

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Samuel Beard W4131

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 23 July 2011.

State of Virginia,

Bedford County S.S.

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 1840 personally appeared, before the County Court of Bedford, of said State, at its January term holden on the said 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 1840 at the Court house of said County, Mrs. Mary Beard (whose maiden name was Mitchell) a respectable resident of said County aged 83 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 4<sup>th</sup> 1836.

That, she is the widow of Samuel Beard dec'd of said County, who was a private in the regular service, in the revolutionary war. That he enlisted under Cap. Gross Scruggs on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1776, and served two years as a regular soldier as will appear from the letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor – which is no doubt true as she has frequently heard her dec'd. husband Sam'l. Beard speak of, and relate his revolutionary services. that he was at the Battle of B. Wine [sic: Brandywine PA, 11 Sep 1777] etc. to the North – that he drove one of the Cannon – and Gen'l. Washington asked him if he could not drive out of the road so as to let the Army pass etc[?] And the said Mary Beard, further declares, that she was married to the aforesaid Sam'l. Beard (after he had left said regular service) in said county, by the Rev'd. Jno Holt, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1778 – and that after she had had two children by the said Sam'l. Beard her husband one the 26<sup>th</sup> Sep'r. 1779 and the other the 7<sup>th</sup> Sep. 1780 – that the said Sam'l. Beard her husband was called into service in March 1781 to go to the Battle of Gilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 March 1781] on a six weeks tour and this being considered a case of emergency, it was to exempt him from a full tour – and she thinks, (but is not certain) that he was under Cap Campbell and she is also under the impression that he held an office of some kind in said tour to Gilford – She has frequently heard her dec'd. husband Sam'l. Beard in his life time speak of his being at the Battle of Gilford – and related many circumstances that took place there – one was that he saw Caps. [Jacob] Moon and Helm after they were wounded – before they died – and spoke of how much they suffered from their wounds on the field of battle. Indeed, no person has ever doubted that Sam'l. Beard dec'd. was at the battle of Gilford – common talk in the neighborhood, and in the County where he was known especially among the old people – go to establish the fact that her dec'd. husband Sam'l. Beard was at the Battle of Gilford in March 1781. which was several years after they were married. that her husband the aforesaid Sam'l. Beard, died on the [blank] day of October 1814. That she has remained a widow ever since that period, to the present time – as will more fully appear by reference to the proof annexed and now claims a pension at the hands of the Gen'l. Government, as the widow of said Beard, in consideration of his aforesaid services.

[signed] Mary Beard

State of Virginia, Bedford County, S.S.

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 1839, personally appeared before me Sam'l P Mitchell a Justice of the peace in and for said County, James Mitchell [pension application S2836] a minister of the Gospel, and a respectable resident of said County – who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath say – That he is 91 years old, that he has been acquainted with Samuel Beard of said County, ever since he was a boy that he himself went into the service just before the battle of Gilford from the County of Prince Edward, that said Beard was then married to Mary Mitchell his present widow, and was living at the place his widow now lives at in said County of Bedford – and although he the deponant does not recollect to have seen said Beard in service on said occasion yet he understood that he was in service a the battle of Gilford in March 1781 and he the deponant as much believes that he was there, as if he had seen

him with his own eyes – for he has frequently heard said Beard say that he was there – and have heard him relate many circumstances that took place on said occasion – and also common fame, neighbourhood, and county, and family fireside talk all say that he was at the battle of Gilford in March 1781 – which was after the said Beard was married to Mary Mitchell now Mary Beard his present widow – that said Beard and his present widow Mary Beard had two children at the time said Beard went into service at said Battle of Gilford – that said Beard and his present widow Mary Beard lived together as man and wife untill his death, and that his present widow has remained unmarried ever since to the present time, and is the Identical person who is now claiming a pension of the Gen'l. Government.  
S. P. Mitchell J.P. [signed] James Mitchell

State of Virginia, Bedford County SS.

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 1840, before me Sam'l. P. Mitchell a Justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Capt. Thos. Pullen [Thomas Pullen, pension application S15847] a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law – doth on his oath say – That he is 80 years old – that he has lived in said county ever since he was five years old – that he was acquainted with Samuel Beard that married Mary Mitchell – now Mary Beard his present widow before he Beard was grown, and saw him frequently at Pirga Meeting house at Preaching before he went into service at Gilford – that said Beard had the reputation of having been in the regular service before he Beard was married to his present widow Mary Beard – that said Samuel Beard was called into service in March 1781, as part of the Bedford Militia – that he Beard belonged to the same Regiment, that he the deponent did – which was commanded by Col [Charles] Lynch – that deponents Captain was name Moon – who was killed and he thinks that Beards Capt. was name Campbell – that from time to time after he had encamped in service on said occasion – that he frequently saw Samuel Beard at each others tents – that he would visit Beard at his tent, and Beard would visit deponent at his tent – and he the deponent recollects perfectly having seen said Samuel Beard on the field of Battle at Gilford in North Carolina in March 1781 one circumstance he recollects – that Beard assisted a wounded Soldier off the field of Battle – that said Beard was a large bony man, and a remarkable dark skin – that Beard and his present widow lived together as man and wife until his death – which was about the year 1814 – That Mary Beard his present widow has remained a widow ever since his death as aforesaid to the present time in said county – and is the Identical person who is now claiming a pension as the widow of said Sam'l. Beard dec'd – and further the said tour of duty performed by said Beard at Gilford North Carolina in March 1781 was after he the said Beard was married to Mary Mitchell, now Mary Beard his present widow.

[signed] Thomas Pullen

NOTES:

The application includes a copy of the marriage bond cosigned by Robert Mitchell and provided by Robert C. Mitchell, Bedford County Clerk. Mary Beard's application was supported by a deposition by James H. Beard, her second son, and a family record as follows: "Samuel Beard and Mary Mitchell was married September 8th 1778. Children born the first a son September 26 1779 but died the same day/ Harvey born the 7 of September 1780 Betsy born June 22d 1782/ Robert Mtl born the [?]d of July 178[?] Nancy born July 24th 1786/ a daughter born March 9<sup>th</sup> 1789 but died the same day"

On 26 Nov 1839 in Bedford County Mrs. Martha Neil, 88, widow of John Neil (pension application W19918), stated that the first time he saw Samuel Beard "was at Pirga Meeting house in said County, and had the curiosity to enquire who he was, because he had such a very dark skin that any one who had seen him once, would know him if they ever saw him again."

A Treasury-Department document states that Mary Beard died on 28 July 1843.