



the first installment only has been paid to the general Government. That he is a planter 56 years old tomorrow that he has a wife and three children living with him the whole females, wife about 54, Anna, about 15, Frances about 14, Jinney about 12 years old.

S/ Benj. French

The State of Alabama, Limestone County

In the circuit Court aforesaid County it being a court of record created so by statute having jurisdiction unlimited in amount & power to fine and imprison &c the honorable Richard Ellis Presiding on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 1824 came Benjamin French aged about [illegible number, looks like 110] years a resident of said County personally into open Court being first duly sworn according to law made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 & 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 & the first March 1823 that he the said Benjamin French in September 1780 he enlisted in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Valentine [Harrison] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Green in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment that he served faithfully in the said time from the time of his enlistment till they 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1782 when he was discharged from said service at Salisbury in the State of North Carolina that his name has been placed on the pension list and dropped therefrom on account of his property and in pursuance of the act of the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820 the said Benjamin French made oath further that he was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any other manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereof so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any other person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed & by him subscribed that since making his former schedule one of the horses therein mentioned died & the other 10 with the hogs and cattle, except a few hogs killed for family use have been sold by the Sheriff of Limestone County on and execution in favor of Thompson Wilson against Benjamin West and said Benjamin French his security that said West gave up the land bought from Ashe McClusky to him as indemnity but land had fallen so much that he could only get a mare and \$20 for the certificate and the mare died shortly afterwards that he yet owns his behalf quarter section of land mentioned in his former schedule which was purchased from the US at six dollars & \$.50 an acre and one installment only paid further credit being taken for the other three installments that his wife aged about 50 his daughter about 22 & his son about 10 years are all the members of his family that live with him that he and his wife are about as stout and healthy as is common for persons of their age to be that he has no hope of ever being able to pay the balance due on his land unless he shall be replaced on the pension list that he has no property or means of support except that is fully disclosed herein unless it be his bidding and wearing apparel.

Sworn to in open Court 7 September 1824,

S/ Benja. French

S/ W. T. Gamble

Schedule

Rent corn due this fall from Jesse French 28 Barrels worth	
2 Barrels an acre for about 14 acres	28.00
Crop of corn at home a rented place supposed	
to be equal to 50 Barrels	50.00
Crop of cotton not exceeding 2500 [illegible word]	
in the seed worth not exceeding \$3 pr cent 2500 cent.	75.00
2 Ploughs worth 4 each & 2 hoes worth \$1 each	10.00
1 Jointer 1 fore plain worth \$1 each	2.00
1 Jack plain & 1 smoothing plain worth \$75 cents each	1.50

1 Rabbit beading & plowing plain worth \$25 cents each	.75
1 old hand saw & 1 old tenant saw worth	2.00
1 Turning laith & chisels & 2 ploughs	2.25
1 Axe worth about	1.50
not exceeding 10 debts due from persons able to pay	<u>10.00</u>
	\$183.20

He owes

1 <sup>st</sup> Rent for the place he lives on at \$2 an acre for the cleared land about 14 acres	28.00
2 To Dr. Davie for medical Services	12.25
3 About \$60 to other persons	<u>60.00</u>
	\$100.25

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 7 September 1824 in Open court.  
S/ W. T. Gamble, Clk Circuit Court &c S/ Benj. French

[Benjamin West gave an affidavit explaining his bed to Thompson Wilson and Benjamin French's liability as his indemnity.]

[On June 7, 1855, Catharine French, 78, of Limestone County Alabama made application for a widow's pension under the act of February 3, 1853 stating that she was the widow of Benjamin French a pensioner, that she married to said French on or about November 10, 1822 [file shows September 23, 1823] in Limestone County and that said Benjamin died in Lauderdale County, Alabama on March 20, 1848.]

[facts in file: Catharine's name prior to her marriage to Benjamin French was Catherine Shumaker [Shoemaker]; Benjamin was born November 28, 1764; Catherine had at least one child, a son, prior to her marriage to Benjamin; several dates appear in the file for the date of death of Benjamin, March 6, 1847, March 21, 1847, March 20, 1848, March 26, 1848, or in March 1849]