

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathan Fry S39545

f13GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/19/09 rev'd 7/14/15

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

[p 9]

Richmond, Virginia, 21st of December 1822

In conformity with an Act of Congress of 18th of March 1818, I, Nathan Fry, a man of Color, and native of Virginia, in order to receive the benefit of said act as a private Soldier of the Revolution, do now make this my declaration accordingly; and, in obedience also of another act of Congress of the first of May 1820, requiring a "Schedule of my whole Estate and Income" -- I do hereby state and declared to wit: That I was born free in the County of Westmorland -- enlisted in the minute Service under Dennis Duval of Henrico County in the year 1775 -- went to Savannah in Georgia and served under Col. Elbert [Samuel Elbert] against the Creek Indians in the capacity of a Drummer and return from Savannah and joined the Army at Valley Forge -- was in the action at Monmouth [June 28, 1778] -- afterwards joined the Baron Steuben, and served under him as Bat man till after the Siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] -- was then transferred by the Baron to the service of General St. Clair, by whom I was discharged in Winter of 1781 & 1782. I lost my discharge: I am at this time, about 68 or 69 years old; and, have no property whatever: and, am now unable to work for my living as I have ever done since the piece of 1783; and, having no kind of "income" whatever, I am now compelled to seek support in the Bounty of my Country. I am well known to General William North, and Major Fairley of New York; to Morrison Duponceace [?]¹ of Philadelphia, Colonels John Pryer [sic, John Pryor], and David Meade Randolph of this place, who now recognize me as the confidential servant of the Baron, during the years 1781 and 1782.

S/ Nathan Fry, X his mark

Test:


S/ D. M. Randolph

S/ J. Gibbon

Sworn to before me an Alderman of the City of Richmond this 23rd day of December 1822.

S/ William Tazewell

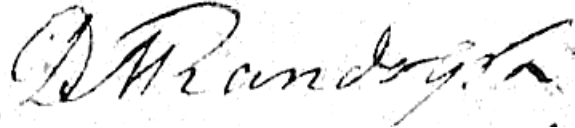
I do swear that I have known Nathan Fry from the time of his service under the Baron Steuben, in this State in the years 1781 & 1782 to this date: I believe all the important facts



¹

stated above are strictly true.

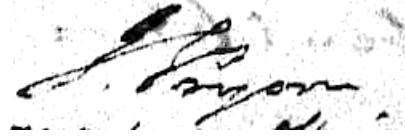
S/ D. M. Randolph²



I well recollect Nathan Fry during the Revolutionary War from his earliest period and saw him in most of the Situations stated by him in the above recital which I believe to be entirely correct to which I am willing to be qualified [?].

Rec'd Oct. 31, 1823

S/ J Pryor³



I do certify that the handwriting
& Signature is that of the late Maj.
Pryor

formerly an Officer in
The Army of the Revolution

S/ J. Gibbon

[p 5]

Original Claim

District of Virginia

On this 2nd day of June 1823, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the County of Henrico Nathan Fry aged 68 or 69 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 acts of Congress of the 18th of March, 1818, and the 1st of May, 1820, that he, the said Nathan Fry enlisted for the term of the Revolutionary War on the ___ day of ___ in the year 1775 at Savannah in the State of Georgia in the company commanded by Capt. J. Mosbury⁴ in the Regiment commanded by Col. Elbert in the line of the State of Georgia on the United States Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in said corps until the winter of 1781 or 1782 when he was discharged from said service, in the City of Richmond in the State of Virginia by General St. Clair.

That he was in the battles of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] & Stony Point [July 16, 1779] and that he has no other evidence, now in his power, of his said services, except what is hereunto annexed.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th 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 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 18th 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 he has no real or personal estate necessary clothing and bedding excepted that he is a laborer but

² [David Meade Randolph S36252](#)

³ [John Pryor W12064](#)

⁴ Perhaps either Littleberry Mosby or John Moseley

has no ability to pursue it he has no family and that he is supported by the Charity of his friends and that he stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support.

S/ Nathan Fry, X his mark

Sworn to, and declared, on the 2nd day of June 1823 before

S/ Joseph H. Mays

[p 4]

City of Richmond to wit

This day Nathan Fry personally appeared before me a Magistrate for the City aforesaid and made oath that he resides in the County of Henrico and State of Virginia & that he has resided in the aforesaid County ever since he was discharged from the Revolutionary Army in the year 1781 or 1782.

Given under my hand this 3rd day of October 1823.

S/ John Goddin

[pp 6-7]

United States of America District of Virginia

Nathan Fry a colored man, an inhabitant of the City of Richmond appeared before me John Marshall Chief Justice of the United States this first day of January in the year 1824 and being first duly sworn deposes and says That he enlisted in the town of Savannah in the year 1775 for the war in the company commanded by Capt. Mosby in Col. Elbert's Regiment. He is informed that in his former declaration the name of his Capt. was said to be Mosbury. This is a mistake in writing the name which was unknown to this deponent who is unable to read & who misunderstood the affidavit in this particular when it was read to him. He served as a drummer in this company until he was taken out of that to wait on Major Duval who was aid-de-camp or Brigade Major to General McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh]. He attended the Major Duval in the capacity of a waiter until he accompanied General McIntosh to the Army under General Washington and remained with him until he was taken into the service of the Baron Steuben with whom he remained as a waiter or Batman until after the siege of York in Virginia. He was then transferred to General St. Clair by whom he was discharged in the course of the winter. His discharge is lost.

He says that during the whole of this service he remained a soldier under his first enlistment in 1775 and that he continued a soldier and was uninterruptedly in service from the time of his enlistment to the time of his discharge as herein before mentioned.

S/ Nathan Fry, X his mark

Given under my hand this 1st day of January 1824.

S/ J. Marshall

[p 8]

I do hereby certify that I was well acquainted, and had the honor to be very intimate with the Late Baron Steuben, and his several Aids, Major North [William North], Major Fairley [sic, James Fairlie]⁵, and Col. Benjamin Walker, for several years; and, particularly from January 1781 when Arnold [Benedict Arnold] entered this City, to the close of the War; and am certain that Nathan Fry, the Black man in question was the greater part, if not the whole of that time in the service of the Family aforesaid: I am positive that Nathan Fry was attached to the family [?]

⁵ He is identified in Heitman as being an aide-de-camp of Baron Steuben.

more than 9 months, and that on the Continental establishment.

Given under my hand this 31st of October 1827

S/ D. M. Randolph

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing October 31, 1823, for service as a private in the Georgia Continental line.]