

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Bennet Phillips W976

Isabella Phillips

f41NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1834

On this 20th day of May 1834, personally appeared in open court, before John Fletcher, Henry D. Jamieson and Beverly Randolph, Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County of Rutherford, now sitting, Bennett Philips [sic], a resident of said County of Rutherford and State of Tennessee, aged Seventy years, four months and twenty-two 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 June the 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He was drafted in Granville County in the State of North Carolina, where he then resided, and entered the service as a drafted militia man, a private Soldier, in 1780, in the month of June or July, but he cannot be positive which of those months it was, or on what day of the month it was. He belonged to the company commanded by Captain Stephen Merritt. The names of his other company officers [Col. Joseph Taylor commanding the regiment which included Merritt's company], he does not remember. General Butler [John Butler] is the only one of his field or regimental officers, whose name he remembers. Declarant states that he was drafted for the term of three months, and that he served out the full term of three months, when he was verbally discharged by his Captain. He cannot state with certainty the month in which he was discharged; but supposes it must have been in September or October 1780. Declarant states that he was actively engaged during the whole term of his service as above stated, in marching backwards and forwards upon Haw River and the waters of Pedee River, for the purpose of awing and keeping the Tories in subjection, and in guarding prisoners who were placed under the care of the troops to which he belonged. Whenever they would received information that the Tories were likely to rise in any part of the country near, they immediately marched to the place where danger was apprehended, by which means they (Tories) were kept in tolerable subjection. -- The prisoners whom declarant assisted in guarding, were such as were taken by the light horse who were engaged in scouring the country; and whenever any Tories were caught by them, they were brought to the troops to which declarant belonged, to be guarded. Declarant remembers seeing two Tories hung during this tour. The reason, as he understood at the time, of their being hung was that they had enlisted in the Continental Army, and then deserted and joined the Tories. Declarant states that at the time the Tories were hung as above stated, there were 5 or 600 troops encamped near the troops to which he belonged, and he thinks they were Continental troops. They were under the command of a French officer [probably Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of

Bretagne], but he does not remember his name; nor does he now know the names of any of the other officers who belonged to said troops. He remembers, however, that a Court Martial was held by the officers who commanded said Continental troops, for the trial of the aforesaid two Tories or deserters, by which they were condemned; and delivered on to the militia who had previously had them in custody, and to whom declarant belonged, to be hung, which was accordingly done as above stated. Declarant thinks this was somewhere between Haw and Pedee rivers. Declarant was not with any other Continental regiments or troops during this tour. He was encamped at the same place with those above mentioned, about one week. He was not in any battle during this tour -- Declarant was drafted a second time, while he resided in Granville County, North Carolina; and again entered the service as a private Soldier in the early part of the year 1781, that he cannot remember the day or the month. He was drafted the second time, for, the term of three months, which time he served out; but he does not remember the month in which he was discharged. He served this tour in the company commanded by Captain Nathaniel Waller; his other Company officers, he does not remember. The Regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Colonel Joseph Taylor; and General Butler was also a commanding officer of the troops to which he belonged. Declarant states this tour was called the Guilford Campaign, which was as he supposes, so called, on account of the battle of Guilford taking place during that time. Declarant was not in the battle, though some of his company were. He thinks he was on a guard on some prisoners & provisions some 20 or 25 miles from Guilford, towards the Virginia line, when the battle took place [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781]. Declarant does not think he was with any of the Continental troops during this tour; and at any rate, not for any length of time. He remembers to have seen Colonel Lee [Henry [”Light Horse Harry”] Lee] and his Regiment of light horse, and that is all he cannot state certainly about seeing any of the Continental troops. He was not in any battle during this tour. After the battle of Guilford, he thinks he marched in an eastward direction; but continued for the most part, in the same section of Country, till his term of service expired, which occurred about the time the British troops marched to Halifax; but the day and month, he does not remember. Having served out his term of three months, he was verbally discharged by his Captain and returned home, having served in all, six months. Declarant does not know of any person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services, except Lain Moore, by whom he can prove he was drafted at two different times and left home to serve his tour of duty each time; that he understood & believed at the time, declarant was in the Army in the service of the country; but he cannot prove by him or any other person, that they actually saw him in the Army, or how long he served.

The court propounded the following interrogatories to the declarant, which were answered as follows.

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Somerset County in the State of Maryland on the 27th day of December 1763.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have a record of my age. It is the record left by my Father at his death in a small Bible, commonly called a school Bible. It has been in my possession ever since my Father's death.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I lived, when called into service both times, as already stated in my declaration, in Granville County, State of North Carolina. After the revolutionary war, I continued to reside in Granville County North Carolina, until the year 1797, at which time I removed to the State of

Tennessee where I have resided ever since, and the most of the time, in Rutherford County.

4<sup>th</sup> 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 drafted both times I went into the service.

5<sup>th</sup> 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 do not remember that I served with any regular officers, or regular troops; except that I was encamped about one week with a Regiment of Continental troops, who were commanded by a French officer, whose name I do not remember; nor do I remember the name of the Regiment. I remember seeing Colonel Lee and his light horse; and I do not remember any other Continental or militia regiments except as stated in the body of my declaration, and to which I refer for the general circumstances of my services.

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

Ans. I never received a written discharge from the service. I was verbally discharged from both my terms of service, by my captains.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

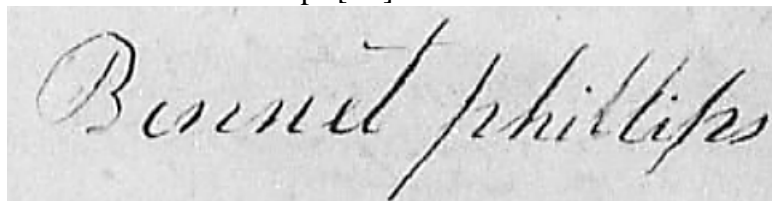
Ans. I am known to the Reverend Henry Warren, Leonard H. Sims, William Vinson Esquire, James Shapard Esquire & Stephen White, who I believe will testify to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution; and also Azariah Kimbro and Needham Briant, all of whom reside in my neighborhood.

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

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John R. Laughlin, Clerk

S/ Bennit Phillips [sic]

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bennet Phillips". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[Lain Moore, 64, gave a supporting affidavit.]

[Henry Warren, a clergyman, and William Vinson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 15: On November 20, 1843 in Rutherford County Tennessee Isabella Phillips, 78, widow of Bennett Phillips, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that her husband died September 20th, 1842; that she was 78 years of age on the 9th February last past agreeable to her father's register; that she remains the veteran's widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[On November 20th, 1843 in Rutherford County Tennessee, Beverly Harris, 76, testified that he was familiar with Isabella Moore and Bennett Phillips when they resided in Granville County

North Carolina prior to their marriage; that he was not present at their marriage although he lived in the same neighborhood; that he believes said marriage took place in the spring of the year 1786; that they lived together as man and wife.]

[p 21 is a copy dated February 10, 1786 of a marriage bond given by Bennett Phillips and James Haskins in Granville County North Carolina for the men of Bennett Phillips to "Ezebell Moore."]

[p 23: According to a letter dated November 30, 1844 from John H Anderson of Shelbyville Tennessee to J L Edwards, the Commissioner of pensions, Samuel Phillips was the son of the veteran and his widow. Anderson states that Samuel Phillips is a resident of Bedford County Tennessee and that Samuel's mother resides in Rutherford County Tennessee.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]