

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Powell W5553 Elizabeth f31VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 11/13/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia, County of Madison SS

On this 23rd day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of Madison Benjamin Powell a resident of said County of Madison and State of Virginia aged eighty-three years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832; that he enlisted in the year 1776, with Captain John Thornton and served in the 3rd Regiment of the Continental line under the following Officers, Colonel Hugh Mercer, Colonel George Weedon, Major Leech [Andrew Leitch] who fell in the engagement at Harben Hights [Harlem Heights, September 16, 1776] near Fort Washington [fell November 16, 1776]. In 1777 he was transferred to Captain James Knox's Company in Colonel Daniel Morgan's Regiment in that year, and continued in that Regiment and Company until the surrender of Burgoyne when he was discharged, having the whole time as Sergeant in Morgan's Regiment, being a term of 2 years. He resided in the County of Culpeper at the time he entered the service. He was in the battle of Trenton [December 26, 1776], the battle of White Plains [October 28, 1776], Harben Hights; He was discharged at Valley Forge by Colonel Heath [William Heth] who gave him a discharge, but it has long since been lost or mislaid. He marched through Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and to the city of New York, passing through Jerseys. He believes that all of the field and company officers with whom he served or either dead or their residence unknown to the declarant, and that he knows of no evidence at this day which he can procure except the statement an affidavit made by Dennis Crow & Henry Towles, whose affidavits are duly certified and here with forwarded with his declaration. He served afterwards in the militia to short tours. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Benjamin Powell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Powell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Benjamin Powell".

I do hereby certify that Benjamin Powell enlisted in Captain John Thornton's company at the same time I did, and that we were attached to the 3rd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel

Hugh Mercer and served under the said Mercer in the campaign of 1776, and early in the year 1777 he joined Colonel Daniel Morgan's Regiment and was attached to a company commanded by Captain James Knox. And I do further certify that he the said Benjamin Powell was appointed an orderly Sergeant to said Knox's Company, and that he continued as orderly Sergeant in said Knox's Company until the surrender of General Burgoyne, making the whole a term of 2 years.

S/ Dennis Crow¹

[attested October 29, 1830 in Madison County Virginia.]

I Harlem Towles of Madison County, being from infirmities unable to attend court, would respectfully certify, that I know and believe respecting Mr. Benjamin Powell services during the Revolutionary War, being of sufficient age to be on the muster roll at the commencement of the war; I well recollect Mr. Powell enlisted and I believe under Captain John Thornton in the year 1776, and also well recollect his absence from the County for I believe two years, and I have often heard Major Robert Powell and Mr. John Wait (with whom I was well acquainted) say they were in the service with Mr. Powell and attached to the same company. Given under my hand this 14th day of August 1832.

S/ Henry Towles

State of Virginia, Madison County SS

On this 22nd day of November in the year 1832, personally appeared before the Justices of the peace sitting as a Court of record in the County and State aforesaid Benjamin Powell and made ~~oath~~ the following supplemental declaration in addition to his declaration made in this Court on the 23rd day of August in the year 1832, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed on the 7th of June 1832, and for the purpose of answering the objections stated to the said declaration 23rd August 1832, and being sworn according to law, saith that he enlisted in the month of January 1776 in the 3rd Virginia Regiment and served therein until the close of the Campaign in the fall in the year 1777, making a period of two years except one month, which was remitted to him in consequence of being very sick, he having enlisted for two years. In the month of June in the said year 1777, the declarant was transferred to Colonel Morgan's Regiment where he was appointed orderly Sergeant in the said month of June in the said Morgan's Regiment and continued to act as such until he was discharged as before set forth. He afterwards in the month of July in the year 1781, he was drafted as a militia man and appointed by his Captain Early Sergeant and acted in that capacity for two months when he was discharged in the month of September. The declarant served a substitute a tour to the South but it is presumed nothing will be allowed for that tour. From age and infirmity and loss of memory the declarant cannot state precisely the particular days on which he marched, nor can he now recollect all the particular incidents attending his service further than heretofore set forth in his declaration on the 23rd August 1832.

S/ Benjamin Powell

[f p. 12: On November 28, 1840 in Madison County Virginia, Elizabeth Powell, 79, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Powell, a pensioner as a Sergeant in the revolution; that she married him on June 16, 1786; that her husband died February 12, 1834.

¹ FPA S39380

[f p. 10: Certificate of the clerk of court of Culpeper County Virginia showing that Benjamin Powell and Elizabeth Green were married June 16, 1786 by Isham Tatum, minister.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant for 2 years in the Virginia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]