

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of George Biner S4266

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Ohio } SS

County of Harrison }

On this 23rd day of July 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting, George Biner, a resident of Washington Township, in the County of Harrison & State aforesaid, aged sixty eight years, who being first duly 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 7, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, & served as herein stated. He entered the service the first time, as a volunteer at Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County, Virginia, as near as I can recollect about the first of December 1780, and served in a company of Infantry commanded by Captain Joseph Lewis, in the Regiment commanded by Col. Joseph Lane. They rendezvoused at a place called the "Red house," & from thence they marched to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] Barracks & there went into winter quarters. the time for which he volunteered was three months, but when that time expired, his Captain prevailed on him to continue on in the company (the most of which remained) for another month, which he consented to & did remain. a few days not exceeding five or six, before the expiration of that month, Captain Thomas Humphreys come on to Williamsburgh with a company, from the same neighborhood in Loudon County in which this declarant resided, drafted for three months, & informed him that he was among the number drafted. He thereupon entered the company of said Humphrey, in the Regiment Commanded by Col [Sampson] Mathews; major Thomas Risby & served until the expiration of said Term of three months. during said last tour of service the British Forces Commanded by Gen. Phillips made their appearance in the neighborhood of Williamsburgh [20 Apr 1781], & Col. Mathews retreated with his Rigiment up the James River to Richmond & joined the Regular Forces under the Command of Gen. Lafayette & Steuben [see endnote]. The British Troops marched upon the south side of the River to Manchester, opposite Richmond & destroyed the tobacco warehouses at that place & then retreated down the river. He shortly after marched with his Regiment & the Regular troops, down the river to a place about three miles from Williamsburgh called "The Drinking Springs," where he remained until the expiration of his last mentioned three months tour.

He then (it being as near as he can remember, about the first of July 1781) entered the service, without returning home, as a substitute for Silas Gilbert, who had just then been drafted for three months, in a company of Infantry commanded by Captain Hugh Douglass [sic: Hugh Douglas], Lieut. Josiah White, Ensign Abraham Mason. The Regiment was commanded by Col. Mathews. He continued to serve in said last mentioned company until his said three months expired; & was all that time engaged with his Regiment in the neighborhood or Williamsburgh & York, along the neck of land between & James & York Rivers. during this period of service his regiment was attacked at a place called "Burd's Ormary" by col. Tarlton's Regiment of Horse [sic: Bird's Ordinary, 8 mi NW of Williamsburg, by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion] & were put to flight. In this skirmish he received a severe cut on his head from a sword of one of Tarlton's troops, which has produced a deep scar. He continued to serve until his term expired about the the first of October & was then discharged. He did not return home, but was immediately notified that he had been again drafted at Loudon County for three months & continued on in the service; his company was now commanded by Captain Josiah White, who had been his Lieutenant in the previous tour. The names of the other Company officers he cannot remember; but he recollects that Captain Humphry's son, Abner Humphry was the orderly Sergeant. He was engaged with his Company at Yorktown during all the time of the Siege of that place [28 Sep – 19 Oct 1781]. and shortly after the

surrender of Lord Cornwallis he was marched with his company & two others as he thinks to guard the prisoners to Winchester. He remained at Winchester until his term of service expired, which was about the first of January 1782. He then remained a few days longer with his Company & marched with the prisoners to Shepherdstown in Maryland [sic: in Berkeley County then in Virginia] where they left them & were discharged. He received a written discharge generally, he thinks, if not always at the end of each period of service but not taking any care to preserve them, they have all been lost. The length of his service in the first tour was four months, wanting five or six days, & in the three last, three months each; making together thirteen months wanting only six days. He has no documentary evidence & knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He entered the service & served each of said tours as a private soldier.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state, or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of Virginia.

In answer to the questions put to him by the Court, he says,

- 1st He was born on the 15th day of march 1765 in the City of Philadelphia & removed when a small boy to Loudon County Virginia.
- 2nd He has a record of his age in his bible which is now in his possession.
- 3rd He was living in Loudon County Virginia when he entered the service, & has continued to reside there until about twelve years ago, when he removed to Belmont County in the State of Ohio & resides now in Washington Township, Harrison County, Ohio.
- 4th The first tour he entered the service, he entered as a volunterr; the second time he was drafted; the third time he was a substitute for Silas Gilbert; & the fourth time he was drafted.
- 5th He recollects of the regular officers that Gen. Lafayette & the Barran Steuben were with the troops in which he served at Richmond & marched down the river with them. At Yorktown he recollects that they & Gen. Washington & he thinks Col. Morgan were present. After he marched to Winchester there were no regular troops or officers with them.
- 6th He received a discharge at the end of his several periods of service, but that have been long since lost or distroyed. They were always signed by his Captain.
- 7th He states the names of the following persons, who have been long acquainted with him who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution; towit, Stokely Craig who resides in his present neighborhood & the Rev. Joseph Anderson of Belmont County in this State in whose neighborhood he resided for ten years previous to his coming to the place where he now lived about two years ago. George hisXmark Biner

NOTE: Gen. William Phillips's raid on Richmond occurred about 22 April. Lafayette did not arrive in Richmond until 29 April, whereupon he succeeded Gen. Baron von Steuben in command.