

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Bearden S2991

f25SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/22/10 & 5/22/18

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee, Bedford County }

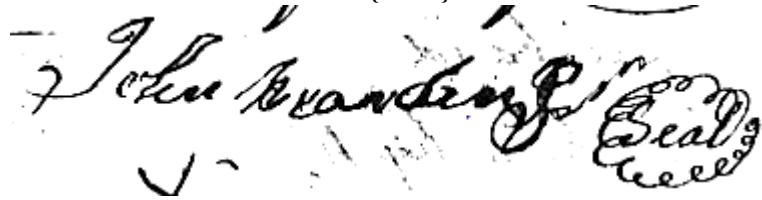
Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832

On this 15th day of May One thousand Eight hundred and thirty three, Personally appeared before me William Heaslett an acting Justice of the peace for said county John Bearden Senr a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged, Eighty nine years two months and four days, who after 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 the 7th June 1832 that he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and Served as herein Stated; This applicant Says he was born in the County of Spotsylvany [sic, Spotsylvania] and State of Virginia on the 11th of March in the year 1744, agreeable to his Father's family Record, but has no record of it at this time. He further Says that he entered the Service of the United States as a private and volinteer [sic, volunteer] in a Company of Rangers or Spies Commanded by Captain Joseph Worford [sic, Joseph Wofford] and Lieut. D.[?] Graham in Spartanburg District and State of South Carolina Some time in the month of April 1777 the precise day he cannot recollect, and was marched to a fort up on the head of Inaree [sic, Enoree] River to Prince's Fort and was there Stationed, but was frequently out on Spying and Scouting Expeditions against the Cherokee Indians and a Tory family by the name of Bates four in number to wit Wm, Harvey, and Isaac, and their father who were Skulking about with the Indians and were frequently engaged with the Indians in committing murders on the frontier Settlers and that he remained in Service until some time in January 1778 when he was dismissed after Serving not less than nine months in actual service; and that he did not receive a discharge in writing but was honorably dismissed agreeable to orders. Deponent States that about a month afterwards he thinks in February 1778 he volunteered again and joined a Company of Spies or Rangers under the Command of Captain John Gowen and was marched to a fort on the South fork of Packolet [sic, Pacolet] River and was frequently out Ranging and Spying on the frontier Settlements on Tigar [sic, Tyger] River, he States that on one of the Scouting expeditions he was on the Spies under Captain Gowen arrested and took prisoner two men one by the name of Fanning [David Fanning] and the other by the name of Smith that they brought them back into the white Settlement and delivered them up to a Magistrate, as they were both Tories, and both had a Stolen horse each taken from a Mr. James Ford and a Mr. John Patton. Deponent Says he was then marched back to the last mentioned Fort on the South fork of Pacolet River where he remained in Service until some time in the month of August 1778 and was again dismissed It being thought and frequently said by the Captain that the Indians had become quiet and that there was no further use for the troops at that time. He States that he Served on this last mentioned tour not less than Six months. Deponent further Says that he removed Shortly after that down into

Union District South Carolina and there entered the service of the United States again about one Week before the Siege of Ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781] that he was marched to that place, a drafted Soldier and was in the Engagement of that place he says was there transferred from Captain Blessingame's [James Blessingham's] Company to a Company of Volunteers under the Command of Captain John Putman and was march through the Country in different directions in Search of a band of Tories under the Command of a Tory Captain by the name of Jesse Gray, that he continued in Service under Said last mentioned Capt A tour of duty of not less than four months when he says he was finally dismissed from Service after Serving in all a term of actual Service of not less than Nineteen months for which he claims a Pension, this applicant Says he remained a citizen in South Carolina until the year 1824 when he removed to Bedford County Tennessee where he has lived ever Since and where he now lives He further Says that he was not acquainted with any Regular officer with the troops when he served nor any Regiment of Regular whatever.

Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in the United States--He further Says that he has no documentary evidence whatever and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his Service, and that he is known to the Rev. William Martin and Jacob Fuller in his present neighborhood—Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid before me

S/ John Bearden Sr. {Seal}

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Bearden Sr." is written over a circular seal impression. The seal is partially obscured by the ink of the signature.

S/ Wm Heaslet acting of [sic]
the peace for Sd County

[William Martin, a clergyman and Jacob Fuller gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for 19 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]