

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

Virginia documents pertaining to William Berry VAS2499
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#).]

Fauquier County, To Wit,

Peter Cox personally appeared before the subscriber, a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, and made oath, that he was well acquainted with William Berry, father of Benjamin Berry and Jesse Berry. That he oftentimes heard said Wm Berry speak of his having served throughout the Revolutionary War as an officer, and he has also heard his Father who has been dead about 16 years (Presley Cox), repeatedly say that he knew of said Berry's service in the Revolutionary War. Said Cox further says that said Wm Berry died in the year 1810, he thinks probably in the month of August of that year. He says he is positive in his recollection that said Berry did not die since that time. Given under my hand the 12th day of May year 1821

Edward Shacktell

State of Virginia/ County of Fauquier, to wit.

Be it known that on this 10th[?] day of March 1830 before me a Justice of the peace in & for said County, personally appeared James Lyons [James Lyon S38159] of the aforesaid County & State a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States and made oath in due form of Law that about forty years ago he lived in the Town of Falmouth, County of Stafford & State aforesaid, that he was then & there acquainted with the family of a certain William Berry (whom he knew as an officer in the Revolution and was with at the siege of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] but of what grade he does not recollect, in the Virginia Line) that Benjamin Berry now of Fauquier County Va. then lived (a small boy) in the said family – that the said William acknowledged him to be his son & child & that he was so [undeciphered word] by him said Lyon and all acquainted with said William Berry & family

And the said Lyon further saith that s'd Wm Berry had several other children, to wit: Washington and Thomas P brothers of s'd Benjamin & that he is since informed that both Washington & Thomas are dead. And further he saith not

[signature illegible]

Fauquier County, State of Virginia, to Wit,

William Tomlin, Sen'r [S6261] of said County, in the seventy fifth year of his age, personally appeared before the subscriber, a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, and made oath, that he was a private under the immediate command of first, Captain John Chilton [BLWt519-300], and after his death (he was killed at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777]), under Captain John Blackwell [BLWt264-300] in the 3^d Virginia Regiment – that in December 1777 he reenlisted, at Valley Forge, in the Horse under Major Wm Washington [William Washington] in Col. Milan's [sic: Stephen Moylan] Regiment. He was then furloughed until the first of April 1778, when he and the other recruits were to rendezvous at Fredericksburg; on his arrival at Fredericksburg he met with William Berry whom this affiant persuaded to enlist in the same service, in the Horse, with this affiant, which the said Berry did. In a short time this affiant, said Berry and the other Horsemen were ordered to New Jersey, where this affiant was placed under the command of Capt. Moore [Nicholas Ruxton Moore W26275], and said Berry was put into Captain Heard's [John Heard S34395] company. Said Berry was forthwith made Quarter Master's Sergeant in which capacity said Berry served the full period of his enlistment to wit, for the space of three years, that being the term for which this affiant and the others reenlisted in the Horse. This affiant further states, that he and said Berry were allways together during the said three years and were finally discharged on the same day at Lancaster [PA] in 1780. The said Berry was the reputed father of Benjamin Berry, dec'd late of Warrenton, and furthermore saith not.

Given under my hand this 8th day of November 1832. C W Hunton

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Fauquier, Virg'a 22^d July 1831.

Dear Sir, I rec'd your letter of the 15 June; In it you state "that the papers on file in your office shew a full and regular transfer by Berry to Springer of the entire claim which Berry had on the Government for his Revolutionary services." "The transfer to Springer was made the 23^d May 1812 & the warrant issued for 2666²/₃ acres, the 5 Decb'r 1812."

I now enclose to you to be laid before the Executive, the testimony of sundry persons of great respectability proving that Berry died long before 1812, and of course the papers purporting to transfer his int. [interest] to S. [Springer] are not genuine. Mr. Benj'n Berry of this county, one of two surviving children of Berry requests me to lay the enclosed evidence before the Executive in order to procure a warrant for the land to which his father was entitled, and, so it will be necessary to procure a copy of the date of the pretended transfer to Springer by Berry, and of the warrant, please furnish them & with them lay the enclosed evidence before the Ex. as proof of the fraud as charged by B Berry. Truly yours

R Wallace

Sir [Gov. John Floyd] Land office at Richmond/ Aug 10 1831

In obedience to the request of Colo. Wallace I enclose the accompanying Documents

Should it be the pleasure of the Executive to reconsider the claim of Wm Berry it might be necessary to examine the original papers on file in this office, & in pursuance of which [undeciphered word] issued to Springer. one of the Clerks of the Land office can take those papers to the Council chambers at any time the Executive may have to use them

very res'lly, Sir,/ yr obt st/ W Selden

Fauquier, 26 October 1831.

To the Governor of Virginia, Sir,

Some months ago, I enclosed to the Register of the Land Office certain papers relating to the claim of the heirs of [blank] Berry, a Lieut and Quarter Master in the State Line in the Revolution, for land, due by the Commonwealth, with the request that he would furnish certain extracts from his office & lay the whole before the Executive, in order, that, as the fraud which would be apparent on reading the evidence, had been practiced on the Commonwealth in the procurement of a Grant or Patent for the land to which Berry was entitled, and now his heirs, some order might be taken by the Executive which would give to Berry's heirs the land which was due them, or which would place them in their proper position before the General assembly in case it should be necessary to apply to them. Be pleased to inform me what has been done, if anything, by the Executive Very Res'fy/ John Robt Wallace

Warrenton 1st Sept '32

Sir [Governor of Virginia], I enclose the affidavit of Wm Tomlin proving the service of Wm Berry as Quarter Master Sergeant in the Revolutionary War. At the request of his heirs, Benj'n Berry, &c, I lay this paper before you in connexion with those already on file in the Executive Department, in order to obtain the land to which he was entitled. As a Quarter Master Sergeant he was a subaltern officer, and I presume if there is no act specifying the rank of Quarter Master Sergeant, he will of course be entitled to the rank immediately under that of Quarter Master. The rank of the latter is not under that of Lieutenant.

Be please, Sir, to let me hear the result of the application, in order that it may be communicated to those interested, who, (except Benj'n Berry who resides at this place and is unable to leave his house,) live at some distance./ I am, Sir,/ very Resp'fily/ R. Wallace

Warrenton, 26 October '32

To the Executive of Virginia,/ Gentlemen,

As the counsel of the heirs of Wm Berry, dec'd, late a Quater Master's Sergeant in the

Revolutionary War, I submitted certain certificates to you, in order to obtain a Warrant for the land to which Berry was entitled. These certificates were given by Lyon, Cox, Tomlin, &c. and, as it is probable you may not have it in your power to decide on this claim before I shall be compelled to leave[?] Richmond, and as I shall be compelled to use them, or one or more of them in Washington, in order to obtain the pension to which Berry was entitled, (being his [undeciphered word]) I will thank you to send me copies of such papers as I may have filed in your office, or which either of the heirs, if either, may have filed in order to obtain the land of his ancestor.

If the claim of Mr. Berry's heirs has been decided be pleased to give me information of the fact
I am, gentlemen,/ with much respect/ R. Wallace