

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Hardin S32293

Transcribed by Will Graves

Territory of Arkansas, County of Independence: At the January Term of the County Court of said County AD 1833.

On this seventh day of January AD 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Independence County and Territory of Arkansas now sitting Benjamin Harden [sic] a resident of said County and Territory aged sixty eight 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 Act of Congress passed June the seventh AD 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated, to wit: That he joined a volunteer Horse Company in Rowan County North Carolina on or about the 14th day of June AD 1780, under his father Benjamin Harden Sr. then Captain – Philip Rutherford was Major – a Mr. Prevard Lieutenant Colonel – Matthew Locke Colonel, a Regiment raised in the state of North Carolina. That he lived in Rutherford County North Carolina at the time he joined said company, that he entered as a private and so continued during the war – That he immediately marched to the adjoining County Court [in] Lincoln County and attacked and defeated twelve hundred Tories under the command of Colonel John Moore, a British Officer, then returned to Rowan County and [was] dismissed from further duty – immediately after which he joined a company of about three hundred men under Captain Benjamin Harden, Senior – and Colonel George Davidson and marched and reinforced General McDowell [Charles McDowell] at the old Cherokee Ford on Broad River in South Carolina as he thinks in July 1780, and continued with him about two months when the Enemy compelled the troops in which he served to retreat to Nolichucky in North Carolina said McDowell still commanding – at this place General McDowell was reinforced by Colonels Campbell, Sevier [John Sevier] & Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and they are all met on the Yellow Mountain and marched over the into Burke County North Carolina against the British forces commanded by Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson], who retreated before the American forces to King's Mountain and where he was overtaken and defeated by the American forces in which engagement this Deponent was. At the Battle of King's Mountain the United forces were commanded by Colonel William Campbell, he returned back again to Washington County in North Carolina and having assisted to escort as far as he believes Wilkes County the prisoners, he was permitted to return home – immediately after his return, Colonel John Sevier and Colonel Arthur Campbell raised a body of Troops which this Deponent joined to go against the Cherokee Indians, this Deponent in this expedition was commanded by Captain Jacob Brown, had a Battle with said Indians at Boyd's Creek which emptied into French Broad River and defeated them, burned a number [of] towns and took a number of prisoners, and then returned back to Nolichucky. – About the first of March 1781 this Deponent joined and enlisted in a Mounted Rifle Company for one year, under the command and in the Company of Captain John Newman, which was raised by order of Colonel John Sevier who commanded Washington County North Carolina. At the time this deponent enlisted in said company he understood they were to go against the British Regulars, he was ordered out on the frontiers of the State to scout and reconnoiter, and keep down the Cherokee Indians, and remained there during the year in active-duty and received his Discharge, signed by his Captain – and return home and this this Deponent from that time, to wit, in March 1782, remained at home and never afterwards engaged in Service.

The following Interrogatories were propounded by the Court to the Applicant, Benjamin Harden:

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Mecklenburg North Carolina on the 15 March 1764.

2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have at home in my Bible.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war – if a substitute for whom?

Answer: I was living in Rutherford County North Carolina until divided from there to Rowan County where I enlisted being what was called a Refugee since the Revolutionary War, I lived on Holston River in said state until 1785 – then moved to Tennessee, then North Carolina, and lived there until about 1793. I moved to Kentucky and lived there until 1815 where I'm moved to Missouri now Arkansas Territory where I now reside, and never was a substitute for any person.

4. How were you called into service?

Answer: I volunteered

5. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the Troops where you served, such Continental and militia fight Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I knew General William Davidson but recollect seeing General Morgan, Colonel Lee and many others whom this deponent does not now recollect, as his duty took him in other directions and he was commanded by State Officers – and do not recollect any Continental or Militia regiments except as mentioned. I was in several skirmishes which I have not seen necessary to mention.

6. Did you ever receive a Discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: I never did except for the year's service I served under Captain Newman as before stated, and given & signed by said Newman. I kept it until the fall of 1782 when I gave up my discharge to certain commissioners who sat in Washington County in North Carolina to receive the discharges and paid the Troops or rather to give certificates for pavement and I received my pay in what was called Indents with which my father bought land, bought land of the State.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for good behavior and veracity – your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: John Caruthers is known to me having served in the Revolution and Caleb Manley, Richard Peel Senior and James Trimble & many others can certify as to my veracity and good behavior in my present neighborhood.

I, Benjamin Hardin, do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or Annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State or Territory.

S/Benjamin Harden

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/J. Boswell, Presiding Judge