State of Virginia  
County of Albemarle  

This day personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace, in, and for the County and State aforesaid, Benjamin Childress, a soldier in the war of the Revolution, who being 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 July [sic: June] 7th 1832.

In the year of 1780 being then sixteen years of age, I performed a tour of service – Left home in October under Capt. John Christian – James Montgomery and Robert Wright Lieuts. which service was performed below and in Richmond being a two months tour, and returned home a few days before Christmas. In the year of 1781 I performed another tour of service under Capt. James Pamplin – Joseph Staples and John Horsley Lieuts. which tour was also performed below Richmond, being stationed at Maupin Hill [sic: Malvern Hill]. We were retained one week after our time had expired, waiting for the arrival of other companies to supply our place, making two months and one week. Not more than two weeks after I had returned from my last tour I was again ordered into service to march to Yorktown where Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis] was stationed. Being then reduced to a mere skeleton, by a wasting disease, during my last tour of service my friends were generally of the opinion that I never would recover. Major William Harris applied to Col. Hugh Rose and obtained a furlough until I might recover. Before my health was restored, Cornwallis was captured [19 Oct 1781] and the army was disbanded which furlough with the other two tours of service performed will I hope be considered at least equivalent to six months service. I was eighty six years of age the 3rd day of last April. Given under my hand this 13th day of November 1850.

This is to certify, that Benjamin Childress applied to me some fifteen years ago shortly after I received a pension for my father, Benjamin Harris [pension application W7664], to prosecute his claims as pensioner, for services rendered in the Revolutionary war. At that time I laboured under a misapprehension, believing he only served one tour, and had a furlough for another. But recently when I learned that he actually served two tours, and had a furlough for a third tour, I had no misgivings but that the law fully recognized his claims as good and lawful, and every principle of justice served to require them to be thus recognized – and advised him to prosecute his claim. Consequently any prejudice under which his claim may be labouring, from its long standing is attributable to myself and not to said Childress. I will further state, that I believe Benjamin Childress to be a man scrupulously conscientious and of the highest veracity.

This certificate is given at the instance of Mr James Sutton whilst I am on a visit to the city of Richmond. Given under my hand this 1st day of May 1851. George W. Harris of Albemarle County.

NOTES:
Captains John Christian and James Pamplin belonged to the Amherst County Militia. Samuel Childress (or Childres, as he appears to have signed), certified the service of his elder brother, Benjamin Childress (or Childres).