

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of George Gentry S6885

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia:

At a court held for Albemarle County the 2^d day of October 1832

On this 2^d day of October 1832 personally appeared in open before the Justices of the Court of Albemarle County George Gentry aged sixty six 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 was born in the County of Hanover near ground squirrel bridge [sic: Ground Squirrel Bridge on South Anna River 20 mi NNW of Richmond] in the year 1765 or 1766 he cannot be positive as he has no record of his age. That about the beginning of the year 1781 he entered the service in the militia as a substitute for his father who was then drafted. That he marched to Richmond thence to Williamsburg where he was stationed some time – thence to Morvans hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SW of Richmond] – thence he was stationed on the York river in different places, he was on guard near the spot where the British forces Landed above Yorktown He served his fathers tour of two month out. Then he was drafted on his own account and served that tour without being at home more than three days. That he served a tour next in place of John Childres as a substitute, went a substitute for John Alvis each tour about two months. He was not discharged finally untill after the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. He thinks he had a written dischage, though he is not positive. He has not got it now, if he received one. He was altogether in the service about 8 or 9 months He was stationed some time at Williamsburg and was on the Eastern side of the York river when the surrender of Cornwallis took place. He recollects the names of the following officers under whom he served Viz Capt. Jno Thompson [John Thompson] under whom he first marched. Thurston James Adjutant Major DeKluman a french officer [sic: Charles de Klauman, a Danish officer] his name was thus pronounced, but he does not know how it was spelt. General Thomas Nelson & General Washington His Captains besides Thompson were ___ Johnson (his christian name not recollected) Capt. Rowe commanded him while he served as a substitute for John Childress. He has no papers but can refer to the certificates of James Gentry [pension application S8555] and Absolom Thomas who know that he was in the service as above stated. He believes that by going to the county of Hanover he could procure other certificates of persons who knew him while he was service. He removed from Hanover to this county about seventeen years since and has lived here ever since He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 & year aforesaid George hisXmark Gentry

Thereupon the Court propounded to the applicant the following Interrogatories.

1 Where and in what year were you born

A. I was born in the County of Hanover Virginia in 1765 or 1766

2 Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it

A I have none

3 Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, & where do you now live?

A When called into service I lived in Hanover County Virginia and removed from that County to the County of Albemarle about seventeen years since where he has resided ever since

4 How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you substitute, & If a substitute for whom?

A In the 1st tour I entered the service as a substitute for my father James Gentry who was then drafted. In the 2^d tour I was drafted In the third tour I served as a substitute for John Childress In the next as a substitute for John Alvis

- 5 State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service
A. Capt. John Thompson, Thurston James adjutant – Major DeKluman a french officer. Gen'l. Thomas Nelson & General Washington Capt. Johnson, Capt Rowe

State of Virginia, Albemarle County to wit

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for said County, George Gentry, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, and from an injury which he received many years since on the head which has affected his 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 viz: For the year 1781 two months as a private – he cannot positively swear as to the months – but is confident this tour included two winter months, and he thinks the months of January and February. He was a substitute for his father, and is confident that the tour was for two months from the time he entered the service as stated in his declaration, till he was discharged. As stated in his declaration, he had been at home only a few days, when he was drafted in the militia on his own account, and served as a private another tour of two months. This tour was of course in the same year viz: 1781 – and in the months of March and April and part of May, as this affiant believes from the best recollection he has of the dates. He was not at home long after the close of this tour, before he entered again as a substitute for John Childres, who was drafted as a private in the militia. He cannot name the months in which this tour was performed, but if he was to conjecture, he would say this were June & July, he recollects they were Summer months – and in the same year viz: 1781 – this tour was two months. He served another tour the same year as a substitute for John Alvis, a private in the militia and recollects distinctly that this tour was during the Seige of Yorktown, and he thinks embraced parts of the months of September, October, and November and he was not discharged till after the surrender of Cornwallis some time.

When his former declaration was written, it being done in haste, the person who wrote it omitted to state, that he had received a wound in the leg from a sword cut. This was while he served as a substitute for John Childress. The marks & scar of the wound are still visible, as the sinew of his right leg was injured & still gives him frequent pain. As the wound is to him at least an honorable memorial of his service, he wishes it now mentioned & made known.

and for this service he claims a pension. If other witness besides James Gentry are wanted, he can procure several by going to the county of Hanover where he originally lived. But as he is old and this would give him much trouble, he hopes the proofs submitted will be deemed satisfactory.

Given under my hand and seal this 26th day of April 1833.

NOTE: On 11 April 1855 George Gentry applied for bounty land.