

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Bruce R1362

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } ss

County of Clark }

On this twenty-fourth day of December eight[een hundred] forty-two personally appear [page torn here and elsewhere at \*] undersign a justis of the piece of the County of Clark [\*] Bruce a resident in the County of Clark and State of Kentucky aged ninety years on the twenty sixth of March 1843 who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836: That she is the widow of Benjamin Bruce who was a soldier of of the Revolutionary war as a militiaman: she states that he served two towers of six monthes each in Colonel Reuben Linsey's Ridgment [sic: Reuben Lindsay's regiment] and Captain [\*] Davis Company and one tower at Sharlottsvill [sic: Charlottesville] [\*] of Virginia at least one month. she states that her husband resided in the State of Virginia and County of Albemarl [sic: Albemarle] she does not recollect at this great length of time the year or the day of the month that he was draughted but she dos well recollect that it was the year that the Battles of Bunkershill and Brandywine was faught [sic: Bunker Hill, 17 Jun 1775; Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777]; that he was in both of the above named battles; she states that they mooved to Kentucky in the year of seventeen hundred and eighty-four and settled [\*] and he was called out against [\*] she states that he searved at least one month against the Indians. From her great age and loss of memory she cannot state positivly the particular dates when he went out but she recollect of his being out as stated above and that he had a discharge for one of the towers of six months; it was in a bag with some other papers the mise got to whar they war and destroyed it with the other papers.

She further declares that she was married to the said Benjamin Bruce on the twenty-sixth day of march seventeen hundred and seventy-three; that her husband, the aforsaid Benjamin Bruse died on the thirty-first day of December eighteen hundred and nine; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear [\*]ference to the proof hereto annexed She further states [\*] the record of her children [\*] of her husband's death in a bible which was burnt in Thornton Wills' house who married one of her daughters and that she was married in Albemarl County in the State of Virginia that her eldest daughter Susak [Sarah?] Gordon was born on the twenty-seventh of June seventeen hundred and seventy-six and Barnet and Elisabeth was born before the colose of the war but she cannot state the dates at this time she states that she had eight children but cannot [\*] any but the eldest it being the year that independence [\*] that [\*] recollect when it was born; the word interlined in the twenty second line on the first page the word when bloted in the twenty-fifth line her written over my in the tenth line on the second page before signing

N.B. After reflection she is of the opinion that the leaf of the Bible was torn out by Thornton Wills children and not burnt as stated by hir  
Milly herXmark Bruce

I Sarah Gorden aged sixty-seven state that I was small during the war of the Revolution but I recollect of my Father Benjamin Bruse was out in the war of the revoltion I recolect when my Father was out as a soldier of my Grand Father Jacob Waats coming to Fathers house and telling my Mother Milly Bruse to put the dog in celar and take care of the chickens that the Brittisk was coming I recollect going with my Mothe[\*]hin my Father was a soldier [\*] six months towers which was [\*] declaration I have often heard my Father and Mother speak of his searving in the war of the revolution I know they have lived together as husband and wife ever since my earliest recollection and I have never heard it douted but what they was legally married and she is the wid of Benjamin Bruse and have raised the number of children stated

by her and she has remained a widow ever since the death of my Father I have understood the [\*]royed by Thornton [\*] have examined her declaration and believe it contains the truth; I have heard my Father speak of being at the battle of Brandywine Jacob Watts in the fifth line wife in the thirteenth line interlined before signing given from under my ha[\*] this 24th of December 1842

[signed] Sally Gorden

I Isom Lane [Isham Lane, pension application S13705] a resident of the County of Madison and State of Kentucky aged ninety years, state that I was acquainted with Benjamin Bruce of Albemarl County Virginia in the time of the revolutionary war, that he searved three towers, in the militia, in the war of the revolution I was with him in all three of his towers, we ware in Captain Johnson's Company and Colnel Thomas Barbour's ridgment, this tower we ware at Richman and Gloster [sic: Richmond and Gloucester]. one tower under Captain Edmund Shacelford [sic: Edmund Shackelford] and Colonel Barbour's ridgment this tower we also was ordered to march to Richman Virginia, the third tower I do not at this time recollect the naime of the Captain but this tower was in Colonel Linsey's ridgment this tower we marched to Little York and was there at the taking of Lord Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781], all three of the above tours ware three months each, he might have searved other towers I was in the regular army a part of the tim, but I know that he searved nine month in the war of the revolution for I was with him I knew him befor the revolution and I knewe him while he was in the army I also knew him after the close of the revolution I am unable to tell all the dates of each tower I recollect that he searved two tower in one year I recolect that it war near the close of the war as it was after I had been discharged from the regular servis given from under my hand this 27th day of May 1848 I further state that he was a marriad man

Isom hisXmark Lane

NOTE:

The file includes a copy of the will of Benjamin Bruce signed on 6 Dec 1809 and probated 22 Jan 1810 with the following bequests:

to his widow Milly Bruce "the negro man Charles and the negro woman Lets and my plantation and all my loose property during her life and then which ever child the two old negroes is willing to live with they are to take them and pay each of my children seven dollars a pease so long as they are capable of labor and then the children is jointly to maintain them so long as they shood live"

"My plantation and whol property then is to be sold and the mony Equally divided amongst all my deer children"

"I give and bequeath unto my daughter Sally Gordan a negro boy and twenty dollars"

"I Give and bequeath to my son Barnet Bruse a negro boy Jerry"

"I give and bequeath a negro girl Winey when she gives up the negro name Isaac to my unto my daughter Elizabeth Haggard"

"I give and bequeth... unto my daughter Nancy Wills a negro gal by the name of Fan[\*]"

"I give and bequeith unto my son Sustron Bruse a negro boy name Isack and a head a cow"

"I give & bequith to my son Derrel Bruse a negro girl name Jin & a horse and a Cow"

"I give and bequith to my Daughter Agnis Wills... a negro girl by the name of Lin"

"I give and bequith to my son Ely Bruse a negro girl by the name of Line & and a hors - sadle and bridle and a bead and firniture and a cow to receive it at the age of twenty one"

The certification of Sally Gorden's declaration states that Milly Bruce was a member of the Baptist church.