

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

South Carolina documents pertaining to Benjamin Guerard SCS4
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

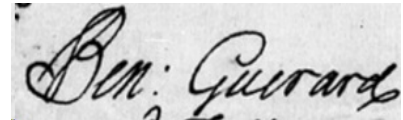
[The following are from Legislative Records in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and found online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=283989>]

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen

I send you a Letter from that active Officer General [William] Henderson, to assist my recommendation to form a Company of Twenty well mounted Rangers for Six Months, to be commanded by Capt [Jacob] Rumph and a Lieutenant, with an Allowance of Provisions, Forage, Ammunition and Pay of ten or twelve Dollars per Month to ease the Subscription the General mentions.

I [one or two undeciphered words] to submit to your Consideration whether a Reward by Proclamation to take such Ringleaders & common Disturbers of Mankind as Cunningham [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] & others, wou'd not have a good Tendency.

22^d Feb'y 1783



/Copy/ Santee 17 Feb'y 1783

Sir [His Excellency the Governor] I am just returned from the Congaree where I have been in search of those banditti of Theives from St. Augustine. I have to inform your Excellency they are still in the Neighbourhood of Orangeburgh; a party of the Militia under Capt Rumph came up with them the other day, killed one, wounded another and retook five horses that they had stole; and the party under Major [Derrill] Hart came up with Cunningham in the Cruel Act of Murdering of three waggoners that was coming to Town, he rescued two, one they had killed before the Major came up, the person kill'd was by the name of Melvin Commissary to Gen Picken's [Andrew Pickens] Brigade; they were immediately Charg'd but the Horses proved too good the Chase lasted ten Miles, four of the most inferior horses were taken by Major Hart, the Men saved themselves by quitting the Horses and taking to the Swamps, it is impossible they can remain in the Country, as there is more than a hundred men in small parties pursuing them, and has Dogs that follows the tract very well.

No Exertion shall be wanting to extirpate those people out of the Country.

The Gentlemen of the Congaree & Tracts adjacent thereto being sensible of the exhausted State of the Publick funds, are making very liberal subscription to raise twenty well mounted Cavalry to serve for six Months, to be Commanded by Capt Rumph, an Officer whose Exertion on every occasion deserves the highest Commendation. The People request to know if the men are raised whether the publick will find Arms, Ammunition, Provisions & Forge; if this Company is rais'd, I flatter myself it will have the most salutary Effect.

I shall inform your Excellency from time to time of what passes in the Country.

I have the Honor to be Your Excellency/ most Obedient Humble Serv't

Wm Henderson

NOTE: Benjamin Guerard (1739-1788) was a lawyer and member of the South Carolina Provincial Assembly from 1765 to 1768, and he served in the SC House of Representatives in 1778. He subsequently served as a Private in the militia until captured at the surrender of Charleston on 12 May 1780 and imprisoned on the ship *Packhorse*. He offered his estate to the British to pay for maintenance of his fellow prisoners, but the offer was declined because the estate was in territory controlled by the Patriots. Guerard was eventually released on parole and exiled to Philadelphia, but he made his way back to South Carolina

and served in the state Senate in 1782. Soon after the British evacuated Charleston (14 Dec 1782) and less than a month before writing the above letter, he became Governor and served for two years. Later he served in the SC House of Representatives.