

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Lentz W379

Rosena

fn41NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/12/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Please call them to my attention.]

State of Tennessee

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

On this 13th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 -- Personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful John L. Neill, Samuel Phillips & John B. Armstrong Gentlemen justices of the court of pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Bedford in the State aforesaid now sitting, Benjamin Lentz, a resident of said County aged seventy-seven years eight months and seven days, who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; To wit, that he entered the service of the United States in the County of Mecklenburg County and State of North Carolina sometime he thinks in the month of July or the first of August 1776 as a substitute for his Father John Lentz who was drafted in said County; and was placed in Captain John Phifer's company who was attached to a Regiment under the command of Colonel Adam Alexander and he thinks a Colonel Smith, and was marched to a place called Pleasant Garden at a Colonel McDowals [sic, probably Charles McDowell's] in Burke County North Carolina where they joined General Rutherford; and from that place he was marched up the Catawba orders and across the mountain to the head waters of Swannanoa River in the Cherokee nation to an Indian Town, where he says General Rutherford remained some days waiting for General Williamson from South Carolina, who came on and passed General Rutherford, and he was told had an engagement with the Hostile Cherokee is the next day at the Valley Towns, and was marched from that to he thinks across French Broad River to Watauga town, and from that to another town the name of which he does not recollect, where he says the Army divided and the company that he was attached marched to what was then called the Overhill Town, he says he was marched back again to the Main Army; -- Deponent states that the Americans were engaged in several small skirmishes with the Indians, but none of much magnitude, he states he was then with the Main Army marched back to Mecklenburg County and was discharged, after serving a tour of 5 months or thereabout, in writing by his Colonel and countersigned by his Captain, on the last day of the year; for he recollects he fired his gun with others at Captain Phifer's on the same evening New Years Eve on his way home, a practice very common in that Country particularly with the Germans. Deponent further states that he

afterwards entered the service of the United States again as a Substitute for one John Simmon in Roan [sic, Rowan] County North Carolina, and was placed in a company under the command of Captain James Parr [could be James Barr], who was attached to a Regiment of nine months men under the command of Colonel McDawal [McDowell] and was mustered into service at Graham's Crossroads about the first of September in the year 1778 or '79 but is not certain which and was marched from there to a little town called at that time Purrysburg in the State of South Carolina on Broad River [sic, Savannah River], and from that to Bacon's Bridge on Ashley River in the last mentioned State where he joined the Main Army under the command of General Benjamin Lincoln; and he thinks General Butler commanded the Brigade he was attached to, and from there he was marched to Stono River where the Americans attacked the British commanded he thinks by Lord Rodden [Rowden]¹ where General Lincoln lost 36 killed and 90 and upwards wounded; he himself said deponent received a wound in his left leg, he thinks with a Buck shot; and that General Lincoln retreated from that place about 15 miles to an encampment he previously erected on Maupford [sic?] Creek where he remained for some time and from there he says he was marched about 20 miles to a Mr. Lashing or Lassings where he says his term of 9 months expired and he was discharged by General Lincoln, he recollects his discharge was a printed discharge and with red ink.

Deponent further states that he entered the service of the United States again as a substitute in Lancaster County and State of South Carolina some time about the first of August 1780 in the room and stead of one Thomas Glaze and was placed in Captain John Walker's company and mustered into service at a place called Stewart's old fields in Fairfield County in the last mentioned State on the 12th day of August 1780 and was marched under the command of General Samuel Lacy to Camden and from there on within 18 miles of Georgetown, where information was received that the British had left that place he states he was then marched into North Carolina to a Mr. Clayton's Plantation on Cape Fear River and joined General Rutherford with his troops, he says he was marched in a few days after to Wilmington North Carolina, but the British had left there, he says he saw three of their vessels before they were out of sight; and was marched back to Claytons and from there to General Caulston's where he was mustered out of the Service the 12th day of February 1781, and in about 4 or 5 days after he says he received a discharge in writing signed by General Rutherford at Salisbury in Rowan County North Carolina making in all a term of service of twenty-one months.

Deponent further states that he has no documentary evidence whatever and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure; Except what he can prove by George Smith; who can testify as to his Services -- And that he hereby relinquishes all and 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 the United States.

Interrogatories by the Court

Int. 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Fairfield County in the State of South Carolina on the 6th day of March in the year 1755 agreeable to my Grandfather's record.

[footnote.com pages are out of order at this point]

Int.2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have a record of my age at my house in this County taken from my Grandfather's family record.

Int.3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the

¹ The British were commanded by Augustine Prevost at the Battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779.

Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: I was a citizen of Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina when I first entered the Service; and the last time I was a Citizen of Lancaster County South Carolina; and mustered into service at Stewart's old field in Fairfield County SC after the close of the war I settled in Rowan County North Carolina where I lived until the year 1815 when I removed to Bedford County Tennessee where I have lived ever since and where I now live.

Int.4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was a substitute all the time I was in service; first for my father; 2nd of John Simmon; and the last time for Thomas Glaze.

Int.5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I recollect General Benjamin Lincoln at the Battle of Stono and I think Colonel Clark was a Regular officer; the Regiment of State troops that was in war 19th Regiment and in the 6th Brigade; I do not recollect the names or numbers of any Continental or Militia regiments whatever at this time except the one I was then

Int.6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ams" I received three discharges in writing, one signed by General Lincoln and wrote with red ink; and I think two of my discharges were thrown into the fire about the time I started to moved to this County and one I brought with me but cannot find it among my papers and do not know what has become of it.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

The Reverend William Jenkins, Mr. George Smith, Michael Fisher Esquire and Benjamin Strickler.

Sworn to and open Court the day and year aforesaid

S/ Ben Lentz

S/ Jas McKisick, Clk

[Rev William Jenkins, a clergyman, and Benjamin Strickler gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 12]

State of Tennessee Bedford County: November term 1832

This day George Smith Senior² a resident of said County personally appeared in open court and after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted with Benjamin Lentz who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration, both in the State of North Carolina and in his present neighborhood in the State of Tennessee for many years; and that he knew said thence to be and was himself a soldier in the war of the Revolution; he says [he] became acquainted with said Lentz at a Mr. Claytons not far from Wilmington on Cape Fear River; and that said Lentz was in a company commanded by a Captain Walker; he also states that said Lentz is reputed and believed to have been a soldier in the revolution in the

² This is PROBABLY the George Smith who filed for a pension while living in Bedford County, Tennessee; see file FPA S31969.

neighbor [hood] where he now resides and that he believes him to be the age he states he is --
Sworn to in open Court this 10th day of November 1832.

S/ George Smith

S/ Jas. McKisick, Clk

[fn pp. 16-17: being completely ignorant of the German language, I venture to hazard a guess that this is the original family register of this family written, I hope, in German or at least some other foreign-language with which I am unfamiliar.]

[facts in file: Benjamin Lentz, son of John, was born March 6, 1755 in Fairfield County, Virginia; the name of his mother is not given in the file; he died July 7 or 8 1833, place not stated. In 1787, he married in Rowan County North Carolina, Rosena; she was allowed a pension on her application dated August 22, 1839 at which time she stated her age as 72 years and was living in Bedford County Tennessee. The following are the names of the children of the veteran and his wife:

Catharine	born	February 11, 1788
Elizabeth	"	March 7, 1790
George	"	December 2, 1792
Margaret	"	September 4, 1795, deceased in 1839
Anna Maria	"	December 9, 1797, " " "
Benjamin	"	February 2, 1800, in 1829 living in Bedford County
Henry	"	March 26, 1802
John	"	December 9, 1804
Rosannah	"	" 8, 1807
Valentine	"	November 11, 1810]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 20 months service in the revolution.]