

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Moses Beard W5818

Elizabeth

fn73SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/21/10

[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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Georgia Clark [sic, Clarke] County: In Clark Superior Court -- August Term 1832

On this 17th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before me Charles Dougherty one of the Judges of the Superior Court of said State & presiding in the aforesaid Court now sitting in & for the County of Clarke, Moses Beard, a resident of the County & State aforesaid. He states there is no record of his age that he knows of but was always told that he was born in Ireland on the 22nd day of April 1759 & is there or aged 72 years three months & 26 days, who being first duly 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 7th of June 1832 viz..

That he entered the service of the US under the following officers & served as herein stated.

1st State the year or month particularly in which he entered the service but knows it was the year before the fall of Charleston in South Carolina. He was drafted & belong first to a company commanded by one Luke Petty & attached to Colonel Joseph Kershaw's Regiment & served various tours under these officers. The militia was drafted into three divisions & deponent fell into the first & marched to Moncks Corner & there joined several regiments from thence he went under General Richardson to Purrysburg on Savannah River near Savannah & joined General Lincoln, being called out for two months only at that time deponent returned home from Purrysburg & was relieved by another division of the drafted militia. After remaining at home a short time he was called out again, under the same Captain he marched with the same Regiment to Augusta in Georgia & joined a General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] on the South Carolina side of the River after remaining there for a considerable length of time how long deponent cannot recollect, he marched & joined General Lincoln again somewhere near Somoneor [?] or the Sisters' Ferry on Savannah River between Augusta & Savannah & then marched with him to Stono where they had an engagement. After this he was discharged & went home & deponent cannot [word partially obliterated and illegible] what was the length of this service but he verily believes it was upwards of six months from the beginning to the end of it. After they Fall of Charleston¹ in the month of July he thinks Deponent volunteered in the Company of Captain George Dunlap attached to the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] & joined the latter at Doctor Harper's old place in what is now called Lancaster District,

¹ May 12, 1780

then Kershaw. General Sumpter then marched to Rocky Mount² from thence to hanging rock³ where he had a hot engagement, from thence he returned with some prisoners he was with Sumpter, & occasionally acting as a spy for Colonel William Washington's Dragoons, until near the close of the war a space of time which when added to his first service was considerably more than two years. Deponent will say among other skirmishes in which he was engaged, he was at the taking of Rugeley's Fort⁴ which was taken with a pine log me to represent a cannon. Deponent well recollects he aided in dragging the log. He was living in South Carolina at the time of entering the service, Kershaw District, did in South Carolina after the revolution till he removed to Georgia, where he has resided ever since, in the town of Athens, Clark County. He was never a substitute. If he ever received a discharge which he cannot now recollect, it is lost. He states that he is known to the Reverend Edward L. Thomas one among his nearest clergyman & Augustine S. Clayton [sic, Augustin Smith Clayton]⁵ a member of Congress & one of his neighbors. He has no documentary evidence of the foregoing facts & with the exception of General Sumpter's⁶ Certificate, lately obtaining, and the affidavit of John Espey⁷ accompanying this declaration, he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court, being a Court of Record, this 17th of August 1832
S/ Robert Ligon, Clerk
S/ Moses Beard, X his mark
[Edward Lloyd Thomas, a clergyman, and Augustine S. Clayton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

² July 30, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rockymt.htm>

³ August 6 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hangingrk.htm>

⁴ December 4, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rugeley.htm>

⁵ CLAYTON, Augustin Smith, a Representative from Georgia; born in Fredericksburg, Va., November 27, 1783; moved with his parents to Richmond County, Ga., in 1784; attended Richmond Academy, and was graduated from Franklin College, Athens, Ga., in 1804; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1806 and commenced practice in Carnesville, Franklin County; moved to Athens; selected by the legislature in 1810 to compile the statutes of Georgia from 1800; member of the State house of representatives 1810-1812; clerk of the State house of representatives 1813-1815; served in the State senate in 1826 and 1827; judge of the superior court 1819-1825 and 1828-1831; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-second Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Wilson Lumpkin; reelected to the Twenty-third Congress and served from January 21, 1832, to March 3, 1835; resumed the practice of law in Athens, Ga., and died there June 21, 1839; interment in Oconee Cemetery. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000491>

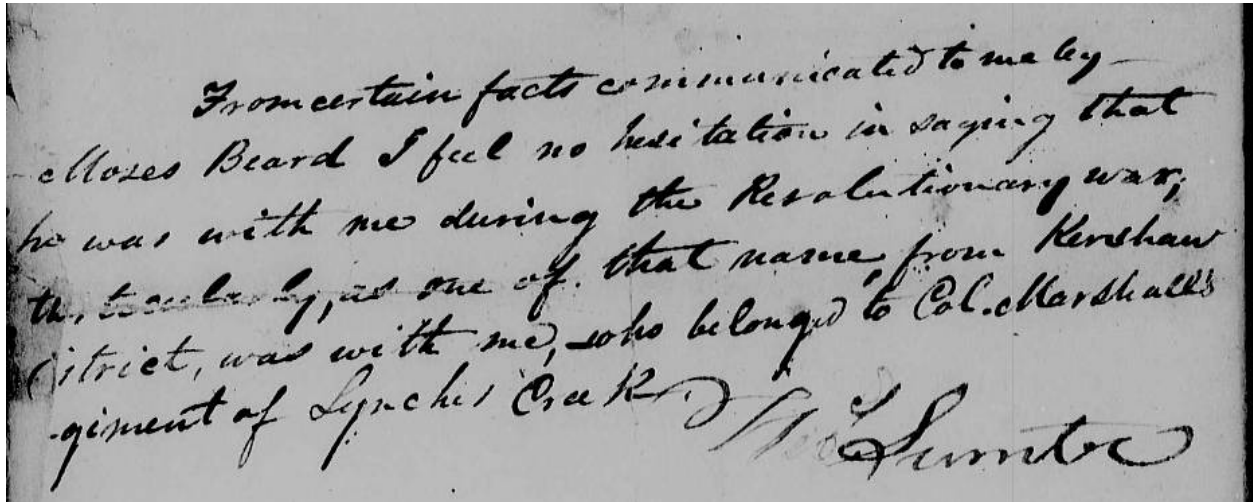
⁶ SUMTER, Thomas, (grandfather of Thomas De Lage Sumter), a Representative and a Senator from South Carolina; born near Charlottesville, Va., August 14, 1734; received a limited schooling; fought in skirmishes against the Indians; moved to South Carolina about 1760 and opened a crossroads store near Nelson's Ferry; justice of the peace; served with the South Carolina troops throughout the Revolution; elected to the privy council in 1782; elected a Delegate to the Continental Congress in 1783, but declined to accept; served several terms in the State house of representatives; delegate to the State convention which ratified the Constitution, which he opposed; planter; elected to the First and Second Congresses (March 4, 1789-March 3, 1793); defeated for reelection in 1792; elected as a Democratic Republican to the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Congresses and served from March 4, 1797, to December 15, 1801, when he resigned; elected as a Democratic Republican to the United States Senate in December 1801 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Charles Pinckney; reelected in 1805 and served from December 15, 1801, until his resignation on December 16, 1810; retired from public life and lived on his plantation, "South Mount," near Stateburg, S.C.; died at "South Mount," June 1, 1832; interment in the private burial ground on the family estate. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=S001073>

⁷ [John Espey \(Espy\) S31669](#)

[fn p. 17]

From certain facts communicated to me by Moses Beard I feel no hesitation in saying that he was with me during the Revolutionary war; [one or more indecipherable words], as one of that name, from Kershaw District, was with me, who belonged to Colonel Marshall's Regiment of Lynches Creek.

S/ Thos Sumter

A photograph of a handwritten letter snippet on aged paper. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription above. The signature 'Thos Sumter' is visible at the bottom right of the snippet.

Statesburgh May 30, 1832

Sir,

General Sumter received a letter from Mr. Robert B. Houghton of Athens, in which he stated your desire to obtain a certificate of service for Moses Beard. General Sumter request me to present his respects to you and to assure you of the pleasure it gives him to be of service to one who has served his country. I transmit to you a certificate, hope that it will answer.

I take this opportunity to express to a public servant the pleasure I, as well as the rest of my fa[mily] experienced, at the opposition you have evinced towards the U. States Bank and we hope that your able endeavors to put down an institution so repugnant to the true spirit of the Constitution may be attended with success.

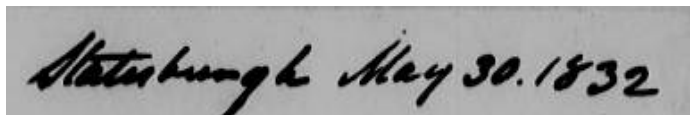
Yours with respect

S/ Thomas D. Sumter

[on the reverse is the following certificate]

Clark County I Augustin S. Clayton do hereby certify that at the last Session of Congress I presented a Memorial to that body from Moses Beard the present applicant under the act of the seventh of June [18]32, praying relief as a revolutionary Soldier, that pending his [pe]tition I wrote to him to furnish additional evidence of his service [h]aving previously told me he was known to General Sumpter as a Soldier [I di]rected him to procure his testimony. He procured a letter to be written by Genl Sumpter to which I recd this letter as an answer enclosing the ? certificate, which came by due course of mail, & which I verily believe to be genuine. It was about the last act, in writing, of the General's life.

S/ A. S. Clayton

A photograph of a handwritten date on a dark background. The text reads 'Statesburgh May 30. 1832' in cursive.

Sir,

General Sumter received a letter from
Mr Robert B. Houghton of Athens, in which he
stated your desire to obtain a certificate of service for
Moses Beard. General Sumter requests me to present
his respects to you and to assure you of the pleasure
it gives him to be of service to one who has served
his country. I transmit to you a certificate, so
that it will answer.

I take this opportunity to express to a public
servant the pleasure I, as well as the rest of my
countrymen, experienced at the appointment you have evinced towards
the U. States Bank and we hope that your able en-
deavours to put down an institution so repugnant to
the true spirit of the Constitution may be attended
with success.

Yours with the respect
Thomas D. Sumner

[fn p. 21]

Georgia Clark County: Came personally before me, Ashbury Hull one of the Presiding Judges of the Inferior Court of said County, John Espey, who being duly sworn deposed & saith that he is well acquainted with Moses Beard who has made a declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832, and recollects this fact in relation to his serving in the revolutionary war. A short time before Gates defeat in the marching & countermarching of the American troops on the Yadkin [River] in North Carolina he met with Moses Beard the applicant in Gates Army, he had got detached from General Sumpter's Command & was trying to get back to his line & waited several days & deponent says being a well-behaved young man & provisions being scarce, took him into the mess to which deponent belonged, & having his arms along has no doubt he was in the American service & a good Whig. So long as he stayed he performed the regular duties of the rest of the Soldiers, in Camp, frequently taking the place of others till he could get to his own troops. He remained some eight or ten days. At the time this occurred it was very troublesome times & great derangement of the different corps prevailed throughout the Country. It was in the neighborhood of Camden.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 20th of August 1832.

S/ John Espey

S/Ashbury Hull, JIC Clark County

[fn p. 8: On May 4th, 1844 in Madison County Georgia, Elizabeth Beard, 80, widow of Moses Beard, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she was married to him in 1782; that he died February 9, 1833 in Clarke County Georgia; that she has no family record and knows of no other record of her marriage.]

[fn p. 42: On February 20th, 1845, John Espey gave testimony as to the service of Moses Beard during the revolution and the fact that Elizabeth Beard was his wife and now his widow.]

[fn p. 13: On April 13, 1850 in Clark County Georgia, Margaret Sneed filed a claim seeking to obtain the amount due her at her brother and sisters as the heirs of Moses and Elizabeth Beard both of whom were pensioners of the United States; that her mother only drew a pension of \$30 per annum up to the date of her death which occurred on May 7, 1849; that she only has one brother living, Jonathan Beard who lives in Hall County Georgia and is about 55 years old; and three sisters Nancy White living in Clarke County aged about 60; Lavicy Peach aged about 53 living in Russell County Alabama and Lydia Walker aged about 45 living in Clarke County; Margaret Sneed states that she is 44 years old as of last march.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two years service in the South Carolina militia as a private.]