

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Solomon Bennett R771

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee

September Term 1832

Carrol [sic: Carroll] County

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

On this 11th day of September 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before the justices of the said Court now sitting of Pleas and Quarter sessions Solomon Bennet a resident of the County of Carrol in the State of Tennessee but formerly of the County of Bute in the State of North Carolina aged about seventy six years last January 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 of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the of our Lord seventeen hundred and seventy six in the latter part of that year or in the early part of the succeeding year of seventeen hundred and seventy seven as a Private Soldier of the Regular Army in the Company commanded by Captain Jacob Turner in the fourth Regiment of the North Carolina Continental line Commanded by Colonel — Jones who resigned before the Battle of Brandywine and who was succeeded in the command of the said Regiment by Major Pointer who commanded the aforesaid Regiment in the aforesaid Battle of Brandywine in which this Declarant was - his Captain Jacob Turner fell gloriously fighting at the head of his Company in the aforesaid Battle [sic: see note below] [illegible word] and high minded Officer and Soldier his Lieutenant was William Allen - General George Washington was the Commander in chief of the Regular forces and Major General LaFayette was seen by me in the foremost ranks of the Battle's rage untill he was wounded and carried off the field. This battle lasted for three days some part of the time was in maneuvering some part of the time in the outposts skirmishing and some time in close action when at last we were compelled to retreat — this action was on the fourteenth day of September 1777 that is the last day of the General action when the Americans retreated and took up their Winter quarters at Valley Forge & where the Campaign for the year 1777 closed. the British army wintered in Philadelphia under the Command of General Howe who was the commander in chief at the Battle of Brandywine of the British forces as I now believe perhaps Lord Cornwallis but of which I am not now certain. This Declarant states that before the Battle of Brandywine he was in the Battle of Sandy hook still attached to the Regiment and commanded by the same officers. This Declarant thinks Col Jones commanded his Regiment at the Battle of Sandy Hook [see note below] but of this he is not now certain he well recollects that he did not command the Regiment at the Battle of Brandywine.

This Declarant States that after this his Regiment with two or three Regiments of the North Carolina Continental line were detailed off and ordered to march under the Command of Colonel — Campbell [sic: see note below] to the relief of Charleston South Carolina but which had been surrendered by General [Benjamin] Lincoln previous to our arrival we then joined the american army [sic: Southern Army] then under the Command of Major General Horatio Gates and became attached to the Command of General the Barron De Calb [sic: see note below]. This Division of the army sustained itself with Glory [at the Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] and not untill De Calb fell did the regulars give one inch of ground Colonel Campbell fell in this action at the head of our Regiment exorting us with last breath never to give an inch of ground - but after De Calb had fallen and finding that the Militia with General Gates our Commander in chief had deserted us we were compelled to make a Disorderly retreat after sustaining [illegible word] slaughter from the British Dragoons thus ended this Battle fatal to the american cause. After this Colonel Pinkey or Penkney Eaton [Lt. Col. Pinketham Eaton] Command our Regiment which joined the american army under the Command of General Nathanael Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] under this Command he was in the battle of Eutaw Springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781] after this [sic] the american army marched and laid siege to ninety six [Siege of Ninety-Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] but was compelled to raise the siege in consequence of an army of the British coming to its relief under the command of Lord Rawden or perhaps it might have been under the Command of General Leslie of this he is not certain [sic: Francis Rawdon]. from this place [sic] the american army was compelled to make a rapid retreat on to the North when at the Battle of

Guilford Courthouse [NC, 15 Mar 1781] they came in contact with the British Army then under the command of Lord Cornwallis. General Green still was Commander in chief. In this Battle we claimed the victory for although we did not keep the field yet we laid within two miles thereof - the British retreating that night leaving their wounded and dead upon the field of Battle which were afterwards buried our people. After this the American Army marched on to Lindley's Mills [sic: Ramsey's Mill] on Deep River and encamped there only for a week or two when our General Green received orders to march on to South Carolina [sic: see note below]. This Declarant was at the surrender of Charleston and witnessed with joy the final Departure of the British Army from the shores of Carolina [14 Dec 1782] when he was regularly discharged and which discharge he has long since lost. The Declarant stated that some few years past he requested the then Honorable David Crockett his representative in congress to search the rolls of the North Carolina Continental line to see if his name was was on the same - that he was afterwards informed by the the then said Honorable David that he had complied with his request and found the name of W Bennet but not that of Solomon.

He hereby relinquishes his every claim 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

Solomon hisXmark Bennett

NOTE: In addition to the obvious chronological mistakes, Bennett's deposition also contains the following errors: 1) After the Battle of Brandywine on 11 Sep 1777 the army did not go immediately to winter quarters at Valley Forge until 17 Dec 1777. 2) In the meantime it fought the Battle of Germantown on 4 Oct 1777, where Capt. Jacob Turner was killed. 3) The only known engagement at Sandy Hook NY occurred on 22 - 23 Jan 1776, before Bennett said he enlisted. 4) The NC Continental Brigade did arrive at the Siege of Charleston before it was surrendered on 12 May 1780. The commander was Brig. Gen. James Hogun. 5) After the surrender only about two dozen NC Continental soldiers remained free to fight at the Battle of Camden, and they were with a militia regiment under Col. Henry Dixon. They fought valiantly around Gen. Baron De Kalb, who was second in command under Gates, but De Kalb was not their immediate commander. 6) No Col. Campbell is known to have been in the NC Brigade at Charleston or at the Battle of Camden. The only Col. Campbell known to have been killed in action was William Campbell of Virginia at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. 7) Nathanael Greene was not ordered to South Carolina after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse: he made the decision himself in early April 1781.