

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Barber: S6572

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina}  
Surry County}

On this 2<sup>d</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord One  
Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Three personally  
appeared before me Josiah Cowles a Justice of the Peace

and a member of the County Court of Surry & State of North Carolina William Barber aged 87 years, who first being 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<sup>th</sup> 1832, That he Entered the Service of the United States under the following Named Officers and served as herein stated

he was drafted in the month of January in the year 1781 into the company of Virginia Militia commanded by Fleming Bates first Leut David Bates Sergeant John Pulliam. We rendevous'd at Cabbin Point below Petersburg [sic: Cabin Point in Surry County VA southeast of Petersburg]. they were cald into service the 15 Jan. they were at Bibbs Old Field when we joined & were commanded by Col. Dix [probably Alexander Dick]. Our Object was to intersept the Traitor [Benedict] Arnold who was at or near Portsmouth. We were stationed near the Dismal Swamp 2 or 3 weeks. news was brot that the Brittish were Landing at Sleepy Hole [on Nansemond River]. we raised our camp and marched across the Dismal in the night. We took up quarters & remained till my time of service was out. this tour was for three months. he served out his time & had a Discharge from David Bates Which Discharge is lost. The following Sept. say year 1781 he was again Drafted into the company of Leut Jno Maxy. he thinks it was in the first days of Sept they rendevous'd at Boids [sic: Boyd's] Ferry on Dan River Our Col was Peter Rodgers. he thinks that General Butler comanded. Were marched to York-Town where we were under the comand of Gen Washington who besieged Cornwallis & took him [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] We had to guard 25 Tories up to Richmond. this time he was discharged at James-town by Capt Fortner. this tour was for three months. was on close[?] duty six months at both tours

Answers to questions as propounded by the magistrate — 1<sup>st</sup> I was born in Dinwiddie [sic: Dinwiddie] County Virginia May 17, 1745. 2<sup>d</sup> I have no record of my age nor do I know of any. 3<sup>d</sup> I was living when cald into Service in Halifax County Va. I have lived in the County of Surry State of No Ca for the last 28 years. 4<sup>th</sup> I was drafted. 5<sup>th</sup> [Continental officers where he served] General Washington. Mulinburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] & Butler at the siege of York-Town which was in Oct 1781. 6<sup>th</sup> I did two for 3 months each [discharge] signed by David Bates and Capt Fortner they are both lost. 7<sup>th</sup> I refer to John Angel, John Wright & Others for character &c. he has no documentary Evidence of his Service nor does he know of any Person whose Testamony he can procure who can testify to his service. he hereby relinquishes evry claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency of any State or Territory.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid

William hisXmark Barber

NOTE: In the 1830 federal census of Surry County NC William Barber is enumerated as a "Free Colored Person."