

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Poteet W979

Clarinza (Clorinza) f56VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/7/12 rev'd 10/2/13

[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 Kentucky Laurel County Sct.

On this 4 day of March 1841, Personally appeared Benjamin Poteet, a resident of Laurel County Kentucky aged this day seventy-eight years old, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in open Court before the Honorable Joseph Eve Circuit Judge in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following Officers and served as herein stated. That at the time he entered the service he resided in Bedford County in the State of Virginia; that when he first entered the service he was drafted for the term of six months at New London in said County and state aforesaid in the Militia of said State, in the Company commanded by Captain Johnathan Richison [Jonathan Richeson], in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War. When he was thus drafted, owing to his age, and infirmity, together with the great lapse of memory, he cannot remember the date; but he knows it was one year preceding the spring (the month of April) before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] at Yorktown in Virginia, where he had a brother under General Washington within 10 days after he was thus drafted which she believes was in the month of April he was ordered by his Captain aforesaid to rendezvous at New London aforesaid equipped for service. He met according to orders, and Captain Richison with his Company were ord: [? ordered?], but by whom he does not know, but thinks the order came from Colonel James Caloway [James Callaway], Commandant of the Militia of said County, to scour through the County, and the adjoining Counties to keep the Tories in Awe, and to Capture and place in Jail any tour he found in arms and bring and place them in the Jail of Bedford County in New London aforesaid. That in pursuance of orders, Captain Richison for several weeks conducted his movements within the borders of the County, and among different neighborhoods most suspected for Toryism, occasionally capturing Tories who were noted for their cruelty and sent them by escort to the Jail in New London. Then the captain divided his Company into two parties, one headed by the Lieutenant of the company. They operated in different sections of the County, and in the adjoining Counties, a distance of 40 or 50 miles from New London, in keeping the Tories in subjection and capturing many and sending them to the Jail in New London. During the first term as aforesaid, he with one half of his Company was furloughed for ten days, when they returned to the place appointed by the Captain to meet, when the other half were furloughed for the like time to meet at the same place, both in the County of Bedford about ten miles from New London, which they did and were again put in the like service in scouting through the County in protecting the Whigs from the ravages of the Tories, and likewise in the adjoining Counties aforesaid and occasionally capturing Solomon sending them to the New London Jail. In this service under his first term of service as aforesaid he served under Captain

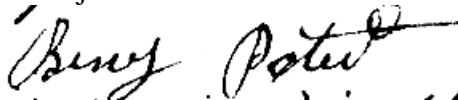
Richison for the period and Term of six months and twelve days, when he with the balance of the Company were discharged by Captain Richison which discharge he has long since lost. This was in the fall one year preceding the surrender of Lord Cornwallis aforesaid. A few days before Christmas following his discharge as aforesaid Captain Richison aforesaid received an appointment as he understood from the State of Virginia, or as it was said and so believed and understood by the Governor of Virginia to raise a troop of force called "Minute Men" and made proclamation to raise a company of that description of troops, sixty in number – On New Year's Day following at New London aforesaid when most of the Militia of the Company assembled, and a Company of sixty odd "minute men" were enrolled by Captain Richison, and under his Command, in which Company he was one. About the first of February following he and the balance of the company received orders to assemble at New London equipped for service by the 10th of that month, and on that day and the day following the whole Company assembled as ordered with the exception of 3 or 4 under the command of Captain Richison, by whom they were marched into different neighborhoods to keep in subjection the Tories and the capture some who were very active in the King's cause in causing the Tories to rise, and commit robberies and murders – they captured some and sent them to Me you London Jail. On this trip they were divided into two parties, and scouted in Bedford & the adjoining Counties Henry, & some other names forgotten.

This trip as a "minute man" he served 10 weeks, then the part that he was attached to was ordered home and held themselves in readiness at a moment's warning to take the field against the enemy the other part of the Company were kept in service 3 weeks longer, when they were sent home, and the part to which he belonged as aforesaid ordered back into service, being 3 weeks and some 5 days disbanded, and joined Captain Richison at a place, the name now forgotten about 10 miles from New London, where they were again marched by Captain Richison, and encamped for several days at a time in different sections of the County where danger from the Tories was suspected, and occasionally in the adjoining Counties, aforesaid. At the end of 3 weeks the last part sent home were again ordered into service, but were Captain different sections of the County to that part to which he belonged under Captain Richison. After he had remained this trip 9 weeks or 10 he does not remember which, Captain Richison ordered his part of his Company to go home, which he did likewise, leaving the Lieutenant and his part of the Company in service, who shortly after likewise returned home and also his part of the Company. In the course of 2 weeks a house was burnt and a week in the County was [indecipherable word] whipped in one edge of the County of Bedford and the neighbors were so much alarmed, that they were fleeing from a supposed rising of the Tories, when he was ordered to rendezvous, with the balance of the Company at New London by Captain Richison, which they did forth with and were marched by Captain Richison to the point of alarm, moving about and [indecipherable word] in different sections in that part of the County supposed to be the most danger from Tories, and the adjoining County, and so remained in service 5 weeks when the alarm subsided and the company were ordered to their homes by Captain Richison. In the early part of August before Cornwallis surrender, 40 odd of the Company of Richison volunteered, in the service to go against Cornwallis, and left under Captain Richison only between 16 or 20 of his original Company of which he was one. Near the middle of August as near as he can remember and now believes, Captain Richison ordered the balance of the company to assemble in New London equipped for service. They met (he thinks 19 in number) and were again marched from one part of the County to another, encamping several days at a time at some wash house, they could use if necessary in defense, in watching the movements of the Tories, and

occasionally went into the adjoining County, making in the whole in this tour as he now believes 13 weeks. He well remembers and 80 few days after Cornwallis surrendered the news was received by Captain Richison , when he made an order to the Company, then encamped near the edge of the County (since then the County has been split up in other Counties) thinking them for their good conduct, telling them the Ward no doubt was ended, that to go home and as they lived neighbors when they met in New London he would prepare for each a discharge for all the time he had served as a "minute man" under him; but not supposing it to be of any benefit he never after called on Captain Richison for a discharge; though he had frequent opportunities of doing so. During all the service he performed as aforesaid he was never under any other officer except his Captain as aforesaid or his Lieutenant. He was attached to no other Corps nor did he to his knowledge see or know of any regular officers while in service as aforesaid – he has stated the character in which he entered the service, and the manner in which he served. He was in no battles – was not wounded he has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services as aforesaid or any part thereof: The time he has stated he served as a "minute man" he believes to be correct, but by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise time he served but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned as above and stated as aforesaid.

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 or that of the United States. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Benj. Poteet



first. He was born, (his age he has given) in the County of __ and state of __

He has no record of his age

the place he has described where he lived when he entered the service, since the Revolutionary For he has resided in Lee County State of Virginia, then in Lincoln County Kentucky, then in Rockcastle County Kentucky, and now in Laurel County Kentucky

The 4th Question, he has fully answered in his affidavit aforesaid.

To the 5th He has fully answered – Captain Richison being the head officer and only one of the grade to which he was attached – his

[Note: written in the margin]

The reason why he has not applied sooner is that he had hoped to be able to live without the assistance of his Country and he had been until lately believed a discharge or proof of service was indispensably necessary by the Applicant, but he has lately been informed such is not so and his poverty compels him to ask assistance.

Contained in the foregoing affidavit for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the Act of the 7th of June 1832 to be true though it is true that some

Lieutenant under his service when drafted was by the name of (name forgotten those knew him well and Ensign by the name of he has forgotten and as a "minute man" as aforesaid his Lieutenant was by the name of still forgotten from the first and Ensign, he thinks Foster.

As to his discharge he has explained.

He received no commission.

He is well known to James P Carpenter and John Evans both living in Laurel who have known him for many years, in Rockcastle County where he resided upwards of 18 years he is well

known to General William Smith and John B Dysart the now principal Sheriff of the County.
[James P Carpenter and John Evans gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 21: On April 11, 1853 in Laurel County Kentucky, Clarinza Poteet, 64, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Poteet, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she was married to him in Rockcastle County Kentucky between the years 1814 in 1816; that her name prior to her marriage was Clorinza Evans; that her husband died April 19, 1850 in Laurel County Kentucky.



Clorinza Poteet

[p 32: Copy of a marriage bond dated February 12, 1816 issued in Rockcastle County Ky to Benjamin Poteet and Hezekiah Farris conditioned on the marriage of Poteet to Cloe Evans.]

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