

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Henry Byrd (Bird) S30307 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 28 Aug 2013.

State of Tennessee }
Hawkins County } On this 26th day of May 1835 personally appeared before the worshipfull
court of Peleas and quarter sessions of Hawkins County Held at Rogersville Henry Byrd a resident in the
County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee aged 72 years who being first duly sworn according to law
doth on his Oath make the following decliration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by
the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832

I entered the service of the United States as a private vallenteer under the Command of Capt. James
Newel [sic: James Newell] Mg'r. William Love Colo. Stephens the 1st of Sept. 1780 in Montgomery
County State of Virginia. We met at the lead mines in Montgomery [near Austinville now in Wythe
County] and ware ordered to guard the frontier and prevent the Indians from doing mischief on the
settlement we ware pretty generally on the march from place to place, as the Indians had certain places
they would come in; and there ware tories lying out in the blew ridge [sic: Blue Ridge] which ware also
troublesom We marched first and Crossed new River at Harbards Ferry [sic: Harbert's Ferry, later
Jackson Ferry] and marched for the flower Gap in the Blew ridge [near present Austinville]. We went on
from the flower Gap westwardly under the mountain untel we came to the three forks of New river where
we encamped and lay a while to scout we taken a few tories as we would come up on them in camp. we
ranged about there a while and marched on to a Creek called Fox creek [in present Grayson County]
when we came on some old Camp of Tories which they had abandoned From Fox Creek we went on and
crossed newriver at a place called Jones Ford and then home we returned home first of Nov. being gone
tow [sic: two] months. About the first of the year 1781 there was a call for men again to march in to
North carolina. I was drafted in the service of the United States first of February 1781 as a private in
Montgomery County State of Virginia under the command of Capt. [Stephen] Saunders Colo. Crocket
[sic: Walter Crockett]. There ware part of the men left to guard the lead mines as there ware a great many
hands at work then for the publick and Indians and Tories ware troublesome. my Company was left we
ware stationed at the mines six months we would go some times for several miles in searching for Indian
sign or waylay certain places where they ware expected to pass and then would return to camp again after
the six months was out I received a discharge from Capt. Saunders and returned home first of Aug't.
1781. A shot time after my return home their was a call for men again to go after the Indians. I
vollenteered myself again first of Sept 18 1781 under the Command of Capt. Doke [sic: William Doak].
Colo. Ward In Montgomery County State of Va. we rendezvoused at Mg'r. Loves [Maj. Love's] on
Cripple Creek and march on to the head of Holston River from there we marched a north cause in to
burks Guardian which is in Russel County now Va [sic: Burkes Garden in Tazewell County] from there
we went on to the head of Clinch River to Whitleys fort where we stoped some time scout about in
detached parties. We went on then to purries Station where we lay some time ranging about untill we
started home we had a dreary trip but done nothing of consequence. I returned home almost starved the
first of Dec'm. 1781 and was not out any more of consequence (being a few days at a time which I cannot
recollect) I received my discharge from Capt. Doke He states he knows of no one who he can prove his
service by. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the pirasent and declares
his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year
aforesaid
Henry hisXmark Bird

1st. Qustion

Ans. I was born in 1764 in Prince edward County State of Va

2nd Question [Have you any record of your age?]

Ans. I have none

3rd Question

Ans. I volunteered twice and was drafted once

4th Question

Ans. I was liveing in Montgomery County State of Va from there I mooved into Lee County State of Va from Lee County I mooved in to Hawkins County Tennessee where I now live

5th Qustion

Ans. Colo. Stephens Mg'r. Love Colo. Ward Capt. Saunders

7th Question [Names of neighbors who can certify his veracity and reputation as a soldier of the Revolution]

Ans. Joseph Baker Esq'r. Colo. Rogers Hardy Mills Joel Mills Capt. James Bird John Mills

[The following amended declaration appears to have been required because under Virginia law militia drafts were ostensibly for three-month tours.]

State of Tennessee }

Hawkins County }

On this 24th day of April 1836 personally appeared Henry Byrd before us Joseph Baker and Zachariah Trent two of the Justices of the peace for said County and after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and sayeth He entered the service of the United States on his second tour about the first of February 1781 as well as I now recollect under the Command of Colo. Crocket and Capt. Sanders I was then liveing in Montgomery County State of Virginia I was drafted as a private. the troops collected at the lead mines in said County. There ware always a considerable guard kept up for the purpose of protecting the workmen at the mines. I was one who was left for that purpose and the ballance marched on to N. Carolina. Some time in the Spring of the same year, late I think in the Spring I think as well as I recollect ther was orders received for men to be drafted and held in readiness to march when called for to meet as I understood at Williamsburg in Virginia to aid in the siege of Wallis in York [sic: Siege of Cornwallis at Yorktown, which did not begin until 28 Sep 1781]. I was then in the service and was not called in the draft we ware ordered to continue in the service untill discharged. Wheather my superior Officers had that Orthority I do not know. I continued in the service untill first of August 1781 This Affiant says he was Ingagued in the service in his diferent ingagements as he states. He states he cannot owing to old age and the long lapse of time, state minutely every particular circumstance that Accurred in his service. This applicant further states that at that time he was not acquainted with the regulations under which men ware called out nor for what length of time. he believed he had to obey the order of his officers and done so. This affiant sayes he never expected to give so particular account of his services as he now has to do, and he knows of no one who he can prove it by he sayes men ware ordered out against the Indians he never inquired for what length of time. he always served untill his officers discharged him believing he had to do so. This applicant says owing to the danger which existed on the fronteer where he was the tories lying out in the mountains robing at different times the settlers, the Indians committing depridations on them that the Exigency of the times called for men to be out continually The men which was stationed at the lead mines had continually to be in active service going out the Country that no Enemy might come upon them unapprised. This affiant avers he was constantly in the service the time which he states and that he was not Ingaged in any civil pursuit during that time. he sayes if there is any thing inconsistant in his assertions as to his service it must be imputed to loss of memory as he can only say what he recollects. Sworn to and subscribed before us

Henry hisXmark Byrd

State of Kentucky } SS

County of Morgan }

on this the 7th day of Aprile 1855 personally appeard before me Absolom Haney one of the acting justices of the peace authorised to administer oaths in and for the County and State aforesaid Henry Bird Age 92 years a resident of Morgan County state of Kentucky who being duly sworne according to law declairs that he is the Identical Henry Bird who was A private soldier in the Company commanded by Capt Jas Newel in the Regement of Virginia Militia commanded by Colernel Stephens in the ware with Great

Brittain declared by the united states on the 4th day of July 1776 that he volunteered in Montgomery County Va on or about the 15 day of Sept 1780 and served out this tour and was then drafted at the fort at the lead mines in montgomy County virginia to stand in readiness when called on and continued in actual service in said war for the term of [several illegible words] and was honorably discharged at Montgomery County Va about the 15 day of January 1782 as will appear by the muster rolls of said Company

he makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty Land to which he may be entitled to under the Act granting additional bounty Land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the united states approved March the 3^d 1855 for proof of his service he refers to his former declaration and evidence made under act of Congress approved [blank space] Allowing to the Soldiers of the revolutionary war pensions for their services upon which he obtained a yearly salary for the sum of seventy six dollars & four shilling

he further declares that he has not received A warrant for bounty Land under this or any other act of Congress nor made application for such then the above referred to and the one now presented

Henry hisXmark Bird

NOTE: The file contains an endorsement of Byrd's application saying that he was of "good moral and religious habits has been for years and is now a member of the Church in great esteem," signed by more than two dozen of his neighbors.