

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Beck W3755  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Ohio County S.S.

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Ohio, and ex officio one of the members of the County Court of said County, the same being a court of Record, personally appeared Rebecca Beck widow of the said County aged seventy six years who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the proviision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 entitled "an Act granting half-pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of the late John Beck deceased, who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental Line in the Revolutionary War. That she does not know precisely at what date or in what capacity her said husband entered the service. His Commission as Ensign bears date the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May AD. 1779 as will more fully appear upon reference to that document which is herewith filed marked A as part of this declaration. Affiant does not know precisely at what time her said husband entered the service, nor has she any means of ascertaining except from the records of the proper Department at Washington City, to which she respectfully refers, if that point be material in the premises. Affiant files herewith as part of this declaration the letter of Peter Wagner Esq. 3<sup>d</sup> Auditor, dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1839 marked B. shewing that her said husband "When he left the Army on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1782 was a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental Line" and that "in that capacity he appears to have received his Commutation of Five years full pay in lieu of half-pay for life"

Affiant further saith that in the nature of things she has no personal knowledge of the actual service of her said husband, but she well believes from the repeated declarations of her said husband in his lifetime and of others, many of whom served with him, That he served in the capacity of a Volunteer Soldier in Lord Dunmore's war [summer and fall 1774] and subsequently with McDonald about which time as well as affiant recollects, he entered the regular Army as an Officer in Col. John Gibson's Regiment. That he served a considerable time at Fort Pit [sic: Fort Pitt at present Pittsburgh]. That he was with Col. or Genl. McEntosh [sic: Gen. Lachlan McIntosh] at the time Fort McEntosh was built west of the Ohio River [Fort McIntosh at present Beaver PA, built autumn 1778]; That he commanded the Fort at Wheeling for about nine months or more and a small Fort at Holliday's Cove in what is now Brooke County Virginia [Fort Holliday in present Hancock County WV] during a summer season; That he was in service at other places and in various skirmishes and battles with the Indians, That particulars of which she does not now recollect — Affiant further declares that she was married to the said John Beck on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 1784 by the Rev'd. Mr Smith of Chestertown, Kent County Maryland, at his house — That her said husband died on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August A.D. 1816. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but said marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four — namely at the time and place above stated — [signed] Rebekah Beck

State of Virginia        }  
Ohio County to Wit    }

Personally came before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said county Alexander Mitchel aged 64 and some months who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he first became acquainted with Lieutenant John Beck, about the year 1778 or 1779, at that time said Beck was an officer in the United States Army, deponant frequent saw said Beck, at Westliberty and Vanmeters fort [Fort Liberty at West Liberty and Fort Vanmeter near present Clinton] in said County, with his regimentals or military clothes

on, between the above date and the close of the Revolutionary War, and understood then, that he was a Lieutenant, and has always understood since that he served to the end of the War, said Beck after the war settled near the town of Westliberty in said county where he resided until the time of his death; during which time this deponant was frequently in the habit of seeing him

Novem 21<sup>st</sup> 1833

[signed] Alex Mitchel

Kent County State of Maryland

I Elizabeth Walker do hereby certify this 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1833 that I well remember the day that my sister Rebekah Miller went to be married to Mr John Beck & they remained several months in Kent county after their marriage & I never heard that the smallest doubt was entertained, but what they were lawfully married, My father & mother believed it, & treated him as a son in law, they went to the West where Mr Beck had resided before his marriage, & in Ohio Count in Virginia State near Wheeling they lived together as man & wife, between thirty & forty years, & had a number of children, & in the course of that time, they came in together with several of their children with them at different times, on a visit to their friends in Kent county I have wrote the truth to the best of my knowledge to which I am willing the attest upon Oath being now 65 years of age Elizabeth Walker

NOTE:

John Beck's commission as Ensign in the Ninth Virginia Regiment was dated 31 Oct 1778 and signed at Philadelphia on 17 May 1779 by John Jay, President of Congress.

On 8 Oct 1833 William Wilson, 69, a neighbor of John and Rebekah Beck, stated that upon the death of John Beck there were the following living children: John Wesley Beck, William Fletcher Beck, Francis Asbury Beck, Susannah Beck, and Rebecca Burns, who had since died leaving four children: George Burns, Alexander Burns, Elizabeth Burns, and Susannah Burns. On 7 Nov 1839 John Hurtt, 67, made a deposition in which he stated that the father of Rebekah Beck was Nathaniel Miller of Kent County. On 18 Mar 1840 Samuel Beck, 71, stated that he had known John Beck and Rebekah Miller in Kent County before their marriage and had been their neighbor after he moved to Ohio County in 1795. On 11 Dec 1843 Rebekah Beck was said to be about 81 and living in the town of West Liberty VA. On 23 Apr 1848 she was said to be 85.

On 1 Oct 1840 Francis Asbury Beck, 43, son of John and Rebekah Beck, certified that the family records transcribed below were taken from two family Bibles and are in his father's handwriting. The records were also certified by Simon Lauck, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. Ink has bled through the page, making parts of the record difficult to read.

Elizabeth Beck Daughter of John & Rebeckah Beck Was born March ye 9<sup>th</sup> 1785

Mary Beck Daughter of John & Rebeckah Beck Was born October ye 8<sup>th</sup> 1786

Rebeckah Beck Daughter of John & Rebeckah beck Was born December ye 14<sup>th</sup> 1788

John Wesley Beck son of John & Rebeckah Beck Was born July ye 4<sup>th</sup> 1791

Alexander Miller Beck son of John & Rebecka[page damaged] Beck Was born March ye 16<sup>th</sup> 1793

William fletcher Beck Son of John & Rebecka[page damaged] Beck was born October ye 20<sup>th</sup> 1795

Francis Asbury Beck son of John & Rebeckah Beck Was born September of 3<sup>rd</sup> 1797

George washenton Beck Son of John & Rebeckah Beck was born August ye 3<sup>rd</sup> 1799

James Armenias Beck son of John & Rebeck Beck was born May the 11<sup>th</sup> 1801

Susanna Miller Beck the Daughter of John Rebeckkah Beck was born June the ninth<sup>d</sup> 1803

Rachel Beck Daughter of John & Rebeck Beck, was born August ye 7<sup>th</sup> 1806

Elizabeth Beck Daughter of John and Rebeckah Beck Departed This Life September ye. 13<sup>th</sup> 1796

Elaxander Miller Beck Son of John & Rebeckah Beck Departed this Life April the Eighth day 1798

James Armneas Beck Son of John & Rebeckah Beck Departed this Life August the 4<sup>th</sup> 1802

George Wahinton Beck son of John & Rebeckah Departed This Life June ye Eleventh Day about Sun set

1806

Rachel Beck Daughter of John & Rebeckah Beck Departed this Life December ye 26<sup>th</sup> 1806

Francis Asbury Beck Was born September the 3 1797