

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Berry (Barry) S39187  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

South Carolina     }  
Greenville district } to wit

On this fourth day of November 1818 before me the subscriber, one of the associate Justices of the court of common pleas & gen'l sessions of the said State personally appeared William Berry aged Sixty four years resedent in the district of Greenville aforesaid who being duly sworn according to Law did on his oath declare (in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the united states in the revolutionary war") that he the said William Berry enlisted in the town of Hampton in the state of Virginia in the spring of the year 1776, he believes in the company commanded by Captain John Fitzgerald of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. Thomas Marshall; that he continued to serve in the said corps in the service of the united states against the Common Enemy for two years and was then honourably discharged (he supposes in 1778 or '79 he does not remember the time of the year) at some place in the state of new jersey; That he was in the battles of Trenton [26 Dec 1776], White plains [28 Oct 1776] & Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] as well as several other engagements; That he is in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support, And that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services

[signed] Wm. Barry

Schedule

4 large & 5 small hogs – worth	14.50
1 Heifer	3.50
1 cupboard	1.50
2 pots 1 skillet & hooks	2.50
2 pewter Beekers 4 spoons	2.
knives & forks	.25
1 water pail & piggen & 3 barrels	1.50
1 small plough & clevis	.75
1 hoe, 1 ax – 1 iron wedge	2.
4 old chairs & 1 table	1.
1 Jug & 1 bottle	.75
4 tin cups	.25
1 chissel & hammer	<u>.50</u>
	\$31.00
no debt due	
Owe Rowland	\$4.
others	<u>2.25</u>
	6.25

[signed] William Barry

[In April 1821 Berry filed a declaration similar to the following, but with the following additional details:]  
And the said William Berry further swears, that his family consists of himself and his wife Sarah Berry, aged about 63 years, and that she very infirm and incapable of her own support; that he the said William from age & other infirmities, being often subject to rheumattick pain unable to maintain himself by manuel labour farming being his principal occupation; he is unable to support himself without the aid of his Country, except by private or public charity.

The State of South Carolina }  
Greenville District Ss. }

On this seventh day of April 1825:

Personally appeared in open court being a court of record of General sessions and common pleas for the district of Greenville in said State: William Barry aged about seventy or seventy one, Resident in said district being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18 March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820. that the said William Barry enlisted in the Town of Hampton in the State of Virginia in the Spring of the year 1776 he believes in the company commanded by Captain John Fitzgearald of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Col Thomas Marshal in the line of the State of virginia on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in the said corps until 1778 or 79 when he was discharged from the service in the State of New jersey; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any State except the State of Virginia the one above mentioned and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier for a pension. I reside in a remote part of Greenville District South Carolina near the mountain in a neighbourhood that are uninformed and was often informed that I could not get my pension without my discharge from the commanding officer whom I was discharged by which discharge I had lost some years ago until about the year 1818 when I was informed I could get my pension & about that time made application to George W. Earle Esqr. then Clerk of the court of Greensville District who made out a schedule &c which has been returned it appears informal.

And in pursuance of the act of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 I 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 manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person 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 to wit

First of Reale Estate none  
Second of personal Estate as follows  
One sow and six pigs supposed to be worth. . . \$7.00  
One cow and yearlen. . . . . 8.50  
One Cubboard. . . . . 1.50  
puter ware very old worth. . . . . 2.00  
Some few old knives and forks. . . . . .50  
water pails & Tin Bucket. . . . . 1.75  
one old plow & clevis. . . . . .75  
one hoe 50. one ax 1 dollar. . . . . 1.50  
two or three old ten cups. . . . . .25  
one old chisel. . . . . .25

[signed] Wm. Berry \$24.00

debts owing to me none that I can recollect of at this time, I owe to Rolly Ginkins \$5.00  
Pike and meddows 10.00  
Debts I owe \$15.00

Also a wife and three children to wit  
Sarry Berry my wife aged about seventy or thereabouts  
my two sons James & Robert Berry & Elner, who has all left me  
Sworn to in open court the seventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty five. [signed] Wm. Berry

[On 2 Nov 1825 Berry made a declaration similar to the preceding but with the following schedule of property and description of his family:]

I have no property of any description more than my few wearing clothes & some few old bed cloths the ballance of my property have been sold by virtue of several Executions which certificats well shew hereunto anexed I have a wife and three children which children have left me namely Ellenner, my daughter, Robert Berry & James Berry who have all left me and moved away from the State except my wife Sary Berry, aged about 65 or thereabouts, and that my occupation is a farmer, and that I am not capable of supporting myself by any manuel labour and cannot not support myself & wife without some assistance from my country and that I am all most intirely dependant upon my neighbours for a support. and that all my property which was in my possission in the year of 1818 have been taken from me and sold to pay my debts and that I have precured all the evidence of the said debts and the certificats respecting the sale of my property that was in my possession in the year of 1818 or since that time – and from old age and infirmities I cannot Recollect prisisely all the articles had in my possession or exactly in what manner they were disposed of but have obtained all the information I can get as I am not able to travel a bout the country to find my former creditors or the officers who sold the property every article but I do declare that I have not disposed of it or any part of it so as to bring myself under the acts of Congress of the 18 March 1818 or any other act to enable me to obtain a pension. I further more do state that some of my creditors have died since the first application I made to the war department & that the officer which sold some of my property has moved away and therefore I cannot obtain their evidence and my own recollection is not safficient to give no accurate account of the whole of the particular as the law may perhaps require.

Sworn to & declared in open Court the second day of November A.D. 1825 William hisXmark Berry

NOTE: A letter in the file written by Salathiel Clements of Benton County AL on 27 Oct 1838 states the following: "I had to pay [Berry's] debts in South Carolina before they would let him go with me to Alabama his reasons for going with me was my wife [Eleanor] was all the living Child that he knew of and his wife had died the year before." Another letter from Jacksonville AL dated 1 Nov 1838 refers to "his Daughter & only child (Mrs Clements) who has supported clothed & fed [her father] like a child, since his removal to this country from South Carolina." Treasury-Department documents written afterwards, however, state that there were two surviving children, Ellender Clements and Robert C. Berry, who received the final pension payment up to the date of William Berry's death on 28 June 1838.