

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Hamrick s5472

fn33Va.

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Virginia, County of Nicholas [now in West Virginia]:

On this 7th September in the year of our Lord 1832, personally appeared before the Circuit Superior Court of Pleas & Chancery of the County of Nicholas, same being a Court of Record, Benjamin Hamrick, a resident of the said County of Nicholas and the State of Virginia aged seventy five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the out Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1776 with Captain John Chilton (or Shilton) and served in the Third Regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers. The company was commanded by Capt. Shelton, the Regiment by Col. __ [blank in original] Mercer and the Brigade by General __ [blank in original] Woodford. He left the service (he thinks) in the fall of 1780 and served during the whole time under the same enlistment. At the time he enlisted he resided in Fauquier County, Virginia. The company to which he belonged rendezvoused at the Court House of said County and the regiment at Williamsburg, Virginia, from where they marched to Alexandria and from whence they were ordered to New York island in the State of New York where they joined the regular army. He was present at the battle of Trenton and the taking of nine hundred Hessians as it was said. He was then at the battle of Princeton where he aided in taking (as it was said) 300 prisoners. He was at the memorable battle of Brandywine and also at the battle of Germantown. These were all the memorable battles in which he participated. Before he enlisted as above stated he was taken with the service in the State of Virginia as a minuteman under the same Captain John Shelton. He entered the service as a minute man in the month of November, 1775, he resided then in the same County and State as aforesaid. The Regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Col Edward Stephens and General Woodford and he served under this draft during the term of six months. He was at the defeat of Captain Fordice's [sic, Charles Fordyce's] company of Grenadiers at the Great Bridge on the east branch of Elizabeth River which was the only engagement he was in during this period of time. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state or agency in any state. At the time he left the state service he received a written discharge from General Woodford and at the time he left the Continental service he received a written discharge from General Joseph Weeden – But where they are now he does not know (he however supposes that time or accident has totally obliterated them).

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Benjamin Hamrick

Virginia, Circuit Superior Court of law & Chancery for Nicholas County.

Be it Remembered that Benjamin Lemasters on the 7th day of September 1832 personally appeared before the aforesaid Court and after being duly sworn upon the holy evangelist of Almighty God deposes that he was a revolutionary soldier in the year 1777 in Captain William Lewis's Company & attached to General Muhlenburg's Brigade. At the time he enlisted he resided in Frederick County but enlisted in Birkly [sic, Berkeley?]

County Virginia [now West Virginia]. That during the time he was in the Service (he thinks in 1778) at the Valley Forge in Pennsylvania he became acquainted with one Benjamin Hamrick who now resides in Nicholas County Virginia who is now in Court. That he believes said Hamrick then belonged to Captain Chilton's company. He does not recollect the Regiment to which said Hamrick belonged but it was to the same division to which this deponent belonged. That said Hamrick was a soldier on the Continental establishment. This deponent frequently saw him in the service but how long he served this deponent does not certainly know. But he thinks he knew him to have been in the service during a year perhaps more. This deponent believes that he knew him to be at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. And if he does not greatly mistake he was also at the battles of Monmouth and Princeton – further deponent saith not.

S/ Benjamin Lemasters

Joel Hamrick also being duly sworn before the Court aforesaid deposes and saith – that Benjamin Hamrick who now resides in Nicholas County Virginia and who is in Court enlisted in the revolutionary service early in the said revolutionary war under Captain John Chilton of Fauquier County where said Benjamin Hamrick and this deponent then both resided – that he left home with a view of entering into the Army where he remained according to the recollection of this deponent three years – that during these three years he returned home as it was said on furlough – and after remaining at home a few weeks he again left it with a view of entering the service. This deponent did not see him in the service – not being there himself but always believed that said Benjamin Hamrick served in said war for three years and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Joel Hamrick

Whereas Benjamin Hamrick now of Nicholas County, Virginia, a Soldier of the Revolution cannot draw his pension under the late restrictions of the War Department for want of better proof of his services. Therefore in order to effect that object, I Joseph McMillian who am Seventy years of age of sound mind & memory give the following statements of what I well recollect relative to said Hamrick's Services as a soldier in the War of the Revolution. I have been personally acquainted with said Benj. Hamrick when he was a soldier—his father lived about three miles from my father's when I was a boy about ten or twelve years of age and said Hamrick was a young man. When Capt. John Chilton of Fauquier County, Va., with his lieutenants John Blackwell and the late Honorable John Marshall enlisted a company called minute men in the year 1775 (the said Benj. Hamrick being one of them), about which time the battle of the great bridge [Great Bridge] in Va was fought. When that year was finished, Capt Chilton came home to the upper part of Fauquier County and his company or the greater part of them enlisted again for three year, said Hamrick being one of those who enlisted and was gone three years. I understood often from him that he was in all the principal battles in New York, Jersey, & Pennsylvania, I have heard him talk of the battles of Germantown & Brandywine, and in particular Capt. John Chilton's being killed at Brandywine and many of his men wounded and killed. I also understood from said Hamrick and many of fellow soldiers when they came home that John Blackwell (Capt. Chilton's first Lieut.) was their Capt. in room of Chilton who had been killed-and served under him until the end of their term of service, and enlisted again under Capt Blackwell. The greater part of them came

home on furlough for forty days. Said Hamrick at that time came to my father's with four or five of the men, and stayed in the neighborhood till the furlough was expired. When Capt John Blackwell with his company returned to the army, said Hamrick being one of them, I think it was the year 1779 they returned (about Feby.). Said Hamrick came back to my father's in the fall, said he was clear by putting a man in his place, he married my sister about that time, but word come to the County that he had deserted. He set off to go to the west but was taken up and lodged in Winchester jail, from there he was taken with some recruits to Fredricksburg, the officer let the Sergeant call with him at my father's to see his wife, when by the help of his friends he hired a man for a thousand dollars (Continental money) to go in his place during the war, he went on to Fredricksburg and was discharged by Genl. Muhlenberg. I saw his discharge often, or more than once or twice. The said Hamrick built a house in the year 1780 and lived at my father's. He was drafted in the year 1781 in Fauquier County, Va., and was on duty at the time Cornwallis was in Virginia. I think said Hamrick is about seventy eight years old. He was born in Prince William County, Va., and enlisted in Fauquier County, Va. His officers were those already stated. He was attached to the Third Virginia Regiment those first three years commanded by Col. Thos Marshall.

S/ Joseph McMillian.

Greensboro County, Va. To Wit -