

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Guthrey R21672

f25VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/1/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Woodford County: SS

On this the 4th day of March 1843 Personally appeared before me John Steele an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Mr. Benjamin Guthrey a resident of the County of Woodford & State of Kentucky aged nearly seventy-nine years – and who is by reason of Bodily infirmity prevented from appearing in Open Court. And who after being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States during the War of the Revolution as a drafted Militia Private for a tour of three months under Lieutenant Billy Daniel [William Daniel] and Captain William Meredith and marched from Cumberland County Virginia and rendezvoused at Powntan [Powhatan] Court House and marched from there to Richmond and from Richmond to Morbins hill [Malvern Hills] about 15 miles below Richmond on the North side of the James River and was stationed there and remained some several weeks – and guarded the country extending from there to Shirley Hundred and would go from Morbins Hill to Shirley Hundred every 3 or 4 days and often every day or two to see whether the British had landed and committed cruelties. The British shipping was at Shirley Hundred, and that his Company remained in that portion of Virginia until the tour terminated which terminated in March 1781 and which commenced he thinks in December previous and during which there were militia Regiments from various parts of Virginia that were in the service below Richmond towards the Coast. And that Declarant along to Colonel Call's Regiment during said tour if he is not mistaken and he remembers that Colonel Matthews [Thomas Mathews] & Bowyers regiments from what was called the backwoods or over the mountains was in service. And that when the term of service of his Company had expired Captain Dick Allen [Richard Allen] and Major DeClawman [Christian Charles de Klauman] came with another Company from Cumberland County to relieve our Company, and that he declarant being desirous to continue in service, did volunteer in Captain Dick Allen's Company to serve another tour and did serve it out, and which commenced immediately on the termination of the first, and during which we marched all over that portion of Virginia which is on the James and York Rivers, and Declarant belonged to a detached party which was sent over the River in Surry County at a Place called Cabin Point where there were many cabins made of pine logs, and at this place we remained about two weeks, and then returned back to the Army, and also during the second tour he was one of Company commanded by Colonel Call, that at a place called Welton on the James River some distance below Richmond succeeded in taking three Barges that were under the British Colors and which were called Refugees and to commit all sorts of things –

would even rip open bed tick [??]¹ of the Citizens own shores and throw out the feathers and carry off the ticks, and we Colonel Call's men lay in ambush for them and took all 3, and the contents were sold and given to the soldiers except that portion of the plunder which some of the citizens came and claimed, and there were two Negroes who were also sold. And at this place Welton Colonel Duval who was a Major and promoted went up to the crier [crier] of the Negroes and struck him with his sword on the head and spit his knee pretty bad and Colonel Call's Commission was then taken from him, and after this affair they left Welton and marched over and through the country below and through Hanover County and General Lafayette commanded the whole troops and would try and prevent the Generals Arnold [Benedict Arnold] and Philips [William Philips] from over spreading the Country with such men as they did and General Lafayette did chase them below Williamsburg as far down as Petersburg – and after which the American Army crossed the Rapidan River and went up towards Culpeper County and on our return crossed at the Raccoon Ford and went to Hobbs Hole and there was stationed a while, and during which tour they were militia Regiments from various parts of Virginia. Colonel Campbell commanded one, Colonel Slaughter he thinks commanded one. General Matthews also commanded and General Wayne's [Anthony Wayne's] Regular troops were with hours during my service, and General Lafayette's Regular troops were with hours all of my second tour of three months – and I well recollect General Mughenburgh [Peter Muhlenberg] who rode a large white Stud horse, and he saved the life of a man at Welton who was made [to] run the gauntlet for a bad act – and after which the soldiers would have drowned him if it had not been for Muhlenberg. And this tour commenced in March and ended in June and at the termination of which Declarant had first served 6 months – when more men came down from Cumberland to serve as a militia man, and one man by the name of The Carter one of the declarant's Father's neighbors and a mamed [maimed] man, hired Declarant to serve out his tour of three months which Declarant undertook to do, and after serving some weeks was taken sick and sent to the hospital and there remained some short time, and things were conducted so badly in the hospital that Captain Meredith who knew Declarant's Father and his family well obtained a furlough for him and had him taken to a country house where he stayed until he recovered and then joined the Army again and completed his tour – and during which he was of the men who guarded General Lafayette's marcee [marquee], when the several thousand French troops landed at old James Town – and during which the Americans were at Williamsburg and all through the Country South of James River and also above the River – and during which tour he was at Shocko Hill [Shockoe Hill] under widow Sourel's coal Pits [perhaps the Midlothian coal pits] in Chesterfield County – and when said tour terminated General Lafayette and General Wayne had Cornwallis cooped up at little York but he had not surrendered and Declarant had served upwards of nine months in actual hard service including the time he was sick – and when his last tour terminated he then went back to Cumberland County to his home which he had left in December and had not seen since, and the time he returned was about, or after the first of October 1781 – and upon his return home his Father² was a Captain in Cumberland County, and had made up a Company and was preparing to join the Army and owing to his Feeble health and disease which had already overtaken him, he was unable to March and a man by the name of Benjamin Overstreet of Prince Edward County filled his place as Captain and Declarant had on his return home again

¹ *bed tick*

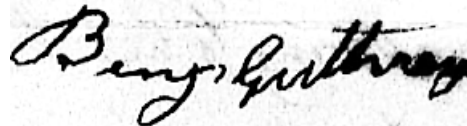
² Gwathmey lists a Militia captain from Cumberland County named Alexander Guttery who was commissioned in April 1781. This MAY be the declarant's father.

volunteered for another tour and in his Father's Company and marched with the Company and in the same under Captain Overstreet and ___ for three days on their journey to Little York when they were informed of the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] to General Washington and when assured of the fact they the whole company returned back to Cumberland County Virginia, and from the time he volunteered in said Company to serve another tour of three months until he returned back to Cumberland County was full two weeks, he was considered in service or actual service, mustering, preparing for starting & afterwards marching off. Thus making in all about ten months of Actual Service or near the same. He further declares that he resided in Cumberland County Virginia when he entered the service and that he was drafted as a Private for the first tour of service of three months – and volunteered for the second tour of service of three months and was a substitute for The Carter for the third tour of three months, and faithfully served out the tours out the last of which terminated in October 1781 – and the first commenced in December previous. And for the fourth tour he volunteered under his Father Alexander Guthrey and served about two weeks of the same in the Company but Benjamin Overstreet was the Commander as his Father had taken sick – and when he volunteered in this last tour he volunteered for three months. He further declares that he has no documentary evidence in support of his claim except a record of his age which is herewith filed – and also declares that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State. There are three defasures [erasures?] and one interlineation in the foregoing.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me the undersigned Justice of the peace.

S/ J. Steele, JP

S/ Benj. Guthrey



[Wiley Edwards and Fielding Edwards both members of the United Baptist Church of Woodford County Kentucky gave their testimony as to the character of the veteran and his reputation as a soldier of the revolution.]

I John Steele an acting Justice of the peace in & for the County of Woodford State of Kentucky hereby certify I propounded the following interrogatories to Benjamin Guthrey the foregoing Declarant and applicant and who answered them as herein after set forth.

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Orange County State of Virginia in the year of our Lord 1764

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have a record of my age and which is filed in my foregoing Declaration

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I resided in Cumberland County Virginia when I was called into service I resided in Cumberland until I came to Fayette County Kentucky which was in 1783 and have resided in Fayette and Woodford County up to this day.

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was drafted for the first tour of service, I volunteered for the second and was a substitute for the third and a substitute for The Carter and was a volunteer for the fourth.

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. General Lafayette, General Wayne, General Muhlenberg, and the French troops were the regular troops who were with the troops where I served and Colonel Duval's, Colonel Matthews's and Colonel Slaughter's & Colonel Bowyers' militia Regiments were the militia regiments where I served or were with our Company of troops. Some of the circumstances of my service are as follows – I was drafted in December 1780 went to Richmond and from Richmond to Morbins Hill and remained several weeks and would go to Shirley Hundred and I belonged to Colonel Call's Regiment – and I volunteered for the second tour of service with Dick Allen and Major DeClawman and marched over the Counties which [indecipherable word] James & York rivers, and was in a company at Welton that took three Barges and the contents of which were sold and Colonel Duval struck a man on the head with his sword and nearly killed him – and drove Arnold & General Philips down to Petersburg – and crossed the Rapidan River & recrossed at the raccoon Ford was at Hobbs Hole. He served as a substitute for The Carter and was taken sick and recovered and was a guard of General Lafayette's Marcee at the time the French troops at old James Town – he served out the tour returned home and volunteered after the first of October about 8th with his Father for another tour and marched 3 days, and on being informed that Cornwallis had surrendered we returned home.

Question [6th] Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I received my discharges from my service I think one they were signed by my officers and I have lost them all.

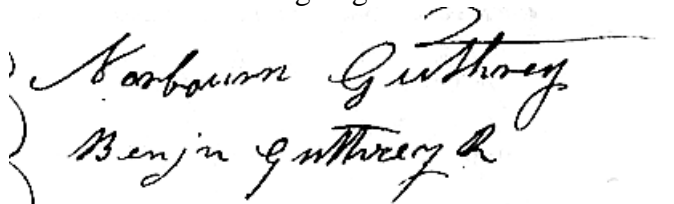
He further declares that the reason for his not making an earlier application for a Pension is that his cousin the Honorable Richard M Johnson promised and desired to attend to his application but he has never had time to prepare his papers for him in order to make his application and he now humbly prays to be enrolled on the roll of the Revolutionary Pensioners by virtue of the said act of the 7th of June 1832.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the date aforesaid

S/ J. Steele, JP

S/ Benj. Guthrey

[Norbourn Guthrey and Benjamin Guthrey, Jr. gave testimony that they are the children of the claimant; that since their infancy they have heard their father's statements regarding his service as reflected in the foregoing declaration.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The top signature is 'Norbourn Guthrey' and the bottom signature is 'Benjamin Guthrey Jr'. Both signatures are enclosed in a large, hand-drawn bracket on the left side.

[Note: The veteran later petitioned the United States Congress for a pension and in the documents relating to that petition, he recites his services substantially identically as they are stated in his declaration. I have elected not to transcribe that document as I did not see any new details relating to his service in that petition.]

[p 2: family record:

Benjamin Guthrey son was born August 1764 and married July 25th, 1786

BIRTHS.

Benjamin Guthrey
son was born August
17th 1764 and mar-
ried July 25 1786