawrence, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court on the day and year above written before.

S/ James H. Dendy, O. P. D.

Judge of the Court of Ordinary for Pickens District
common seal having no seal of office {SEAL}

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South Carolina Pickens District: Before me personally appeared John Verner³ Esquire one of the oldest and most respectable citizens of this District, and made oath in due form of law, that he knew Benjamin Lawrence very well when he was a young man, that they then lived neighbors in Abbeville District in this State and that the said Benjamin Lawrence was reputed to be a good soldier on the Whig side although this deponent does not know anything personally of his service in the War of the Revolution, this deponent further states that he was also well acquainted with Rachel Weems, who was afterwards married to the said Benjamin Lawrence, that this deponent recollects well to have been at the wedding of the said Benjamin Lawrence and Rachel Weems, and that it was very soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, though he does not recollect the date of the said marriage, but he is positive it took place previous to his own marriage, which was in the year 1785. This deponent further states that he is now acquainted with the said widow Rachel Lawrence, who now resides in this District, and knows that she is the widow of the said Benjamin Lawrence who died some years since in this District.

Sworn to and subscribed this 28th December 1843 before me

S/ Miles M. Norton, NP

S/ John Verner



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Amendatory Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of July 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" -- and also, the act of 7th of June 1832, entitled, "an act supplementary to the act for the relief of certain surviving officers & soldiers of the revolution."

State of South Carolina Pickens District

On this 10th day of May 1844, personally appeared before me, Mrs. Rachel Lawrence a resident of the District & State above named, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on her oath, make the following amendatory declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th, 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows: and also, the act of the seventh of June 1832, entitled "An act supplementary to the act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and Soldiers of the revolution." That she has been informed that she is entitled to the benefits arising from the last mentioned act, and entitled to receive whatever pension he her said husband Benjamin Lawrence might have been entitled to if he had lived to the present time, and she desires the original declaration made by her and the proof there with sent, to be taken in evidence, and together with this to be considered as an application under the last named act, and as to the first application has not been heard from, she does not know of any addition she can make, unless it be as to his

³ [David Verner S21550](#)

stating the time which her said husband Benjamin Lawrence served in the War of the Revolution, which on reflection she is able to state positively to have been at the least two years, being herself living in the same neighborhood of her said husband, during the war, although not married to him until the close of the war, as will be seen by reference to her former declaration.

S/ Rachel Lawrence, R her mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written before me

S/ Miles M. Norton, NP

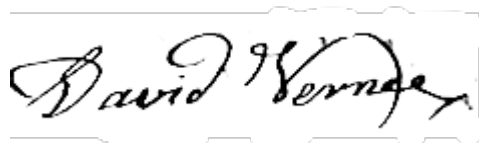
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South Carolina, Pickens District

Before me personally appeared David Verner an old and respectable citizen of Anderson District & who is reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution & who now receives a Pension, and made oath in due form of Law that he was well acquainted with Benjamin Lawrence during the war of the Revolution & served with him in the same militia company under various officers at different times, viz. Captain William Harris, Captain Baskins [probably William Baskin], Captain McCall [probably Capt. James McCall] & Captain Robert Anderson who was afterwards Colonel – was in the Battle at Kettle Creek with him-- that Lawrence then lived in Abbeville District on or near Rocky River – that he was one of the best Soldiers this deponent ever knew & he believes served during most of the war, and is fully satisfied he served at least two years from what he knew of his own personal knowledge & from well-founded reports about the time of the war; that he never knew but the one Benjamin Lawrence and that he married (as he was informed by report about that time, as he was not himself at the wedding) Rachel Weems whom this deponent knew very well, and report say is yet living in Pickens District in this State as the widow of the said Benjamin Lawrence who died several years ago. The marriage of the said Benjamin Lawrence and Rachel Weems took place, this deponent is satisfied, previous to the year 1794, but not until after the close of the War – thinks they were married in 1786.

Sworn to 21st September 1844 before

S/ David Verner



S/ Miles M. Norton, Notary Public & Ex. Off. M. P. D.

South Carolina Pickens District

I Miles M. Norton a Notary Public and Ex officio Magistrate in and for the District aforesaid, do hereby certify that David Verner who has made the foregoing affidavit before me is a man of veracity, and highly respectable as a citizen and also believed to have been a Soldier in the War of the Revolution -- that he is now very old and infirm, & very deaf & can only be conversed with by writing, otherwise I have no doubt he could have proven much more than he has done, of the service of Benjamin Lawrence & of his marriage. Given under my hand and seal at Pickens CH this 23rd September 1844.

S/ Miles M. Norton, NP

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South Carolina Pickens District: Before me personally appeared Mrs. Rachel Lawrence, widow of Benjamin Lawrence deceased and made oath that the belief upon which the family record of her late Husband & herself (of their family Bible) was kept, has been torn out, and is lost, she therefore has no family record to which to refer as evidence of the date of her marriage to the said Benjamin Lawrence her late husband. The family record referred to she thinks did not contain the date of their marriage but only the births of their children.

Sworn to 25th September 1844 before
S/ Miles M. Norton, NP

S/ Rachel Lawrence, R her mark

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State of South Carolina, District of Pickens

On this thirty first day of October 1848, personally appeared before Miles M. Norton a Notary Public & Ex Officio Magistrate for the District aforesaid James Lawrence a resident [of] the District and State aforesaid one of the surviving children of Mrs. Rachel Lawrence, who was a resident of the same District and State, who being first duly sworn, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 2nd February 1848, granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That his mother the aforesaid Rachel Lawrence was the widow of Benjamin Lawrence, who was a Lieutenant in the militia of South Carolina during the Revolutionary War; and that the said Rachel Lawrence did draw a pension under the acts of 17th June 1844 of \$304 per annum, that she did live a widow until the 11th day of August 1848 when she died in the aforesaid District, and that her only surviving children are himself and a brother and sister, the former of which, his brother Elisha, he has no tidings from since about 12 months ago. The latter, his sister, Margaret who married to Alexander Deal, resided in Mississippi when last heard from, that this declaration is made to obtain the amount of pension due to his mother the said Rachel Lawrence from the fourth March last up to the day of her death, under the act above alluded to or his own portion thereof, if not proper for him to receive the whole amount, in behalf of his brother and sister.

S/ James Lawrence

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written, before.

S/ Miles M. Norton

Not. Pub. & Ex. Off. M. P. D.

[p 31: Certificate dated November 29, 1843 given by the South Carolina Comptroller in Columbia South Carolina indicating payments to Benjamin Lawrence for military services as a Lieutenant per Captain Baskins pay bill in 1779 and ending in 1783. The number of days of his service in the militia is not indicated.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$304 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836 and ending when she died on 11 August 1848.]

⁴ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name"

[p 2]

No. 195 Book P

Mr. Benjamin Lawrence his Account of Duty in the Militia as Lieutenant per Capt. Baskins Pay Bill commencing in 1779 and ending in 1783 also for a Horse &c for militia use, Amounting to Viz.

Duty		
On Horse 594 Days	£[illegible]	
on Foot 37 Days	[illegible]	
Duty besides per Col. Anderson's Return ⁵	24	
a Horse	[illegible]	
Provisions	[illegible]	
[old SC] Currency	[illegible]	
Stg. [Sterling]	[illegible]	

Two Hundred Fifteen Pounds, fourteen Shillings, & five Pence Sterling
 Ex^d. W.R. [Examined by W. R. [identity unknown]]
 J. M^c. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 3]

State So. Carolina Dr. [Debtor] to Benjamin Lawrence

For Duty in the Militia as Lieut. on Horse &

Foot per Capt. Baskins's Pay Bills commencing

Feby 1779 and ending in July 1783 say

on Horse	87	
	507 594 days at 45/	£1336.10
on Foot	37 Days at 35/	64.15
Duty beside per Col. Anderson's Return		24
a Horse lost in service		<u>75</u>
Bacon & Butter		9.16
	Currency	<u>£1510.1</u>
	Stg.	£215.14.5

[p 4]

The Publick of South Carolina to Benjamin Lawrence [sic] Lut. Dr.

to 34 wt. of Bacon and 17 wt. of Butter for a Scout of men ordered on the frontiers by Genl.

Williamson [Andrew Williamson] under the Command of Benjamin Lawrence [sic] Lut. May

the 15 Day 1779

34 wt. Bacon at 5/	£8.10
17 wt. Butter at 5/	4.5

box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

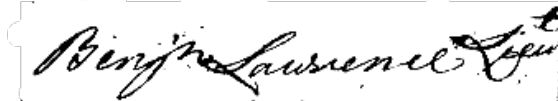
⁵ Colonel Robert Anderson's return [not extant]

Ninety Six District} Personally came Benjben Lowrance [sic] and made oath that the above account is Just and true and that he hath Not Received any Pay or Part of Pay for the same Sworn to this 26 day of July 1783

Before me

S/ William Luckie, JP

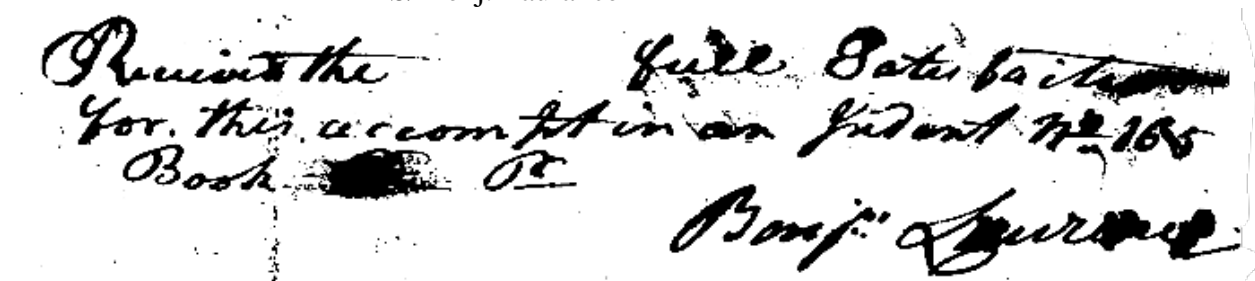
S/ Benjamin Lawrence Lieut.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Lawrence Lieut". The signature is enclosed in a rectangular box.

[p 5]

Received the __ full Satisfaction for this account in an Indent No. 165 [sic] Book P

S/ Benj. Laurance

A handwritten receipt in cursive script. The text reads: "Received the full Satisfaction for this account in an Indent No. 165 Book P". Below the text is a signature that reads "Benj. Laurance". The entire receipt is enclosed in a rectangular box.