

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN KITCHEN

Note, an individual presumed sharing Benjamin's kinship line, named James Kitchen died –intestate, 1764 at Southampton County formed 1749 from Isle of Wight and Nansemond. Listed also, within Southampton County death records with James, above, are Thomas Kitchen -intestate, 1768 and [(Half-Bro) Benjamin -will, 1778]; source, Virginia Wills and Administrations 1632-1800 publ. 1990 Genealogical Publ. Co., Inc., Baltimore, pg 248.

A search of www.fold3.com, Revolutionary War records found a pension claim, S31797 for Benjamin F. Kitchen filed at Allen Parish, Alexandria, Louisiana (LA) based upon his military service enlistment during Jan or Feb 1776 for the 10th North Carolina (NC) Rgt. The petitioner served at various intervals until Gen'l Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, amounting to approx. 27 months total service; see,

<https://www.fold3.com/image/26169285>

A biographical sketch, above, of pensioner Benjamin Franklin Kitchen (Sr) by A. D. Hiller, Executive Asst. to the Administrator of the US Pension Office, WDC was furnished to Robert Hunter Pierson, 1927 Albert Street, Alexandria, LA on 17 Mar 1938. It identified that Benjamin was born in 1763 at Southampton County, VA; however, his parents were unnamed. His service at the young age of 13, was noted as a (NC) Whig militiaman in Capt Wm. Brinkley's company raised for [Edgecombe County (formed later as Nash) NC] of Col Wm Alston's Rgt. Kitchen's initial muster resulted with his company and Rgt joining MajGen'l Richard Caswell's command before the engagement for the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on 27 Feb 1776; source, Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters –Pension Appl. of Benj. Kitchen S31797; see,

<http://revwarapps.org/>

Note to reader: the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge like the 9 Dec 1775 battle of the Great Bridge 12 mi. south of Norfolk, VA and later at Ramsour's Mill on 18 Jun 1776 (Lincolnton, NC) helped develop the reputation of the (backcountry) "shirtmen" for their marksmanship; source, Before They Were Heroes at King's Mountain by Randell Jones, 2011, publ. by Daniel Boone Footsteps Winston-Salem, NC, pgs 3, 117-124, 270-280.

Benjamin Kitchen recalled that he mustered in early Nov 1776 in Whig militia companies beginning with a march to Halifax, NC for Capt(s) Wm Lewis and, later John Baker, both served; Col James Hogun's 10th (NC) Rgt, then marched north to Baltimore, Philadelphia and arrived at Trenton after the 25 Dec 1776 battle.

Kitchen stated that upon the Rgt's arrival, he replaced Lieut Barnes as Kitchen had previously been made the company Sergeant. He was ordered to remain behind with his unit proceeding to West Point on the Hudson River. He remained as a subaltern officer at Trenton in charge of the sick of his Rgt – with orders to march them on to headquarters as soon as the physicians should pronounce them fit for duty. After 6 weeks they marched to rejoin their (NC) Rgt defend West Point, NY. After a few days however, the Rgt was ordered to return to Philadelphia barracks to overwinter. The Rgt during Apr or May 1777 marched by land to Head of Elk and returned over water to Norfolk, and thence to Halifax, NC and discharged after 9 months service.

During Nov 1777, Kitchen re-enlisted under the command of Col (s) Thomas Hunter of Nash County, (NC) Rgt and later with Col Gideon Lamb and marched to Charleston, where after a month or two the siege was begun. Gen'l Lincoln before the surrender there, gave orders that all of the militia or state troops that chose to risk their escape from the siege of Sullivan's Island– do so, by crossing the river overnight, thence the Rgt returned home after 7 or 8 months.

On 1 Jul 1780, Col Thomas Hunter (NC) Rgt. of Militia raised a Troop of Horse for Nash County, and Benjamin was made Capt and his company was attached to Gen'l Richard Caswell near Fish Dam Ford on the Broad River in NC and Georgia (GA). His company fought in the 16 Aug 1780 battle of Camden, and Benjamin was wounded slightly from shrapnel. Several (NC) Troops of Horse were combined for three months before their discharge and return home. Until the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, his Troop of Horse served 9 months and he as their Captain and the balance of the time as subaltern officer, and soldier in NC. Benjamin removed after the Revolutionary War to reside at Washington County, GA.

In 1798, Benjamin removed to Natchez District, Adams County-- Mississippi (MS) Territory on 7 Apr 1798, formed from Georgia. His son, Benjamin Franklin Kitchen, Jr had joined the 1st MS Territorial Volunteers commanded by Gen'l Ferdinand L. Claiborne, a brother of Wm. C. C. Claiborne the (26 Mar 1804) Governor of Orleans Territory; source, A Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813-14 by Gregory A Waselkov, 2006, publ by The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, Treaty of Washington, pgs 29, 59 & 60.

Benjamin F. Kitchen (Jr) served in the Creek War and died of disability incurred during the siege of New Orleans. Benjamin F., Jr, was granted Warrant 47613 for 160 acres of bounty land (Creek War) under the Act of 3 Mar 1855. Another son, Wm H. Kitchen was living in 1832, according to A. D. Hiller, US Pension Office, WDC and this son, Wm H. stated that Benjamin (Sr) had 4 or 5 young children by his 2nd marriage to Lavica Wilson about 1822 at Catahoula Parish, Louisiana (LA). Benjamin died at age 94 in Rapides Parish and was buried adjacent to his son Benjamin F. Kitchen, Jr's marked vault.

Benjamin F. Kitchen (Sr) was buried at Rapides Cemetery, Jackson Street Bridge, Pineville, LA mapped at Latitude: 31.316289 and Longitude: -92.440015

Death of Major Kitchen.
DEATH has taken off one of the last of the Revolutionary heroes, one of that band of Patriots whose valor achieved our Independence and whose steady and undeviating adherence to Republican principles have fixed the basis of American liberty as firm as adamant,—MAJOR BENJAMIN KITCHEN is no more.— He died at his residence in this Parish on Monday last at the advanced age of more than ninety years. He was an ensign in the Continental Army at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered his sword to General Washington. He fought gallantly at the battle of the Cowpens, was one of the Heroes of Monmouth, and was severely wounded in a desperate engagement with the Indians at Flint River. Major Kitchen was one of the early settlers of this country, where he has raised a large family; his whole life was one continued series of patriotic devotion to his country. Gifted by nature with an iron constitution and a sound discriminating mind he was emphatically rich in all those virtues which adorn a patriot, a citizen and a soldier. His memory will long be cherished by the lovers of their country.



The Red River Republican (Alexandria, LA),
28 Apr 1849, p 2, 4th column