

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Berry S30857

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. State of Kentucky County of Mason SS. On this 12th day of November in the year 1833 personally appeared in open court before the circuit court for Mason county now sitting Benjamin Berry a resident of the county of Mason & State of Kentucky aged about seventy seven years who being first 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 7th 1832 that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: In the month of October 1776 he enlisted for one year under Captain John Talliaferro [sic: John Taliaferro] in the County of King George and State of Virginia & soon after marched with a regiment to Williamsburg and from thence to Hampton where they remained about One year – the regiment was under the command of Major Buckhannon, Andrew he thinks was his first name [sic: Andrew Buchanan]. Captain Talliaferro became a Colonel & Francis Conway took his place as captain. Upon the return of the troops to Fredericksburg in Virginia said Benjamin Berry again under the direction of the said Officers undertook to work for the United States in the factory at that place [probably Hunter's Forge] being a Gun Smith by trade and continued to work for the United States until he was regularly discharged, and informed that his services were no longer required. He cannot recollect by whom his discharge was signed but thinks by the Col. Talliaferro or Major Buckhannon with whom as well as Capt. Francis Conway he was well acquainted. He cannot say at what time precisely he left the service of the united states. His first year as a soldier began in Octo. 1776 and ended in Octo 1777. He lived in King George County when he joined the Regiment for a year and he was not drafted or substituted but voluntarily enrolled himself for a year at the request of some friends and particularly Robert Morton and John Morton two young Gentlemen who were his near neighbors and had never seen service or been inured to hardship and whose mother declared she could not be happy unless he would also enlist and go with him. These young Gentlemen were brothers to George Morton a Farmer of wealth and great respectability now living here in Mason County but not able to travel about. But he made oath to the fact that this deponent served one year at least in the Army of the Revolution before David Bronaugh a Justice of the peace of Mason County on the 25th of May 1831 for at that time he made application through the Honorable Thomas A. Marshall our present Representative in Congress for a pension, and he sent on George Morton's affidavit at that time to him and did not get the seal and certificate of Clerk because he conceived Mr. Marshall did know all about the magistrate & would be able to prove the hand writing of the magistrate David Bronaugh. But said Marshall returned the same with his declaration as well as an affidavit of Reuben Berry of Bracken County made before Wm. B. Lurtey a magistrate of Bracken County which he sent on to Mr. Marshall at the same time 1831 without attestation for the same reason believing it unnecessary. Both of which prove his services for one year in the Army of the Revolution, and both of which are now returned properly attested he hopes, the latter with some private mail of the Officers at Washington City which will prove to the Officers that your affiant applied before.

Indeed he has since applied and received for answer that the Honble. Chas. A. Wickliff had taken out his papers with some others. He has written to him and received for answer that he thinks he returned them. And now he makes this additional statement because the last one is lost or mislaid and with the double view of getting paid something ever since he first applied – for he made that application because he was poor and had nothing but his tools as a Gun Smith and was too old to use them.

He cannot produce any other proof that he knows of concerning his actual service except that of George Morton & Reuben Berry just named. But he can prove by many that they have heard him say and believe he tells the truth in saying he did serve one whole year in actual service in the Revolutionary

army and at least Three years in the Gun factory as a gunsmith in Fredericksburg for the United States. He has lost his discharge and now states further that his name is not upon the pension list of any State or of the united states and that it never has been to his knowledge – that he moved from his native place King George in Virginia to Mason County Kentucky about Twenty years ago and has lived here ever since And is well known to every officer of the Mason Court to the preceeding Judges Honble Wm. P. Roper & Adam Beatly and to the present Judge Walker Reice who writes this Declaration and wrote while at the Bar his former declaration – lost or mislaid – that he knows the Clerk Colonel Marshall Key & the Sheriff Capt. Charles Ward and our former member of Congress John Chambers and is well known to all those persons. He states that he is acquainted with no Clergyman because he never was in the habit of going to meeting to hear preaching. He knows the Reverend Walter Warder when he sees him but he knows nothing of your affiant and it would be useless to call upon a Clergyman provided the oath of the Credible men above named could be taken – useless at all events for not one can say anything for him. and however the rule may be in the Department of War he hopes it will be relaxed in favour of one who has nothing to do with Preachers and is not known to a Clergyman.

In testimony whereof said Benjamin Berry hath hereto set his hand this 12th day of October 1833

[signed] Ben Berry

NOTES:

A letter from the pension office dated 5 Jan 1837 states that William Berry, only child of Benjamin Berry, could draw the uncollected pension up to the date of his father's death.

Reuben Berry stated that he was about 10 years younger than his brother, Benjamin.