

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Conyers S38625

VA PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS

Shelby County }

On this 5th day of December 1833 personally appeared before me, Matthew Hushman [Hersman], one of the Justices of the peace in and for Shelby County and one of the Judges of the County Court for said County Benjamin Conyers aged 74 years who being first duly swon according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832

This declarent states that he entered the service of the united States and serve as herein stated under the following named Officers; that sometime in the year of 1776 [sic: probably 1775] about the month of August as well as he now remembers he was living in the County of Faquire [sic: Fauquier] state of Virginia; when Capt John Blackwell [John Blackwell, Jr] of said County of Faquire raised a company of volunteers for a time of eighteen month when he the said decarent did volunteer for the aforesaid tour of eighteen months under Capt Blackwell and rendezvoused with his company of Infantry at Faquier Court House; he stats that they were then marched from Faquier Court House through Stafford County to Falmouth; thence through Spotsylvania County to the Bowling green, they were thenced ordered on force march to Williamsburg, thence up the Rappahannock river to Carter's Ferry [sic?], thence they were marched in great haste to a place called the long Bridge [Great Bridge], on arriving at the long Bridge the the British Army under the Command of Capt Foredice [sic: Charles Fordyce, 9 Dec 1775] attempted to stop the progress of the americans, when a spirited engagement ensued during this battle Capt Foredice received a shot from the american army and immediately died then the army retreated to their shipping which was lying in the bay at Norfolk, the American army then took possession of the Battleground and were stationed there for some time in order to protect the property of citizens as the object of the Brittish seemed to be that of plundering and carrying off the negroes where ever they had an opportunity of landing; during the time that the army was stationed at Long Bridge he states they were employed in traversing the Potomac and Rappahannoc River to prevent the British from landing and destroying the property of the inhabitants during this campaign he states that he rendered all the service of a soldier and from Camp Long Bridge he was marched back by his said Capt John Blackwell to Faquer Courthouse where he and the ballance of Capt Blackwells men were discharged having serve out his eighteen month tour

This declarent further states that as soon as he was discharged that his father removed to the back parts of Pennsylvania and settled on the Monongahala [sic: Monongahela] River and some time in the Spring of the year 1778 [see endnote] he enlisted under Capt Crow for a period of three years and was attached to Coln Broadheads [sic: Daniel Brodhead's] regiment of Pennsylvania regulars he states that Coln Broadheads regiment consisted of eleven hundred enlisted soldiers and that the regiment rendezvoused at Fort Pitt, he states that the spies that had been sent to reconnoiter the country returned and reported that the Indians were committing some depredations upon the settlers near Catania [?] Coln Broadhead then order a company to be formed and put under the command of Capt Thomas Prator he states that he in that company commanded by Capt Prator marched from fort Pitt to Catania during this march he states that were employed in making frequent excursions in order to overhaul the Indians that had been committing outrages upon the settlers upon arriving at Catania and ristoring peace and quietness to the alarmed inhabitants Capt Prator marched his men back to Fort Pitt where they remained but a short time before they were again ordered down the Ohio River to prevent the Indians from making an attack upon a small settlement at Wheeling and after accomplishing that object Capt Prator marched

his men back to Fort Pitt he states that when they arrived at Fort Pitt that Coln Broadheads regiment was ordered to cross the mountains and go to the lower Camps, he states that Coln Broadhead marched his men across the Alleghany mountains to Lancaster on the Susquehanna River thence to Quibbletown in the state of New Jersey [in present New Market] where they encamped for the winter upon leaving the encampment at Quibbletown he states that they were then ordered and marched to Valley Forge the american army under the command of General [Anthony] Wayne was brought in battle array and after making a spirited resistance against the Enemy the Americans for want of ammunition were compelled to retreat with a considerable loss of men from this place [?] a company of Coln Broadheads regulars was ordered to Brandywine and he belonging to Capt Prators Company marched und his Capt to Brandywine and some time in the fall of that year he states that early in the morning the battle commence [Battle of Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] and although they mad a display of gallantry becomeing soldiers they had to retreat with great loss to the americans after the battle of Brandywine he states that Capt Prator marched his men into New Jersey and joined Coln Broadheads regiment the regiment then marched across the Susquehanna River through the Tennessee Country [?!] to Fort Pitt – where they were stationed during the winter – as soon as the winter broke General [Lachlan] McIntosh ordered the regiment to march to a place now called Fort Mcintosh on arriving there he states that they were employed in building that Fort [Fort McIntosh at present Beaver PA, commenced Sep 1778] thence they were marched to the Tuskraiz River where they were employed in building Fort Lawrence [sic: Fort Laurens on Tuscarawas River, commenced 10 Nov 1778] he states that after they had built the fort and was there fortified that the Wyandotte tribe of Indians beseeged the fort [Dec 1778 - Mar 1779] and after some elapse of time they evacuated the fort with the loss of nineteen men and marched back to fort Pitt where he was discharged in writing by Capt Thomas Prator having served out his three years for which he enlisted he states that from bodily infirmity and old age he is unable to appear in open court to make his declaration, he states that he has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no living witness by whom he can prove said service 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

Benjamin Conyers hisXmark

Interrogatories put By the Justice Qus When and in what year were you born. Ans I was born on the 12 day of July 1759

Qus Have you any record of your age and ife so where is it

Ans I have a record of my age taken from my farther's register. Qus Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Ans When I first entered the service I was living in Faquier County State of Virginia, the second time I went in the service I was living on the Monongahala River in the State of Pennsylvania. Since that time I have lived in Stafford County State of Virginia and I have been living in Shelby Cty where I now live about thirty years. Qus How were you called into the service were you? drafted? did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom? Ans In the fall of 1776 I volunteered under Capt Blackwell, and in the Spring of 1778 I enlisted under Capt Crow for three years

Ques. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served and such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect (Ans) on my first tour there were no Regular officers, there was a regiment from Culpeper County Virginia Commanded I think by a Coln [Edward] Stevens On my second tour there were Coln Broadhead +[?] of the mountains and when we arrived at the lower camps and at the Brandywine battle the General [John] Sullivan, General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and General [George] Weedon from Virginia

Ques – Did you ever received a discharge and by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans – I did receive two discharges one for a tour eighteen months given by capt John Blackwell of

Faquier County Virginia and another given by Capt Prator for three years which discharges I had in my Brothers house in Stafford County Va. and in the year of 1783 his house was burnt and my discharge with many of papers were burnt

Ques State the names of some of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution (Ans) I will name John Dale a Clergyman and William Applegate —

NOTE: Col. Daniel Brodhead did not take command of the Western Department at Fort Pitt until 5 Mar 1779. Other dates are also confused.