

## Pension Application for William Bennett

S.5276

State of Virginia

County of Tyler SS.

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October personally appeared before me James Bailey, a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Tyler & State of Virginia aforesaid William Bennett, a resident of said County of Tyler & State of Virginia aforesaid, aged eighty six years the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 1832 old stile [style] 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he enlisted about the 1<sup>st</sup> of June in the year 1777 for three years or during the war, in the Army of the United States as a substitute for Nicholas Mozier & served under the following named officers, to wit,--

That he belonged to a company commanded by Capt. Joseph McCracken, attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the New York State Line, which regiment was commanded by Col. G. VanSkoyke, [VanSchaick] Lieut. Col. Case VanDyke & Major John Graham & Peter Tice Adjutant.

That he was marched from Fort Edward, New York, where he enlisted to Salem in said State, from thence to Stillwater on the Hudson River to intercept the passage of Burgoyne's Army, then on their march down the Hudson River, where his regiment together with the Army under the command of General Gates remained, until the Regiment to which he was attached was sent expressly to relieve Fort Stanwick, which had been besieged by a party of British, Indians & Tories, but the enemy having raised the siege of Fort Stanwick & left that part of the Country before his regiment arrived, they were then marched to Johnstown, from thence to Schenectady where they went into winter quarters; from whence early in the following spring they were marched to Albany, from thence to Fishkill, from there to the Valley Forge Pa, where they joined the Main Army under the command of Genl. George Washington, shortly before the Battle of Monmouth, in which battle he was—

That his commander Capt Joseph McCracken lost an arm in the said battle.—That he the said William Bennett had been detailed & taken from his company to serve as an artillery man, that in the early part of a piece of Artillery which he the said William Bennett assisted to man, was killed, having part of his head shot off; that the command of the said piece of Artillery was then assumed by a Sergeant \_\_\_\_ Rogers, whose command was for some misconduct on his part immediately taken from him Capt. McClure of the Artillery & given to him the said William Bennett.

That he commanded the said piece of Artillery afterwards during the continuance of the Battle, in which time he loaded & fired forty eight shots at the enemy & although he escaped being wounded, yet so frequent were his comrades shot near him, that at the close of the battle, his clothes were from his head to his feet covered with their brains & blood; that he took a surfeit in his whole system from the great exertion made & the excessive heat he experience in this engagement, which has ever since greatly, oppressed and harassed & yet oppresses & harasses him to a great extent.

That the day after the battle of Monmouth he was permitted & did join his own company again and his regiment was marched to & stationed on the east side of the Hudson River, until about the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1778, when they received marching orders & were marched back to Fishkill & there took water & sailed to Albany, from there to Fort Stanwick again, from which place a detachment of 500 men was sent (of which detachment he found one) under the command of the said Col. VanSkoike & Major John Graham against an Indian Town called Arandanga which town they captured, killing a number & taking thirty seven prisoners; that he was born in the State of Rhode Island & resided at the time of his enlistment in the State of New York (& as well as he recollects) in which was then called the District of Saratoga, of which Argyle was the County town, now situated in Washington County, that he continued to reside in the State of New York for many years after the close of the Revolutionary War, but for the last thirty years past he has resided in this county of the County of Ohio, from which Tyler was taken.

That he served the United States Three years certain, but he believes he served four years & some months, as a soldier of the Revolution and received a discharge from the service as having served during the war, from Lieutenant Colonel VanDyke, which discharge, according to the best of his recollection he received after Lord Cornwallis was taken, which if correct, would make his service more than four years from the time he entered the same as Cornwallis was taken in the fall of 1781.

That by an act of the Legislature of New York he was in common with others who had served during the war entitled to 100 acres of land as a donation from the Government of the said State of New York, to be located in the Northern part of this state, which claim he sold to a land speculator by the name of Seth Sherwood, Senr, then an old man, & to enable him to get the land, he gave him his discharge; Sherwood died soon after & he never received a cent for his hundred acre claim nor has he since been enabled to regain his discharge.

That he was entitled by an Act of Congress to 500 acres of land, also as he understood at the time as a donation or bounty, for his services which claim he sold to one David S. Sanford, whose obligation for the purchase money therefor is annexed hereunto, on account of which he has never received a cent.

Sometime after he sold to Sanford he seen said Sanford in prison confined for some criminal offence; Sanford then informed him, that he had got the 500 acres of land & that it had been executed for a debt of his own & sold & that so soon after his liberation, as he could he would pay him therefor.

That since that, he has never seen or heard of said Sanford, that he does not know whether he told him the truth about the land or not, that he has no other documentary evidence & that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. (Signed) William Bennett

Sworn to, and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Bazel Riggs, J. Peace, Isaac Larue.