

# Many in area link to Benjamin West

By MRS. SYBIL McRAY

A pioneer settler of Hall County was Benjamin West, a Revolutionary War veteran, and many of his descendants are present-day residents of Northeast Georgia.

In 1827 Benjamin West, a resident of Hall, was eligible to participate in one of the Georgia Land Lotteries. He drew land in Lee County and the property was granted to him March 20, 1827. However, the fortunate veteran remained in Hall County, and he either later sold the property, passed it on to children, or lost it for price of taxes.

Benjamin West Senr, age 75, Pvt. N.C. Mil., was placed on the Georgia Pension Rolls Jan 17, 1834, and his declaration of service record was recorded in his home county of Hall.

"State of Georgia, Hall County. On this 18th December 1832, personally appeared in open court before John Nichols, Samuel Finley, and Thomas L. Tate, judges of the Inferior Court and new setting (sitting) on an Inferior Court BENJAMIN WEST, Senr, a resident of Hall and State of Ga. aged 73 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

"That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Deponent states that sometime in the year 1777 he substituted in the place of his father and served a two months tour of duty under Capt. McDowell and Lt. Nail the regiment to which he belonged was commanded by

An amendment to the Declaration stated "...saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods aforementioned and in the following grades sometime in the year 1777...he was to have received 40 shillings per month as bounty money and everything furnished except shoes, but never received any part of the money..."

The 25th of March 1844, the widow of Benjamin West Sr. applies for benefit of the Act of Congress of 7th July 1838, entitled "Act granting half pay and pension to certain widows." An original certificate is produced which is sworn to be a true copy.

"WAR DEPARTMENT — Revolutionary Claim. I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States of the 7th June 1832, Benjamin West Sr. of the State of Georgia who was a private in the war of the Revolution is entitled to receive \$23.30 per annum during his natural life commencing on the 4th March 1831 and payable semi-annually on the 4th March and 4th of Sept. in every year. This 17th Jan. 1834. Lew-las Secy of War."

The widow further declares "...that the aforesaid Benjamin West died on the 25th of November 1842 in Hall County, Ga...that she was married to the said Benjamin West on the 12th June 1788 by Joseph Redding a Minister of the Gospel in Abbeville District, S.C., where they resided for the space of 35 years or more before moving to Hall County...Nancy (X) her

## Hall County History

Col. Brevard, that he lived in Lincoln County, N.C. at the time he went into service and was marched to the head of the Cataba River against the Indians and at the expiration of said term of two months he enlisted for a six months tour under the above named Capt. and marched to Guilford Courthouse, N.C., and from thence to the King's Mountain and reached the battleground about half an hour after the engagement was over.

"Deponent further states that the Regiment to which he belonged was attached to a Brigade commanded by General Clark having served five months, was discharged by Col. Brevard which discharge is lost or destroyed. Deponent says he was born in the state of Maryland, Baltimore County. That he has no record of his age. That he resided in South Carolina and Georgia ever since the Revolutionary War...Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Benjamin (R. his mark) West, Senr. Thos. L. Tate J.I.C."

James Whitten, a clergyman residing in Hall county, attested to the validity of the declaration of Benjamin West. "...here-

mark) West". Sworn and subscribed to by David H. McCleskey Justice of Inferior Court, Hall County, Ga., who further certified that from bodily infirmity Mrs. Nancy West was unable to attend court.

Mrs. Sarah Hawkins, aged 70 years, a resident of Hall, after being duly sworn stated "...that she was acquainted with Benjamin and Nancy West before they were legally married", she also named as the first born of the West couple, a daughter, Mary.

James Hawkins personally appeared and "saith that he has been acquainted with aforesaid Benjamin and Nancy West from his first recollection, the space of 45 years or more past." He also stated that he was acquainted with the children of Benjamin and Nancy and believed the leaf taken from the Bible and Hymn Book to be a true record of the children's ages. (This Bible record has not been located)

The settlement of the estate of Benjamin West presents a clue as to the names of the children. "Know all men by these presents that we Benjamin West (Jr), John West, Ira Gaines, Henry Little, Joseph Kizer and John Holcomb

participate in one of the Georgia Land Lotteries. He drew land in Lee County and the property was granted to him March 20, 1827. However, the fortunate veteran remained in Hall County, and he either later sold the property, passed it on to children, or lost it for price of taxes.

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James Whitten, a clergyman residing in Hall county, attested to the validity of the declara- tion of Benjamin West "...here- by certify that we are well ac- quainted with Benjamin West Sr. who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration. that we believe him to be 73 years of age, that he is re- spected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. James Whitten M.G."

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