

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

Pension Application of Henry Banta R480

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Ky            } SS

Bourbon County    }

On this 28 day of Nov. 1833 personally appeared before me D. O. Rickart a Justice and Judge of the county court for the county aforesaid Henry Banty residing in the county aforesaid & State aforesaid aged 72 years on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January next. Who 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 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

That he entered the services of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He states he was born on the 23<sup>d</sup> day of January 1762 in the county of Sussex in the state of New jersey. Lived there till twelve years at that age he moved with his Father to the state of Pennsylvania York County. In this county he states he lived till Eighteen years old at this age he states he started to move to Kentucky. And having with difficulty reached Ky owing to the great number of hostile Savages which romed[?] the wilderness at that time. He states he moved in the fall of 1779 as he knows he was 18 years old the January following. He states that the first place he pretended[?] to stop after reaching Ky was at Beargrass at the Dutch Station about seven miles from the fall of Ohio [see endnote]. After his arrival at this place he states that much excitement existed at this time (which was in the month of April) 1780 (about the fifteenth) owing to the Indians having attacked some two or three of the forts situated in Ky. It became necessary that every man in the state should perform actual service. In the above month and day thereof (to wit 15<sup>th</sup> April 1780) he states he Volunteered in capt Hills [possibly Hardy Hill's] company of Spies & rangers. Lieutenant James Welch for a term of twelve months at the Station above named determined to assist his country and in saving the innocent women & children from the tomahawk and scalping knife. He accordingly was attached to the capt's company aforesaid and stationed as a guard at the station. And during this twelve months he says he was called out of the fort by authority of our officer under the direction of the Government to perform an expedition to the state of Ohio against the Indians at Pickiyou in 1780 [sic: Piqua]. At this place we had a battle and killed some fifteen of the Indians & he thinks we lost about the same number. This Expedition was performed under G. R. Clark [George Rogers Clark] as General. He states also continued under Hill as Capt. He states that the battle took place some time in the month of Sept 1780 [sic: 8 Aug 1780] He states that so soon as the Battle was over or as soon as they could they returned back to the station to guard as formerly under the command of the officer under whome he first volunteered. And there continued as guard, spy & Ranger to protect the few inhabitants from the ravages of the ruthless savage untill the spring of 1781 during this years service he says he was wounded in the shoulder very badly having performed active service during one year from the time he entered the service untill discharged by his capt. But thinks he rec'd. no written discharge. From the Station above named he says he went to the Dutch Station near Harrodsburgh [sic: Harrodsburg] at the end of the time above named. There he says he was still compelled to continue in the service either as a drafted soldier or a volunteer. He says he however chose to volunteer which he did in Capt. Joseph Kingcade's [Joseph Kincaid's] company of spies and rangers. He states that here he was immediately put to building and forting against the Indians. He says he was called out by his Capt. who succeeded Kingcade (he having been killed at the battle of the Blueicks [Blue Licks, 19 Aug 1782]) by the name if Irvine [probably John Irvine] on an expedition to Leestown against the Indians. And gone something like a month and returned back to the station as above named as a guard under the same officers under whome he served on this campaign. (Kingcade having been killed as above named). And here he says he remained as a guard & Spy having ranged through the country from this fort untill the end of the year in

the spring of 1782.\* And was regularly discharged by his capt. But he thinks he rec'd. no written discharge so it is he has none now. He states that in the Spring of 1782 the Indians still continued to ravage the country and occasionally attack our forts. \*He states that there was a campaign performed during this year's services to Denton's Station [on Shawnee Run in present Mercer County] on which he went under his officer above named. This was done in 1782 in the [illegible word] of March. (this he had forgotten) In the Spring of 1783. He state he again [illegible word] his services by Volunteering under the command of Capt Irvin as we were compeled to perform the service of guard ranger and spy he again volunteered in the company above named for during that year at the station above stated and was by his capt stationd at the fort as a guard to protect the women & children from the fury of the savages. But hapy for the Country the Indians had nearly all left our Country & left us to enjoy the Wilderness alone. He states that it was one continual warfare with the Indians from the time he came to the country in the Spring of 1780 untill the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783. He states that putting all his Services together it would amount to three years guarding spying & ranging as we were compeled to military service for self protection as well as the protection of our fellow citizens

He now states as he has done that he was born on 23 Jan 1762. He says he has a record of his age & it makes him 72 next Jan. He states as he has done that he was living in Ky when he was called to the service at the several stations above named. From Jefferson and Mercer counties [then the County of Kentucky in Virginia]. He says he served as a volunteer in all the above Tours of duty. He says he had no opportunity to form any acquaintance with regular officers. He says he well remembers Gen. Ray. Gen. G. R. Clark Col. Harod [sic: William Harrod] Maj'r. Harlin [sic: Silas Harlan] Maj'r. Bidger Col. [Hugh] McGary Col. J. Boman [sic: Joseph Bowman] Col. Trigg and many others. also Col. Boon [sic: Daniel Boone] He states he thinks he never did receive a written discharge so it is he has none at this time. He also says he never did have a commission but served the whole time as a private soldier. He says he knows of George Havens a Clergyman residing in his neighborhood and Sanford Allen residing in same who can testify as to his Character for veracity and his reputation in his neighbood as having been a soldier of the revolutionary war. He says he has no documentary evidence but knows of Henry Wilson [possibly pension application S30795] and James McCollough who can prove his services as a revolutionary soldier and served as he states above. He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforsaid. He says he lived in Ky Bourbon Couty.

[signed] Henry Banta

NOTE:

In 1780 Hendrick Banta, his son Henry Banta, and other Dutch settlers established Low Dutch Station, also known as New Holland Station, on the middle fork of Beargrass Creek in present Louisville.

Banta's claim was not allowed for the reason explained in a letter from the War Department Pension Office dated 29 Dec 1835: "The only service performed by him of that character provided for by the Act of Jun 7, 1832 was that under Gen. Clark to the Pickaway towns. That tour occupied only about two months and was in the fall of 1782, and nor in 1780, as alleged. The above act provided for none who did not perform six months actual service, called out by comeptent authorities and in a regularly organized corps." (Clark led two battles at Piqua, the one on 8 Aug 1780 in which Banta participated, and one on 10 Nov 1782.) Others who performed similar service, for example James Kincaid (S16907), were granted pensions. For a discussion of eligibility for service against Indians, see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).