

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Elisha Bethea: S17840

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

In Nansemond county Court 11th Feb'y. 1833.

State of Virginia, Nansemond County, Sc.

On this 11th day of February 1822. personally appeared in open Court before John C Cohoon, John Harrell, Isaac Lee and Nath'l. P. Phillips, the Court of Nansemond County now sitting, Elisha Bethea a resident of Nansemond County, and State of Virginia, aged Seventy-two 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he was drafted in Captain John Benton's company in Gates County North Carolina - James Smith was his Lieutenant and John Walton his Ensign - does not now recollect the names of his field officers. that he entered the service in the same year of the Battle of [Gen. Horatio] Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], was at that battle, and his Captain and Lieutenant were both killed. he lived in Gates County North Carolina at the time he was drafted. He marched from Gates Coutny North Carolina as far West as the Blue Ridge then turned and went toward Charleston South Carolina to meet the enemy; marched in South Carolina as far as a little village called "Pinetree" near the battle ground when Gates was defeated after the battle the troops were scattered, and gathered together again at cross creek (Fayetteville) [sic: Fayetteville NC]. That he served six months from the time he was drafted before he was discharged - has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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; sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. "Signed" Elisha Behtea. And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he states.

NOTE: A document in the file states that Elisha Bethea died 4 April 1833 "leaving a widow and three children who are really in want of any small pittance which may be due the deceased in consideration of his revolutionary services." Another document gives the widow's name as Rachel Bethea.