

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Guess (Guest) S32283

f31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/11/06 rev'd 1/15/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5]

State of Alabama, Fayette County

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 1834 personally appeared in vacation before the Honorable Walter Harkins Judge of the County Court of said County Benjamin Guess a resident of Marion County Alabama aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. That I was born in the State of Virginia in Fauquier County from which place when I was about twelve years of age my Father and family moved and settled in Wilkes County in North Carolina where I remained until the commencement of the Revolutionary War. About June 1776 myself with others volunteered under Captain Isaacs [Elijah Isaacs] who was commanded by Colonel Gordon<sup>1</sup> to suppress the Indians on the Frontiers of North Carolina and was marched under the same command to a Fort on the head of the Yadkin River and was there stationed until some time in October thereafter and was then discharged after being in service about five months.

The whole of the Company then returned home where I remained until June 1780 at which time I volunteered in a horse company commanded by Captain Pearson [Richmond Pearson] and Colonel Isaacs and General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and marched from Wilkes County to Salisbury thence to near Cheraw Hills and joined General Gates [Horatio Gates], thence to Rugeley's Mills and was there encamped two days and nights. The third night we were ordered to march in order to suppress the British then in Camden but was met by the British about halfway between the mill and Camden where we had a battle known as Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]<sup>2</sup> where Colonel Isaacs<sup>3</sup> was taken prisoner, we were all scattered after the battle the most of the company with the Captain and myself returned home to Wilkes County where we remained four or five days when we were again gathered by Captain Pearson the Colonel's name I do not recollect and continued in service until we were met by Colonel Polk [probably Lieutenant Colonel William Polk, aide-de-camp of Major General Richard Caswell, the commander of the North Carolina militia at the Battle of Camden] near Camden and was discharged near Camden some time in September 1780 making a service of

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<sup>1</sup> I could identify no such officer. It MAY be a mistake in reference to Colonel William Graham of the Tryon County Regiment of militia who participated in the Indian campaign of 1776. Alternatively, this may have been an erroneous reference to Captain Charles Gordon of the Wilkes County Militia.

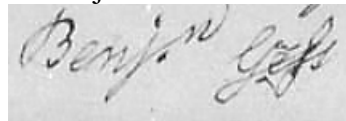
<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

<sup>3</sup> I cannot identify an officer by this name who was taken prisoner at the Battle of Camden.

about three months after which time I returned home to Wilkes County but when I arrived at home I found the Tories were bad. I did not stay at home more than 10 days before I went and volunteered again under Captain Moses Guess (my brother) who was commanded by Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and was marched from thence to near the fork of Broad River where we joined Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] and Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and from thence we were marched to the Cowpens and were joined by Colonel Williamson [sic, James Williams] and from thence we were marched to Kings Mountain where we had a Battle [Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780]<sup>4</sup> with the British and Tories and I was in said battle. After the Battle we were marched as a guard over the British and Tory prisoners which he had taken to Moravian town where we were encamped some time and from thence we were marched on scouting parties after the Tories below Moravian town and thence back to Wilkes County and was there discharge some time in December 1780 making a tour of full three months.

After our return home Captain Guess raised another volunteer Company myself with others volunteered under him some time in January 1781 under Colonel Cleveland as minute men and were more than half of our time actively engaged against the British and Tories for more than 12 months or until the war was ended during which time we had several skirmishes against the Tories and were then discharged making in all my tours (allowing to have been in service at least six months the last tour) full 17 months and for said services I claim a pension. I had a regular discharge for each tour of duty. My second discharge together with my pocket book was stolen from me. The others in the lapse of time have all been mislaid or destroyed and my reason for claiming out of my County is in order to obtain a certificate of a clergyman with whom I have been acquainted for many years. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State and for testimony of my credibility, I refer to the annexed certificate of Luellen Moore & William L. Taylor. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Benj.<sup>n</sup> G<sup>u</sup>ess



[Luellen Moore, a clergyman, and William S Taylor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Test: S/ Jas B. Martin, Clk

[p 7]

Answers to interrogatories:

A1. I was born in Fauquier County, Virginia in the year 1757

A2. I have a record of my age taken from my father's record in my family Bible.

A3. When I was called into service I was living in Wilkes County in North Carolina, since that, in South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee & now in Alabama.

A4. I volunteered each tour of duty.

A5. Among the officers were Major Lewis, Colonel Cleveland, Colonel Isaacs, Colonel Polk, General Rutherford.

A6. I received a discharge for each tour which was given by my captains as well as recollected, my second discharge was stolen from me together with my pocket book, the balance was as I believe burnt in my house some years since.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

[p 11]

The State of Alabama, Fayette County: Circuit Court for September Term 1831

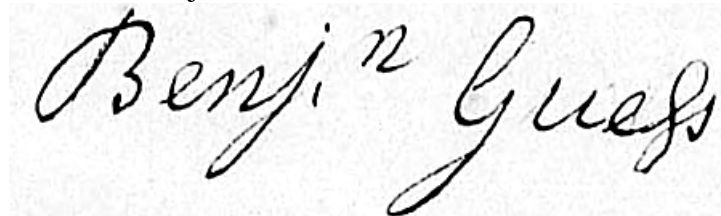
On the 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 1831 personally appeared in open court (being a court of Record for the County aforesaid) Benjamin Guess of the County of Marion & State aforesaid aged 74 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and the first of May 1820 that he the said Benjamin Guess served in the War of the Revolution in the North Carolina Militia under the command of Captain Pearson in the Dragoon Service under the command of Colonel Elijah Isaacs three months during which tour of service he fought in the battle of Gates' Defeat after which time he joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland & during which time he fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain & served in said Regiment three months after which time I served in a company of light Horse commanded by my Brother Captain Moses Guess called Minute Men for about 18 months. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the Roll of any State except North Carolina that the following are his reasons for not making earlier application for a pension, to wit never until the present time has he felt himself laboring under such bodily infirmity or in such reduced pecuniary circumstances as to render necessary the charities of his Country for a comfortable support and in pursuance of the Act of the first of May 1820 I the said Benjamin Guess do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any other manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby to diminish it so as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed that since the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 I had a Negro woman about 50 years old, seven head of horses, one wagon & gear, about 15 head of cattle, some hogs, household and kitchen furniture. The Negro woman I yet have but she is aged & afflicted so much so that she is an expance to me I was so unfortunate as to lose my [illegible] use of my horses by disease & was under the necessity of trading my wagon for one horse which I have at this time – about two years ago I had my house and everything except the cloths myself & wife had on was consumed by fire as we were at the time from home.

A schedule containing the whole estate and income necessary wearing apparel excepted of the said Benjamin Guess, to wit:

One horse beast worth about fifty dollars -- three cows and calves & two yearlings about thirty head of hogs of all sizes – about twenty five dollars worth of household & kitchen furniture.

Sworn to and subscribed to this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1831.

S/ Benj.<sup>n</sup> Guess

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benj.<sup>n</sup> Guess". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

[p 16: Finding by the Clerk of Court of Fayette County Alabama that Benjamin Guess was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$66.66 per annum; that he was a resident of Marion County and died in Fayette County Alabama on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 1841; that at the time of his death he had six children (not named); that he left no widow; and that letters testamentary have been granted by the Orphans Court of Fayette County to Samuel Guess Executor of the last will and testament of Benjamin Guess.]

[p 4]

Huntsville Alabama December 7, 1842

Received of Ractley M. Lowe, Agent for paying pensions, \$19.36, in specie, being for three months & 15 days pension due to Benjamin Guess – a Revolutionary Pensioner, deceased from the 4 September 1841 to 19 December 1841 the day of his death, for which I have signed duplicate receipts

Original

\$19.36

Samuel Guest Executor of Benjamin Guess Deceased by his  
Attorney in fact  
S/ D. B. Turner

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for one year and 8 months in the North Carolina militia.]