

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Reuben Bryan S41462

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of N Carolina }

Surry County }

Superior Court of Law September term 1822

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 1822 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record so known and declared to be by the Laws of the State of N Carolina and opened and held as such this day for the County of Surry Reuben Bryan a resident citizen of the County aforesaid aged about 66 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 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 & 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 that he the said Reuben Bryan enlisted for the term of two years some time in the year 1776 but the day and Month he does not now recollect in the County of Fauquier in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Capt John Ashby of the 3<sup>rd</sup> regiment commanded by Colo [Hugh] Mercer in the line of the State of Virginia on the continental establishment that he continued in said 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment for about twelve Months to the best of his remembrance, that he was then selected to serve in Daniel Morgans Rifle corps in which he continued for about twelve months in the Rifle company first Commanded by Capt Gabriel Long and afterwards by Capt William Knox under whom he continued until he was discharged at the expiration of his term by Gen [William] Woodford that he was at the Capture of Burgoynes army [17 Oct 1777] and fought in the two general engagements that preceeded that event [Battle of Freeman's Farm, 19 Sep; Battle of Bemis Heights, 7 Oct], near Still water camp that he was likewise in the Battle fought at New York and that he was in several skirmishes, that he has seen much hard service from disease and the privations to which the Nothern army was subjected at Valley forge [winter 1777-78] and other places, that he is now in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has now no other evidence of his services and that he is not now able to account for the loss of his discharge And in pursuance of the act of 1<sup>st</sup> of 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) 150 of land worth about 150 dollars three head of cattle worth together about 15 dollars about 8 hogs worth about 12½ dollars two sheep worth \$1.75 two ploughs worth together one dollar 2 hoes worth together 50 cents two old axes worth together about \$1.50 one bed worth about \$15 one pot and a baker oven worth about \$2 dollars. That I am verry much afflicted with the Rheumatism and have been ever since I left the army which has disabled me in my arms and shoulders so that I can do but verry little work and that of the lightest kind that my wife is verry old and infirm so as nearly half her time to be confined to bed I have one grown son and two daughters nearly grown upon whose labour I am dependant now for subsistance I have also in family one small grand child whose mother is dead and whose father is left it disolate on my hands I have in addition to the above statement a growing crop of corn which may yield about fifteen barrels but not more and a crop of fruit which may yield about one hundred gallons Brandy and that I have one old still worth about \$15 dollars if these last be taken in estimate it will amount to sixty dollars more. That I am justly indebted to Colo Francis Yong about \$250 dollars and that I owe other debts to the amount of about \$12 dollars

Rheuben Bryan

State of North Carolina } Feb. Sessions A.D. 1824

Surry County } At this term personally appeared before us the justices of the County

Court of pleas and quarter sessions for the county aforesaid in the State aforesaid (it being a court of record, Reuben Bryan aged about sixty eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth in his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 and the first of May 1820. that the said Reuben Bryan enlisted for the term of two years in the State of Virginia in the county of Fauquier by Nathaniel Ashby ensign in Capt John Ashbeys company in the third regiment of the virginia troops and continued in that regiment until he was taken out and put into Col. Morgans rifle regiment under Capt. Long and continued in that company until he was taken out and put into capt. Knox's in said regiment and continued in said company until he was discharged from said service at the Valley Forge in the state of Pennsylvania, that he obtained an honorable discharge from Genr'l. Woodford, but that he has lost his discharge or so mislaid it that he cannot find it – that he was in the battle of New York and in two general engagements against Genr'l. Burguine and in several other battles of smaller note. And in pursuance of... [oath similar to the above] [signed] Reuben Bryan

	\$	Cts
One hundred acres of land	100	
One small sow and two pigs	2	
One old pot	1	
One oven cracked	1	
One pole Axe old	1	
One old shovel plough	1	
One old bull tongue plough	0	50
One old Mattock	0	50
Six chairs	2	
One old drawing knife	0	25
One old handsaw	0	25
Four barrels of corn	5	
One old iron wedge	—	<u>50</u>
	\$115	00

[signed] Reuben Bryan

That his family consists of himself, his wife and son, two daughters and a grand child, that he himself has been unable for a long time on account of the rheumatism that his wife is unable to do any kind of work, even to sit up one half of her time. his son is of age and can leave him at any time he may choose and so may his daughters, the grand child is an infant of tender years (about six years old) he has no trade or income [signed] Reuben Bryan

NOTE: Bryan's claim to a pension was initially rejected, because it was thought he owned too much property. Letters, a deed, and a new pension declaration dated 15 Feb 1826 state that all of Reuben Bryan's property was deeded to Col. Francis Young for \$500 on 17 April 1817. In the 1826 declaration he listed his property as "1 Bed & Furniture, 1 Table. 6 Chairs some few old working tools," and added the following: "Children & Ages My Daught Margaret 32 years feeble My Wife – Margaret Brian 62 years old weakly My wife & myself & a grand son Dependant compose my Family"