

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Louis Baury de Bellerive: W28025

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Translation. [original not found]

Memorial.

Louis Baury de Bellerive, was born in St. Domingo [now Santo Domingo] 16th of September 1754.

Commenced his military service as a volunteer in the regiment Saintonge, the 14th of August 1768.

He was made sub Lieutenant of the Legion of horse, company of Hardwin in 1769

Having passed with leave to St. Domingo, in 1771, he was made Lieutenant in the battalion of militia of For [Fort?] Dauphin, in 1773.

He was appointed aid de camp to the count D'Argout, with rank of Capt. of infantry in 1776.

He was made Capt commandant in the corps of chasseurs of S. Domingo in 1779 In this rank he served during the campaign of Savannah [Siege of Savannah GA, 24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779]. He commanded five hundred men of his corps at Martinico [Martinique], under the command of the Marquis de Nouillé [probably Louis-Marie, comte de Noailles] from the month of November 1779 to some time in the year 1780

He was present in the ship Hannibal commanded by the count de La Motte Bignet, in the engagement which took place in the bay of Port Royal, with the fleet of Admiral [Peter] Parker in 1779

While returning to St. Domingo on board the squadron of the Count de la Motte Piquet, he was present again at the second engagement with Admiral Parker in 1780.

He was put on half pay the same year.

He then served the Campaigns in America, and the windward Islands, in the rank of Captain of the train of genadiers [sic: grenadiers], and troops of disembarcation, from the year 1781.

up to the year 1783

Dated at the Cape (François) 18th of April 1788.

(signed) Baury de Bellerive.

Certified to be true by me the General Commandant,

(signed) Vincent

The Chief of the bureau of the Archives and libraries of the Minister of Marine, and of the colonies, certifies, that the signature affixed here above, of M. Vincent, Commandant General of St. Domingo, seems like to those of the same functionary affixed below different documents preserved in the said Archives.

{L.S.} Paris 7 November 1850 (signed) Girette.

The minister of Marine and of the Colonies, certifies, that the signature affixed above is that of M. Girette, chief of the bureau of the Archives and Libraries, and that faith ought to be given to it as well in court, as out of it.

Paris 7 November 1850.

For the Minister and by his order; The Director of the General Secretaryship, and of accounts.

{L.S.} (signed) Blanchard.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Suffolk SS. City of Boston 21 Jan AD 1851

On this twenty first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight Hundred and fifty one personally appeared (at her own Dwelling House in the City of Boston,) before me the subscriber Edward G. Loring Judge of the Court of Probate within and for the County of Suffolk

Madam Mary Baury a resident in said City of Boston aged Eighty three years who being first

duly sworn according to Law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7 AD 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows and also of the acts passed 3 March AD 1843 and 17 June AD 1844-. That she is the Widow of Louis Baury who was a Captain of the Corps of Chasseurs in the French service during the Revolutionary war. His first actual service in the American war performed at the siege of Savannah in 1779;- He also served at other places against England in the following years.

From 1781 to 1783 he served as Capt'n. of Grenadiers and troops of debarcation in the United States and in the Windward Islands;- she has never applied before for a pension because she has only within the last twelve months procured the [illegible word] evidence of his service; she further declares that she was married to the said Louis Baury on the seventh day of June seventeen hundred and eighty four - that her husband the aforesaid Louis Baury died on the twentieth day of September eighteen Hundred and seven; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four - to wit at the time above stated - she further swears that she is still and now the Widow of said Louis Baury having never again married since his decease as aforesaid - that by reason of bodily infirmity arising from advanced years she is confined to her dwelling House in said Boston where she resides and is unable to attend Court - that she has never before made any application for a pension unless signing a memorial to the last Congress can be so considered.

Mary Baury

To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:—

The memorial of Mary Baury, of Boston, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, respectfully sheweth, that your memorialist heretofore tendered a memorial to your honorable body, in the words following, to wit:—

Your memorialist, a widow, in the eighty-third year of her age, solicits pecuniary aid; and that her reluctance, hitherto, to appear, as a petitioner, may not prejudice her right, if any she have, to retrospection, in the date of her claim.

Your memorialist, of American parentage, became the wife of Louis Baury in 1784; and his widow in 1807. Her husband was born in the Island of St. Domingo, in 1754, and received his military education in France. When, in 1779, [Charles-Hector-Théodat] Count D'Estaing embarked with 6000 troops at Cape Francois, destined for the Southern part of North America, a corps of volunteer chasseurs, under the command of Louis Baury, formed a part of that army. The employment of these troops, under the command of Gen. [Benjamin] Lincoln, is matter of historical record. In a letter from Gen. Vincent, it appears, that Louis Baury was employed in the siege of Savannah. From 1779 to the peace of 1783, Louis Baury was with the army of the Revolution. In 1787, he was appointed, by Major-General Lincoln, one of his aids; and, upon the suppression of Shay's rebellion [1787], he received a letter from Gen. Lincoln, acknowledging his "zeal and fortitude, spirit and bravery," which testimonial is in the possession of your memorialist.

The autograph of Baury De Bellerive will be found among those original members, who formed the society of the Cincinnati, and whose diploma, or certificate of membership, is signed by the first President of the same, George Washington.

"Your memorialist had two sons, upon whom she fondly counted, for comfort and support in her declining years. Some slight reference to their brief career may not be irrelevant to this memorial. For Francis Baury, the eldest, his father obtained a midshipman's warrant in the Navy of the United States; and in 1799, he was ordered to the ship Trumbull, Capt. Jewett, on board which ship he served. Shortly after, the war commenced, between America and France. His father could not endure the thought, that a son of his should draw his sword, even for the land of his adoption, against the land of his birth; and respectfully withdrew him from the service.

In 1801, the Government of France having employed a large army for the subjugation of St. Domingo, the father and son embarked for that island. Upon their arrival, Gen. Rochambeau [Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau], the friend of the father, appointed

the son one of his aids. Soon after, he was entrusted with the command of 500 men, and fell, on the field of battle in March, 1802 [Haitian Rebellion, Siege of Crête-à-Pierrot, 4-24 Mar 1802]. All of solace, that can be found in the language of sympathy and admiration, was received by his parents, in a letter from Gen. Rochambeau, shortly after that event.

Your memorialist has no occasion to complain that her country has lost the services of her offspring without acknowledgement. She beholds, with a mingled pride and sadness, a sword in her keeping, inscribed, by order of Congress, with the name of her second son, Frederick Baurly, as a token of national regard, after the capture of the Reindeer, June 28, 1814. It never reached the hand, for which it was designed. Lieut. Baurly, with the gallant Blakely and his brave associates, had perished on the ocean, ere their grateful country could prepare these testimonials of regard. [Johnston Blakely, Captain of the *Wasp*, last seen 9 Oct 1814.]

Frederick Baurly obtained his midshipman's warrant in 1809; and first joined the frigate Essex, under Capt. [John] Smith. He was next transferred to the Constitution, under Capt. Hall; and was on board that ship, at the time of her remarkable escape from the British squadron, in 1812. He served on board that ship, under Capt. Hall, when she captured the Guerriere; and, under Capt. [William] Bainbridge, when she captured the Java. After these action, Frederick Baurly was promoted to a lieutenancy, and joined the *Wasp*, under Capt. Blakely. He was on board this ship, when she captured the Reindeer. In the letter from Capt. Blakely to the Secretary of Navy, July 8, 1814, especial notice is taken of the good conduct of Lieut. Baurly, during that action.

He was also on board the *Wasp*, during her memorable action with the Avon; and, in the letter of Capt. Blakely to the Secretary of the Navy, Sept. 11, 1814, the most honorable notice is taken of the conduct of Lieut. Baurly. At the period, he perished in the *Wasp*, the son of your memorialist was entering upon the twenty-third year of his age. He left neither widow nor children.

Should you honorable body, after consideration, decide that your memorialist is not entitled to relief, she will draw all, that can be drawn from compensation for her loss, in the reflection, that her husband and her sons were honorable men; and that one of them bore a gallant part, in four of the most remarkable naval battles—all of them victories—during the war of 1812, and finally perished in the service of his country."

An act was thereupon passed, March 3, 1853, directing the Secretary of the Interior to place on the roll of revolutionary pensioners the name of Mary Baurly, widow of Louis Baurly, who served three campaigns, as captain of grenadiers, during the revolutionary war, and to pay her a pension, at the rate of six hundred dollars, per annum, from the 25th day of March, 1850, and to continue, during her natural life.

However brief the continuance of this benefit may be, your memorialist is duly grateful for the pension, thus allowed her. The day of its termination—the "close of her natural life," cannot, probably, be far away. The period of enjoyment must be short—your memorialist begs leave to suggest that she is now in the eighty-seventh year of her age.

Your memorialist presumes to trespass upon the patience of this honorable body, so far as to ask their renewed consideration of that part of her former memorial, in which she expresses a hope, "that her reluctance hitherto to appear, as a petitioner, may not prejudice her right, if any she have, to *retrospection*, in the date of her claim."

She is emboldened to make this request, by the deliberate opinion, in writing, of counsel, learned in the law, and of the highest professional eminence, by whom she is assured, that the principles, upon which the grant of her present pension necessarily rests, furnish the most ample ground for something more:— in other words, that "Captain Baurly was a citizen of the United States at the close of the war of the revolution, and remained so, until the day of his death; and that his widow is entitled to the benefit of the pension law of July 7, 1838, and of the several acts in addition and supplemental thereto."

Your memorialist is very sure, that no member of your honorable body would fail to regret the circumstance, should it hereafter appear, that the widow of a soldier of the revolution, in her extreme old age, had received one farthing less than the full amount of her claim, under the laws of her country:—she asks no more.

And as in duty bound, your memorialist will, &c. &c.

MARY BAURLY.

Boston, Massachusetts, February 2, 1854.

NOTE:

In the file is a copy of the record of the marriage of "Louis Baury de Bellerive of Hispaniola & Marry Clark" by Rev. Samuel Stillman in Boston on 7 June 1784. Another document from the Town Clerk of Middleton CT states that Mary, daughter of Elisha and Sarah Clark, was born 19 July 1767. The certificate of pension was sent to A S N Baury at No. 2 Waverly Place, Boston.

This file also includes the application of John Baus who served in the Pennsylvania Militia.