

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

Pension Application of Joel Berry S30265

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky            } Sgt.  
and Pendleton county    }

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court before the justices of the county court of Pendleton now sitting, Joel Berry a resident of the county of Pendleton and State of Kentucky aged seventy nine years, 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

That he was drafted into the militia of King George county Virginia as a minute man and entered the service of the United States as a minute man some time in the early part of the year 1775 the month in the year not recollected and served as a private with the minute men when ever called on until the close of the Revolutionary war that is to say he served by holding himself in readiness to march at a moments warning and did march as often as called on to do so. While in actual service he was engaged in marching from one place to an other say to any place where it was apprehended that the enemy would attempt to committ any depredation Early after he was drafted as aforesaid and while his officers were using all their exertions to desiplin the minute men by frequent calling them together and drilling of them and teaching them camp duty his officers who was Captain Joseph Rogers and Lieutenant William Berry this declarants Brother his Ensign he does not recollect published to their men that there was wanting at the Public armory [probably Hunter's forge] at Fredericksburg Virginia all the men that could be had who understood how to work at any part of the arms which was necessary for the use of the troop arms being at that time very much needed and that volunteers were wanted to go there who would be considered in actual service, and receive additional pay and that their services would be more acceptable to the public than in the ranks as they could not fight without armes he does not recollect the number of the Regiment to which he belonged at that time nor any Colonel or Major unless Colonel Stith of Stafford commanded them He however volunteered to work at the armory and immediately in the latter end of the year 1775 went to the armory and worked at filing Gun locks and received from the public in continental money thirty six dollars per month and was not called on during his services there to perform any militia duty except when there was eminent danger when he would volunteer to go his services in the armory being by the public deemed of two much value to be interrupted as the arms was more wanted than men He remained in the armory working except when he volunteered from the time he entered there in 1775 until about the middle of the year 1779 say about four years the armory was managed or commanded principally by Colonel Lewis (perhaps his Christian name was Fielding but he is not certain [Gen. Fielding Lewis]) assisted by Alexander Dick who usually payed of the hands employed no other managers now recollected During his stay at the armory he considered himself in the actual service of his country and did several times during his stay volunteer and go out to meet the enemy when they would assend the Patomac [sic: Potomac] River or cross the country so as to threaten the country with danger during his stay at the armory He marched as a volunteer to a place on the Patomac River called Molden just below where Brunts house had been a short time before burnt. His captain on this occasion was named Garrett no other officers now recollected. He at another time volunteered and marched to Howes Ferry on the Patomac River to wach the enemies shiping then in the Patomac River his Captain on this occasion was William Berry Brother to this declarant and the same before spoken of as Lieutenant he having in the meantime been promoted no other officers recollected He thinks that he served other towers while at the armory but cannot give the particulars nor name any of his officers he however served frequently during his stay but as he was closely confined when at work in the armory he recollects but little of the officers as he had nothing to do with them except when out nor does he recollect the exact

length of time he served on any of the occasions that he went out  
Soon after he retired from the armory he removed to the county of Hamshire [sic: Hampshire] Virginia and resided there one year during which time he was still held a minute man and marched some time in the year 1780 under the command of one Captain Brunty and one Ashbrook who was either a Lieutenant or Ensign no other officers now recollected he does not recollect the presise time of this expadition but he marched towards the head waters of the South Branch of the Patomac river to disperse a parcel of Tories that was said to be collected high up on the said South branch they dispersed however before he came up with them He always understood and did believe that he was in the actual service of the United States during his stay at the armory and well as when he was in the camp and if he is right he believes that he did serve in the camp in his many expaditions at least twenty four months He having been engaged so long and closely in the armory he does not recollect many of the General officers who passed and repassed through the State of Virginia but he does recollect to have seen General Washington and to either have seen or hear of Generals Lay Fayette [sic: Lafayette], Stuban [Baron von Steuben], [Horatio] Gates, Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], [Edward] Stevens and Ennis [sic: Col. James Innes] but never was as he recollects with any of them nor does he recollect the number of any of the Regiments in which he served he never received any discharge in writing but was as was then common discharged by word of mouth from the captain he was not in any battle during all his service He was born some time in the year 1754 in the county of King George and State of Virginia which then run up the Rapahanack [sic: Rappahannock] river above Fredericksburgh but on the opposite side and lived in King George until he moved up the country as before stated say until 1780 and remained one year where he then moved and then moved to Frederick county Virginia and remained there about two or three years and then removed to mason county Kentucky where he resided about fifteen or twenty years when he removed to Pendleton county State of Kentucky where he has resided ever since and does now reside say about 25 or 30 years in Pendleton County There was a record of his age in an old family bible at his Fathers in Virginia but he does not know what has become of it he has not seen it for thirty or forty years and thinks it is lost as he left it at his Fathers in Virginia which is the reason he cannot say what day or month he was born he not recollecting any thing except the year He has no record evidence of his services nor does he know of any liveing person that has any knowledge of his services by whom he can prove them they having all died or removed to parts unknown to this declarant and refers to the certificates below, as the best evidence he can at this time offer

He hereby relinquishes 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

[signed] Joel Berry

State of Kentucky } Sct  
Pendleton County }

On this first day of July 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the county county court of Pendleton Joel Berry a resident of the county of Pendleton and State of Kentucky aged seventy nine years who being first duly sworn according to law doth for the purpose of of amending his declaration made before this court on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 and which declaration has been on to the war department and returned for amendment deposeseth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot positively swear as to the precise length of his services; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less that the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: In the year 1775 he was drafted in the Militia of Virginia as a minute man and served as such in camp and as a private In the year 1776 three months under the command of Captain Garrett and a short time stationed at Molden in Virginia on the Patomac River In the year 1777 he served as aforesaid three months under the command of Captain William Berry (brother to this declarant) and a part of the time stationed at Howes ferry on the Patomac River Virginia In the year 1778 he served as aforesaid and

under the same Captain three months does not recollect any station In the year 1779 he served as aforesaid and under the same Captain three month and was stationed at King George court house to guard the prisoners of war In the year 1780 he served six months and was under the command of Captain Brunty and one Ashbrook who was the Lieutenant or Ensign he marched this time in pursuit of some Tories said to be collecting high up on the South branch of the Patomac River and was stationed some time at Blakes Mill in Hampshire county Virginia to keep the Tories in awe In the year 1781 he served six months under the command of Captain Davis and Lieutenant Redman no other officers recollected and was stationed at Winchester Virginia to guard prisoners of war in all of the above service he was a private soldier and in all that he can now state two years in camp regularly called out and in actual service in the Revolutionary army. But in addition to the above service in camp he was in the latter part of the year 1775 and soon after he was drafted as a minute man detailed with his own consent as an artizan to work in the public armory at Fredericksburgh State of Virginia and did go there and work at filing or making gun locks for the use of the army in said year four months and in the year 1776 he worked as aforesaid and at same place nine months and in the year 1777 he worked as aforesaid and at same place nine months and in the year 1778 he served as aforesaid and at the same place nine months and in the year 1779 he served as aforesaid and at the same place six months so that it will be seen that he served in the armory as an artizan and in the actual service of his country three years and one month and two years in camp making in all five years and one month while at the armory he received thirty dollars per month in continental money and was commanded by Colonel Lewis at the armory and in camp he does not distinctly recollect but thinks he was commanded by Colonel Stith The above statement together with the statement of his original declaration is all that he can now recollect owing to his age and consequent loss of his memory as before stated and for such services as the aforesaid I the said Joel Berry claim a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. [signed] Joel Berry

NOTE: A letter dated 2 Dec 1838 states that Berry had moved to Indiana. A Treasury-Department document states that the daughter of Joel Berry received the final pension payment up to the date of his death on 28 Feb 1843.