

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

Pension Application of Benjamin Berry S6627

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, and County of Rockingham to wit:

On this 21st day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Joseph Cravern, David Winton, George Clark, and Augustus Waterman Justices of the County Court of Rockingham County now sitting, Benjamin Berry, a resident of the County of Rockingham and Stated of Virginia, aged 74 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

He was born in the year 1758 as he believes in New Jersey near Monmouth Court House but has no record of his age. When he was a little upwards of sixteen he was drafted in the militia service in New Jersey and served one month under Capt Walton [probably Elisha Walton]. the principal part of this time was served in Freehold County N. Jersey – and about a month afterwards he was called out again and served another month, principally in the neighbourhood of a place called Shrewsbury in N. Jersey under Capt Walton, the brother of the first named Captain, he having been advanced to a Major. The object of the services here spoken of was to keep the Tories in subjection, and prevent depredations of the British – and had no general engagement. Late in the fall of 1776 after the battle of Long Island [27 Aug 1776], he was drafted in the militia service under Capt. Hann, and marched to Sandy Hooks, and was in the engagement at that place [?], when the militia were nearly all taken prisoners by the enemy – but escaped himself and joined another party of militia near a place called Middletown N. Jersey – and was taken sick and returned home and was out about two months.

The next time that he was called out was in the spring of 1777 as he believes, but he cannot be very positive about dates, having no written documents to refer to, under a draft of the N. Jersey militia, has forgotten the Captain's name, and marched to Princeton, and thence to Sourland Mountain, and thence to Middlebrook Mountain, at Gen'l. Washington's Head Quarter's. Gen'l. Washington made an attempt to bring the enemy to an engagement at New Brunswick but failed, and pursued them to Amboy. Here the militia were discharge, he cannot say with certainty how long this term of service lasted, but thinks about a month. Was in no general engagement during this period.

In the same year in the fall was drafted again, and marched direct to Germantown Pa. and joined Gen'l. Washington's Head Quarters, service this tour under Capt Walton and was in the battle at Germantown [4 Oct 1777]; and marched home, and was discharged after a short time. He supposes he might have been out about six weeks under this draft. Between this tour and the next regular term of service, he was occasionally called out for a short period at a time but cannot recollect sufficiently to particularize these several terms, but thinks they could not have amounted to less than two or three months.

About the last of May or first of June 1778 another draft of N. Jersey militia, and was marched to the Delaware River and was under Gen'l. Morgan [sic] at the battle of Monmouth on the 28th June and was discharged the 29th. Thinks this term lasted about a month. After the battle of Monmouth in the same year he was called out several times in the New Jersey militia service, and served from two to three months at different period, but cannot recollect sufficiently the several terms under the command of Gen'l. Furman to prevent depredations and plunder by the Tories and British.

Late in the fall of 1778 he removed to Virginia, and in the fall of 1780 was drafted in Rockingham County and marched to Richmond under Capt Harrison, and remained but a short time the British having embarked and left that neighbourhood and was discharged at Richmond. He was absent from home twenty seven[?] days during this tour.

In the winter and spring of 1781 he served a three months tour as a drafted militia man under Capt. [George] Baxter, Maj. [Gawen] Hamilton, Col. [William] Nolle and Gen'l. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], the three first militia officers. He marched from Rockingham to Richmond on this expedition, and then to Norfolk, thence through the lower part of Virginia to the N. Carolina line and was discharged in April. He never received a written discharge during all his services. He has no documentary evidence of his services – but relies on the deposition of his brother John Berry [of Hardy County VA, pension application S37757] herewith submitted, for the proof of his services in N. Jersey and for his services in Virginia he relies on the testimony of the Rev'd. Wm. Bryan [William Bryan, pension application S6760], who was in the same campaign and who is introduced in Court for this purpose. He has resided in Rockingham County ever since the close of the Revolutionary War, and for his character and the belief of the neighbourhood in his revolutionary services he refers to Capt David Rolston, Mr. Joseph Henton, Joseph Baxter Esqr. Mr. Wm. Eison, and neighbours generally.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Benjamin Berry

Rockingham County, State of Virginia to wit:

The amended declaration of Benjamin Berry for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Rockingham and state of Virginia Benjamin Berry, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. – For one year and five months I served as a private; and for such service I claim a pension. Given under my hand this 8th day of January 1833.

NOTE: A document in the file states that Berry died on 14 Dec 1834 leaving children.