

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

Pension Application of John Beal W4893

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia Southampton county Sct

On this 19 day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before the justices of the county court of Southampton in open court sitting John Beal a resident of said county and state aforesaid aged Seventy Four years who being first duely sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

That he was a resident & native of the county of southampton and entered the service in the year [blank] as a drafted militiaman under the command of Capt Burrell Williamson [Burwell Williamson] & Lietenant Clayton & marched to Portsmouth from the county aforesaid & served six or seven weeks in that tour That he served next in the same service under capt. John Simmons and again under capt Joyner, Capt Mitchel Capt Vaughn, That he was stationed at different times on James River at Cabbin Point [sic: Cabin Point in Surry County,] on the West Branch of Nansemond River in Nansemond county at Smithfield in Isle of Wight. that he was in the engagement at Petersburg Virginia [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781] under the command of Capt Simmons, Gen Mullenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] commanding and was there put under the command of capt Vaughn and marched up the county to Fredrick Burg [sic: Fredericksburg] and discharged there was under the command of Capt Simmons as a drafted militiaman at the seige of york [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and was sent from there as a guard with the prisoners to Fredricksburg and there discharged That he marched through the countys of Nansemond Isle of wight Norfolk Surry Prince george [sic: Prince George] chesterfield charles city James city yorck [sic: York] and several countys above Richmond to Fredricksburg names not remembered That he was in no engagement except the one at Petersburg & yorck Town. That the tours of duty were generally six weeks except the last he served under capt. Simmons which was about three months That he cannot detail the minutia of his service as to the different times at which he entered the service under the different comanders nor can he remember the names of all the comanders under whome he served That he always went as a drafted militiaman and never had a written discharge That he is shure he served in different towers of duty during the revolution more than two years

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state or territory sworn to & subscribed this day & year aforesaid

John hisXmark Beal

We Shadrack Beal of (Benj'a Cooper) [Shadrach Beal, pension application S6596] and Shadrack Beal [S6610] do hereby certify that we were with John Beal the above named applicant for a pension in several towers of duty during the Revolution as a militiaman That we have heard the above declaration read & believe it contains a strict statement so far as related we are satisfyed from our re collection that the said John Beal served more than either of us in the Revolution sworn to & subscribed in open court this 19 day of November 1832

Shadrack hisXmark Beal

[signed] Shadrach Beal of Cooper

The amened Declaration of John Beal sworn to & subscribed before me Thos. Pretlow a justice of the peace for the county of Southampton in the state of Virginia The declarant being duly sworn according to Law says that he was born in the county of Southampton in the sate aforesaid but does not know in what year nor has he any record of his age but knows he was just sixteen when he was drafted as a militiaman in the county of Southampton where he then lived & has lived all his life & is now living. That he was always drafted as a militiaman in the service. That from laps of time he is unable to be more explicit at to

the particulars of his service or the names of those he served with he has obtained the certificate of a respectable neighbour to his credibility & Shadrach Beal with whome he served. That he is known to Dr. Can Bowers & Mr. Jesse Lankford & many others whome he has no doubt would certify if necessary to his credibility & the notoriety of the opinion of his Revolutionary services & the subscribing justice of the peace will bear testimony to his general good character & verassity – and the declarant further says that by reason of age & the loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the lenght of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served at different towers more than two years in the Revolution always as a private & a drafted militiaman and for such service I claim a pension

Thos. Pretlow/ March 30 1833

Statement of John Beals Services as a Private in the Militia of Virginia during the Revolution [20 Nov 1833]

Names of officers	Place or places where service was performed	with embodied corps called out by authority or other wise	whether in field or Garrison	whether in civil employ or not & lenght of Time of duty
Capt Williamson	Portsmouth	with militia called out by authority	in field	no civil empl. lenght of service Six weeks
Capt John Simmons	Cabbin Point & on James River	with militia cald out by authority	in field	Six weeks
Capt Lewis Joyner	on the western branch of Nansemond River	with militia cald out by authority	in field	Six weeks
Capt John Simmons	on the Banks of James River & at Petersburg	with militia called out by authority	in field	two months
Capt Vaughn	Petersburg. Richmond coal Pits and country above Richmond & Fre'd	with militia cald out by authority	in field	two months
Capt Rodgers	on James River & at Cabbin Point	with militia cald out by authority	in field	six weeks
Capt John Simmons	at Williamsburg & the Siege of York	with militia cald out by authority	in field	Three weeks

NOTE: On 15 Aug 1853 Julia Beal, 68, applied for a pension stating that she married John Beal on 16 May 1815, and he died 8 Nov 1837. Thomas Beale swore and Margaret Johnson affirmed that the marriage and death occurred as stated. Julia Beal's age is given as 73 on a claim for bounty land dated 12 Mar 1855. The file contains a letter dated 20 May 1882 from Mary A. Lankford, daughter of John and Julia Beal, inquiring about a pension. This file also contains a letter dated 16 Feb 1855 from G. H. Beall inquiring about a pension for his 99-year-old mother, the widow of "John Bell," who "was a millitia soldier and served a tower... from Stafford County to the Sege of York."