

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Christopher Eaton (Valentine): R3214

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina}      Court of pleas and quarter sessions  
County of Surry}            November Term 1832.

On this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the justices of the County Court of pleas and quarter sessions for the said county of Surry, now setting, Christopher Eaton, formerly called Christopher Valentine, a resident of this (Surry) County in the State of North Carolina, aged seventy-six 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 act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777, with Joseph Philips, a recruiting officer, at Richmond, then Surry Courthouse [now in Yadkin County] N. Carolina, and served in the [blank] regiment of the N. Carolina line, under the following named officers: viz. Col. John Armstrong, that we got to Richmond Va. in the company commanded by Captain Laban, (or Labourn), Lieut. forgotten - Ensign forgotten. When I enlisted I lived in the county of Surry in the State of North Carolina, with one Gray Bynum to whom I was bound. my name at this time was commonly called Christopher Valentine, and spelled "Valentine", I expect (as I cannot read or write) - and have since been called Eaton, that being the English name given to my father and family in this country, he having been a German, and called Valentine: after I enlisted we marched towards Richmond in the State of Virginia, where we joined some other troops. I was here put under the Col. Alx'd. Martin we next marched towards Philadelphia. we were stationed some time at a place (name forgotten) and then marched through Philadelphia, and at length we joined the forces under Gen. Washington, at his camp at Brandywine: I, the said Christopher, fought in the Battle of Brandywine with the Americans under gen. Washington, against the British; - this battle took place as I believe some time in September [the 11<sup>th</sup>], in the year 1777, the Americans lost about 1200 men in this battle.

After the battle of Brandywine we marched in various directions, being often shifted about - we were placed under the command of Gen. [Benedict] Arnold; we were at one time stationed at a place called White plains at which time we were under Gen. Nath. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] we passed at one time a place called West Point. we were for some time stationed in the State of New Jersey, but I am not certain whether it was before or after the battle of Brandywine. I was in several skirmishes with small parties of the British. When gen. [Horatio] Gates was appointed to head the southern army [spring 1780] I was sent with him and marched southerly to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina. when we reached this place my time being out I was discharged and received a written discharge from my captain Labourn - which discharge was burned in my house which was burnt several years ago. I served in this service in all three years and about six months, as near as I can ascertain. My discharge was dated as I verily believe in the month of May 1780. I the said Christopher, then came home to Surry County N. Carolina, and in the month of June 1780 I volunteered in the North-Carolina militia, in the company commanded by Captain Absalom Bostick, we marched from Richmond, Surry Court house N.C. to Salisbury in North-Carolina near which place we joined head quarters under Gen. [Griffith] Rutherford - we then marched to a place called Cheraw Hills in South Carolina, where we joined the army under gen. Gates. we then marched towards Camden till we met the British near Camden S. C. about the 15th of August 1780, where the Battle of Camden ensued [16 Aug 1780]. I fought in said battle, with the Americans under gen. Gates, against the British under Cornwallis: we were defeated, and got home the best way we could (the army being scattered): In this tour I served about three months. Joseph Darnel [Joseph Darnall, pension application S2515], who is now living in the county of Stokes, served in this tour with me and will testify to that effect.

I the said Christopher Eaton was born in the County of Surry in the state of North Carolina in the year 1756: a record of my age was made in a Bible which then belonged to my father and which is now in the possession of my son. I took the oath of allegiance before Joseph

Winston on the 1st day of November in the year 1776 a certificate of which I have now in my possession: ever since the Revolutionary war I lived in the same neighbourhood in which I now live in the said county of Surry in the state of North Carolina.

He, the said Christopher, hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State, Territory or District.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Christopher hisXmark Eaton

State of North Carolina}

Stokes County}

On this the 12th day of June 1833, personally appeared before me Charles Banner one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the county of Stokes aforesaid Christopher Eaton, a resident of the County of Surry in the State of North Carolina, being the same identical person who made his declaration in the County Court of the said County of Surry in November term 1832, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following affidavit as an amendment to his said declaration, viz. that he knows of no person living by whom he can prove the fact that he enlisted, or served in the Regular service, they all being dec'd, but this affiant knows positively and unequivocally that he did enlist under Captain Joseph Philips, at Richmond Surry County N.C. in the month of November 1777 or 1778 (for he cannot positively swear which year of the two it was) that he received the Bounty from the hand of the said Joseph Philips, in presence of Henry Waller who enlisted at the same time, also Richard Philips (called black Dick Philips) who was a Regular soldier, Daniel Scott, who enlisted on the same day and died the next, James Glenn, Jacob Dial (or Dyer) & others some soldiers and others citizens who were present, amongst them this affiant swears he recollects one John Harper, a Regular soldier, - but all these are dead or gone from the Country, and none of them known or believed to be alive now - that while in said Jos. Philip's company he was marched from Richmond Surry County N.C. some distance toward the east and then were marched to Richmond Va. having passed through Salem N.C. Hillsborough, Newbern [sic: New Bern] & Edenton N.C. and several other villages, - at Richmond Va. Capt. Philip's Company of which this affiant positively swears he was a member joined other forces under the command of Col. Alexander Martin under whom he marched on to the Jerseys, this affiant being then in a company commanded by Capt. Laban or Labourn marched through Philadelphia & joined the army under Gen. Washington at his Camp near Brandywine Creek -. that he fought in the battle of Brandywine, when Washington lost about twelve hundred men. After this battle we marched to White Plains where we were stationed for a long time, being under Gen. Arnold - this affiant swears that he was in several skirmishes with parties of the British during the time he was under Gen. Arnold - that he continued under the command of said Arnold till the said Arnold ran away after attempting to betray the army under him [sic: see note below], - previous to this as he thinks was the battle of Monmouth [28 June 1778] in which this affiant fought - that when Gen. Gates set out for the South this affiant marched under his direction, on to Hillsborough N.C. where this affiant was honourably discharged by his Captain Laban having served three years at least - that the discharge which he received was burned in his house several years ago - that he soon after getting home entered the service as a militia man (volunteer) under Capt. Bostick & Col. John Armstrong, in which tour he served three months, at least, and that in the fall of the year 1780 he served his last tour of service of three months - making in all three years and six months at the least which he served and for which he claims a pension having served as a private soldier the whole time of three years and six months, from the years 1777 to 1780 inclusive - this affiant further swears that in consequence of great age and infirmity and the consequent loss of memory that he cannot recollect the whole of the officers under whom he served, nor the whole of the circumstances connected with his service as a Regular, and that he knows of no means in his favor whereby he can prove the same, or any additional proof to what he has already adduced, but he is very certain that he served three years and six months as above stated: he further swears that he is entirely illiterate, and does not know how to spell his name - that when young he did not understand the English Language properly consequently he expects he may be mistaken as to names of places and persons- That he was sometimes called

Valentine, sometimes called Eater, or Eator, and at other times Ettee or Hetty, so that he is not certain by what name he was put on the muster roll - and that sometimes his Christian name was called "Christopher," at other times "Christian" - That he is very infirm and quite destitute of the means of support, and earnestly solicits his country to remunerate him for services rendered in the prime of life.

Sworn to and subscribed before the said Charles Banner on the 12th day of June 1833.

Christopher hisXmark Eaton

State of North Carolina

Stokes County

In amendment to a Declaration heretofore filed in the War Office by Christopher Eaton alias (Eater) for the purpose of obtaining a Pension under the Act of Congress passed June 1832 - This 15 day April AD 1834 said Eaton appeared before me Alexander King one of the Justices of the Peace of said County and made Oath that he is unable to find any proof as to the regular service as stated by him in his Declaration, and instructs the Department [illegible word] would access the rolls of the Army [two illegible words], in order to ascertain if his name cannot be found - he states that while his name is Eaton, he has gone and been called Eator or Ator, and on a certificate now in his possession given to him when he took the Oath of Allegiance before Joseph Winston he is called Christofer Valentine - he states again that besides his regular service as stated in his Declaration - he served six months in the Militia, to wit a three month tour under Capt. Hale of Surry County North Carolina in which tour he was at Gates defeat, - he then served another three months tour under Capt Bostick or Capt Lewis in which service he assisted in guarding persons taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780] - (at the old Town[?]) and in conducting them from old Town to Salisbury - he states that if the service is not properly stated in his previous declarations - it is owing to the loss of recollection by extreme old age or an omission in his [illegible word] to put it down. Christopher hisXmark Eaton

NOTES:

Eaton's original declaration states that he was discharged from the Continental service in May of 1780, and his first amendment states that he continued in Continental service until Gen. Benedict Arnold's treason was discovered. This latter event did not occur until 25 Sep 1780.

On 2 June 1846 Susannah Eaton, 83, applied for a pension as the widow of Christopher Eaton. She stated that her husband had been placed on the pension list on 24 July 1833 but dropped on 13 Aug 1832, she believed because he was "unwilling to Receive the small amount of \$20 per annum for his Revolutionary services." She stated that she married Christopher Eaton in Surry County in 1781, and he died 5 July 1839.