

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

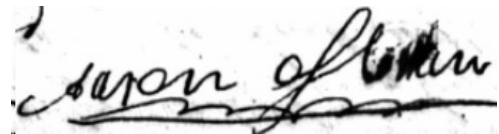
Pension Application of Aaron Osborn (Osburn) W4558 Sarah Benjamin NY
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 28 Feb 2024.

[Capitalization partly corrected]

State of New York Ss

Montgomery County On this 18th day of May 1818 before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common pleas in and for the County of Montgomery personally appears Aaron Osburn Aged seventy four years Resident in the Town of Amsterdam in said County who being by me first duly Sworn according to Law doth on His oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Late act of Congress entitled an act to provide for Certain persons engaged in the Land and naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary war. That the said Aaron Osburn enlisted in the Town of Peramus [sic: Paramus] State of New Jersey was formerly from Goshen in the State of New York in the Company Commanded by Capt. James Greggs [sic: James Gregg W17025] in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Gansevort [sic: Peter Gansevoort] then caled the 3rd New York Reg't. and that he enlisted for During the war and continued to serve in said corps for about two years and was then transfered to another regiment commanded by Colonel Goose Van Schaick of Albany and served under said Vanschaick until the close of the war or the month of June in the year eighty three when he was discharged from said service in New Burgh [Newburgh] in the state of New York and that from the commencement of his said servis untill the tim of his discharge was six years and six months which time this deponant served in the cause of his country faithfully This deponant saith he enlisted as a Drummer and was afterwards advanced to a Corporal and so discharged.

that he was in the battles of fort Stanwicks at Peek Kill at Peramus at the Battles faught in General Sulivans Campain at the taking of Cornwallace &c [sic: Fort Stanwix near present Rome NY, 4 - 22 Aug 1777; Peekskill, 22 Mar 1777; Paramus, 22 Mar 1780 or 16 Apr 1780; Gen. John Sullivan's Campaign against the Indians, 19 Jun - 3 Oct 1779; surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his pasen [possession] of his said service Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid
Benedict Arnold Judge



State of Pennsylvania }
Wayne County } Ss

On this twentieth day of November A.D. 1837 personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas of said county of Wayne Sarah Benjamin a resident of Pleasant Mount in said County of Wayne and State of Pennsylvania aged eighty one years on the seventeenth day of the present month, 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 4, 1836, and the act explanatory of said act, passed March 3^d 1837:

That she was married to Aaron Osborn, who was a soldier during the revolutionary war, that her first acquaintance with said Osborn Commenced at Albany in the state of New York during the hard winter of 1780 that deponent then resided at the house of one John Willis a blacksmith in said city, that said Osborn came down there from fort Stanwix and went to work at the business of blacksmithing for said Willis and continued working at intervals for a period of perhaps two months. Said Osborn then informed deponent that he had first enlisted at Goshen in Orange County N.Y. that he had been in the service for three years, deponent thinks, about one year of that time at Fort Stanwix, and that his time was out. And, under an assurance that he would go to Goshen with her, she married him at the house of said

Willis during the time he was there as above mentioned to wit in January 1780. That Deponent was informed by said Osborn that while he was at Fort Stanwix he served under Captain James Gregg and Colonel Van Schaick, the former of whom she was informed by said Osborn was scalped by the indians near Fort Stanwix while he was on an excursion pigeon hunting [on 13 Oct 1777], which in the sequel proved to be true as she will shew hereafter. That after deponent had married said Osborn he informed her that he was returned during the war and that he desired deponent to go with him. Deponent declined, until she was informed by Captain Gregg that her husband should be put on the Commissary guard and that she should have the means of conveyance either in a wagon or on horse back. That deponent then in the same winter season in sleighs accompanied her husband and the forces under command of Captain Gregg on the east side of the Hudson river to Fishkill then crossed the river and went down to West Point. There remained till the river opened in the spring, when they returned to Albany. Captain Gregg's company was along and she thinks Captain Barrens, Lt. Forman, & Col. Van Schaick but is not positive. Deponent accompanied by her said husband and the same forces returned during the same season to West Point. Deponent recollects no other females in company but the wife of Lt. Forman and of Sergeant Lamberson Deponent was well acquainted with Capt. Gregg and repeatedly saw the sore spot on his head where he had been scalped by the indians. Captain Gregg had turns of being shattered in his mind and at such times would frequently say to deponent "Sarah did you ever see where I was scalped," shewing his head at the same time. Captain Gregg informed deponent also of the circumstances of his being scalped, that he and two more went out pigeon hunting and were surprised by the indians and that the two men that were with him, were killed dead, but that he escaped by reason of the tomahawk glancing on the button of his hat[?], that when he came to his senses [illegible] crept along and laid his head on[?] one of the dead men, and while [undeciphered word] his dog came to his relief and by means of his dog, the two fishermen who were fishing near the fort.

Deponent further says that she and her husband remained at West Point till the departure of the army for the south a term of perhaps one year and a half but she can not be positive as to the length of time. While at West Point deponent lived at Lt. Foot's who kept a boarding house. Deponent was employed in washing and sewing for the soldiers Her said husband was employed about the camp. She well recollects the uproar occasioned when word came that a british officer had been taken as a spy. She understood at the time, that Maj. Andre [John Andre, captured 23 Sep 1780 near Tarrytown NY] was bro't up on the opposite side of the river and kept there till he was executed [2 Oct 1780]. On the return of the bargemen who assisted Arnold [Benedict Arnold] to escape deponent recollects seeing two of them, one by the name of Montecu, the other by the name of Clarke. That they said Arnold told them to hang up their dinners for he had to be at Stony Point [Stony Point] in so many minutes, and when he got there he hoisted his pocket hd'kf [handkerchief] on his sword and said "row on boys" and that they soon arrived in Haverstraw bay and found the british ship. That Arnold jumped on board and they were all invited and they went aboard and had their choice to go or stay. And some chose to stay and some to go and did accordingly.

When the army were about to leave West Point and go south they crossed over the river to Robinsons farms and remained there for a length of time to induce the belief, as deponent understood, that they were going to take up quarters there, whereas they re-crossed the river in the night time into the Jerseys and travelled all night in a direct course for Philadelphia. Deponent was part of the time on horse back and part of the time in a wagon. Deponent's said husband was still serving as one of the commissary's guard. A man by the name of Burke was hung about this time for alleged treason but more especially for insulting adjutant Wendell [possibly Jacob Henry Wendell W18305] the prosecutor against Burk as deponent understood and believed at the time. There was so much opposition to the execution of Burk that it was deferred some time and he was finally executed in a different place from what was originally intended.

In their march for Phil'a they were under command of generals Washington and [George] Clinton, Col. Van Schaick Capt. Gregg Captain Parson, Lt. Forman Sergeant Lamberson Insign Clinton [Ensign Alexander Clinton] one of the general's sons. They continued their march to Philadelphia, deponent on horse back through the streets, and arrived at a place towards the Schuylkill where the british had burnt some houses, where they encamped for the afternoon and night. Being out of bread deponent was

employed in baking the afternoon and evening. Deponent recollects no females but Sergeant Lambersons and Lt. Forman's wives, and a colored woman by the name of Letta. The quaker ladies who came round, urged deponent to stay, but her said husband said "no he could not leave her behind". Accordingly next day they continued their march from day to day till they arrived at Baltimore where deponent and her said husband and the forces under command of Gen'l. Clinton Capt. Gregg and several other officers all of whom she does not recollect embarked on board a vessel and sailed down the Chesapeake. There were several vessels along and deponent was in the foremost. Gen'l. Washington was not in the vessel with deponent and she does not know where he was till he arrived at Yorktown where she again saw him. He might have embarked at another place but deponent is confident she embarked at Baltimore and that Gen'l. Clinton was in the same vessel with her. Some of the troops went down by land. They continued sail until they had got up the St. James river [sic: James River] as far as the tide would carry them, about 12 miles from the mouth and then landed and the tide being spent, they had a fine time catching sea lobsters which they ate. They however marched immediately for a place called Williamsburg, as she thinks, deponent alternately on horse back and on foot. There arrived, they remained two days till the army all came in by land and then marched for Yorktown, or Little York as it was then called. The [New] York troops were posted at the right – the Connecticut troops next and the French to the left. In about one day or less than a day they reached the place of encampment about one mile from Yorktown. Deponent was on foot, and the other females above named, and her said husband still on the Commissary's guard. Deponent's attention was arrested by the appearance of a large plain between them and Yorktown and an entrenchment thrown up. She also saw a number of dead negroes lying round their encampment whom she understood the british had driven out of the town and left to starve or were first starved and then thrown out. Deponent took her stand just back of the american tents say about a mile from the town and busied herself washing, mending and cooking for the soldiers, in which she was assisted by the other females, and some men washed their own clothing. She heard the roar of the artillery for a number of days and the last night the Americans threw up entrenchments it was a misty, foggy night, rather wet but not rainy. Every soldier threw up for himself as she understood, and she afterwards saw and went into the entrenchments. Deponent's said husband was there throwing up entrenchments and deponent cooked and carried in beef and bread, and coffee, (in a gallon pot) to the soldiers in the entrenchments. On one occasion when deponent was thus employed carrying in provisions, she met Gen'l. Washington, who asked her if she "was not afraid of the cannon balls" She replied "no, the bullets would not cheat the gallows – that it would not do for the men to fight and starve too". They dug entrenchments nearer and nearer to Yorktown every night or two till the last. While digging that, the enemy fired very heavy till about nine o'clock next morning [17 Oct 1781] – then stopped – and the drums from the enemy beat excessively. Deponent was a little way off in Col. Van Schaick or the officers' marque and a number of officers were present among whom was Captain Gregg, who, on account of infirmities did not go out much to do duty – the drums continued beating and all at once the officers hurra'd and swung their hats, and deponent asked them "what is the matter now". One of them replied "are not you soldier enough to know what it means"? deponent replied "no". They then replied "the British have surrendered" Deponent having provisions ready, carried the same down to the entrenchments that morning and four of the soldiers whom she was in the habit of cooking for ate their breakfasts. Deponent stood on one side of the road and the American officers upon the other side, when the British Officers came out of the town [on 19 Oct] and rode up to the American Officers and delivered [their] swords up which [several illegible words] thinks were returned again, and the British officers rode right on before the army who marched out beating and playing a melancholy tune, their drums covered, with black hdkfs and their fifes with black ribbands tied around them – into an old field and there grounded their arms, and then returned into town again to await their destiny. Deponent recollects seeing a great many american officers some on horse back and some on foot but can not call them out by name. Washington, LaFayette and Clinton were among the number. The British general at the head of the army was a large portly man, full face, and tears rolled down his cheeks as he passed along. She does not recollect his name – but it was not Cornwallis. She saw the latter afterwards and noticed his being a man of diminutive appearance and having cross eyes. [see endnote] On going into town she noticed two dead negroes lying by the market house. She had the curiosity to go into a

large building that stood near by – and there she noticed the cupboards smashed to pieces and China dishes and other ware strewed around upon the floors, and among the rest a pewter cover to a hot basin that had a handle on it. She picked it up supposing it to belong to the British, but the Governor [Thomas Nelson] came in and claimed it as his but said he would have the name of giving it away as it was the last one out of 12 that he could see and accordingly presented it to deponent and she afterwards bro't it home with her to Orange County, and sold it for old pewter which she has a hundred times regretted.

After two or three days deponent and her husband Captain Gregg and others who were sick or complaining embarked on board a vessel from Yorktown, not the same they came down in, and set sail up the Chesapeake bay and continued to the head of Elk [present Elkton MD], where they landed. The main body of the army remained behind, but came on soon afterward Deponent and her husband proceeded with the Commissary's teams from the head of Elk leaving Philadelphia to the right and continued day after day till they arrived at Pompton Plains in New Jersey. Deponent does not recollect the County. They were joined by the main body of the army under Gen'l. Clinton's command and they sat down for winter quarters. Deponent and her husband lived a part of the time in a tent made of logs but covered with cloth and a part of the time at a Mr. Manuels near Pompton meeting house. She busied herself during the winter in cooking and sewing as usual. Her said husband was on duty among the rest of the army, and held the station of Corporal from the time he left West Point. In the opening of spring they marched to West Point and remained there during the summer – her husband still with her. In the fall they came up a little back of New-Burgh to a place called New Windsor and put up huts on Ellis's lands and again sat down for winter quarters her said husband still along and on duty. The york troops and Connecticut troops were there. In the following spring or autumn they were all discharged. Deponent and her husband remained in New Windsor, in a log house built by the army, until the spring following. Some of the soldiers boarded at their house and worked round[?] among the farmers as did her said husband also.

Deponent and her husband spent certainly more than three years in the service for she recollects a part of one winter at West Point and the whole of another winter there, another winter at Pompton Plains, and another at New Windsor. and her husband was the whole time under the command of Capt. Gregg as an enlisted soldier holding the station of Corporal to the best of her knowledge.

In the winter before the army were disbanded, at New Windsor, on the 20th of February, deponent had a child by the name of Phebe Osborn of whom the said Aaron Osborn was the father. A year and five months afterwards on the 9th day of August at the same place she had another child by the name of Aaron Osborn Junior of whom the said husband was the father. The said Phebe Osborn afterwards married a man by the name of William Rockwell and moved in to the Town of Dryden, Tompkins Co. N.Y. where he died, say ten or twelve years ago, but her said daughter yet lives near the same place on the west side of Ithaca in the town of Enfield.

Her son Aaron Osborn Jr. lived in Blooming grove Orange Co. N.Y. had fits and was crazy and became a town charge and finally died there at the age of about 30 years.

About three months after the birth of her last child, Aaron Osborn Junior, she last saw her said husband who then left her at New Windsor and never returned. He had been absent at intervals before this from deponent, and at one time dep[onent] understood he was married again to a girl by the name of Polly Sloat above New Burgh about 15 or 16 miles. Deponent got a horse and rode up to inquire into the truth of the story. She arrived at the girl's father's and there found her said husband, & Polly Sloat and her parents Deponent was kindly treated by the inmates of the house but ascertained for a truth that her husband was married to said girl. After remaining over night deponent determined to return home and abandon her said husband forever as she found he had conducted in such a way as to leave no hope of reclaiming him. About two weeks afterwards her said husband came to see deponent in New Windsor and offered to take deponent and her children to the northward, but deponent declined going under a firm belief that he would conduct no better, and her said husband, the same night, absconded with two other, crossed the river an New burgh, and she never saw him afterwards. This was about a year and a half after his discharge Deponent heard of him afterwards up the Mohawk river, and that he had married again. Deponent, after hearing of this second unlawful marriage of her said husband, married, herself, to John Benjamin of Blooming grove Orange Col N.Y. whose name she now bears. About twenty years ago

deponent heard that her said husband Osborn died up the Mohawk and she has no reason to believe to the contrary to this day. Deponent often saw the discharge of her said husband, Osborn, and understood that he drew a bounty in lands in the lake country beyond Ithaca, but her husband informed her that he sold his discharge and land together in New burgh to a merchant residing there whose name she can not recollect. Her son in law said Ragnel on hearing of the death of Osborn went out to see the land and returned saying that it was a very handsome lot. But said Ragnel being now dead she can give no further information concerning it.

Deponent was informed more than forty years ago and believes that said Polly Sloat, Osborn's second wife above mentioned died dead drunk the liquor running out of her mouth after she was dead. Osborn's third wife she knows nothing about.

After deponent was thus left by Osborn she removed from New Windsor to Blooming grove Orange Co. N.Y. about fifty years ago where she had been born & bro't up and having married Mr. Benjamin as above stated, she continued to reside there perhaps thirty five years, when she & her husband Benjamin removed to Pleasant Mount, Wayne Co. Penn'a and there she has resided to this day. Her said husband John Benjamin died there ten years ago last April, from which time she had continued to be and is now a widow.

Deponent deems it proper further to say that she was informed by her said husband, Benjamin, that he was out in the militia for more than two years during the revolutionary war, that he was at Fort Montgomery and at West Point, but deponent was not then acquainted with him and therefore knows nothing of his services, but from him

Deponent further declares that she was married to the said Aaron Osborn in January 1780; that her husband the aforesaid Aaron Osborn died as she has been informed and believes as before stated twenty years ago or thereabouts; that she was married to the said John Benjamin in April, she thinks in the year 1787 who died in April 1827; and that she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836 and still remains a widow, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Deponent further says that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim, and that she knows of no living witness to either of her marriages or to the services of her said husband Aaron Osborn. She is confident that her witnesses are all dead who could speak to the fact of her marriage with Osborn.

Deponent once had a certificate of her marriage to said Osborn but has long since burnt it. She knows of no other documentary or record proof of her marriage and is quite confident there is no such proof in existence.

Sarah herXmark Benjamin

State of New York } [2 Feb 1838]

Orange County ss. } George Thompson of Bloominggrove in said County aged seventy seven years and two months being duly sworn doth depose and say that about fifty years ago or more Sarah Benjamin formerly Sarah Osborn came directly from the Camp ground to Bloominggrove where deponent then resided and where he has continued to reside ever since. That the said Sarah then had two children, Aaron Osborn Jun'r and Phebe Osborn the latter of whom the said Sarah brought with her when she first came. That the said Sarah was then generally known recognized and reputed as the wife of Aaron Osborn, who it was understood, had left her. That the said Sarah remained in the town a number of years, say between ten and twenty years, and was always known and reputed as the wife of said Osborn, and until she married Benjamin, was familiarly called among her acquaintance, "Widow Osborn," and the said children were generally known and reputed as the lawful children of said Aaron and Sarah, and deponent never heard or suspected the contrary. That one of said children, Phebe Osborn, was bound to deponent at about six years of age, and remained till she was eighteen, and shortly after, married a man by the name of Rognel and moved away. That said Sarah always sustained a good character while she remained in this neighborhood.

[signed] George Thompson

State of Pennsylvania }
County of Wayne } SS

On the twentyeth day of June AD. One thousand eight hundred and fifty five personally

appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Sarah Benjamin aged One hundred and nine years, a resident of Mount Pleasant Township Wayne County in the State of Pennsylvania who being duly Sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of Aaron Osborn deceased who was a Corporal in revolutionary war.

She further states that she was married to the said Osborn in Albany N.Y. during the revolutionary war and that her name before her said marriage was Sarah Read. She further states that she is now a pensioner of the United States and holds the certificate of J. R. Poinsett Secretary of War Certifying the same dated the 13th day of February 1838 recorded in the Pension Office in Book A. Vol 2 Page 637 by W. W. Addison Clerk and that (she supposes) the original record of her marriage etc. together with the requisite proofs of her said husband death are now in the actual possession of the department of the Interior

She also declares that she has never applied for nor received under any Act of Congress any bounty land warrant

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be intitled under the act, approved March 3^d 1855

Witness/ Calvely Freeman/ John Dennis

Sarah herXmark Benjamine

Honesdale, Wayne Co., Pa/ June 23, 1855.

L. P. Waldo, Esq.

Dear Sir:/ Enclosed herewith is the Declaration of Mrs. Sarah Benjamin who is only 109 or 110 years of age, and who wishes to get a Bounty Land Warrant for 160 acres of U. S. land. In Fowlers' & Wells American Phrenological Journal Vol. XX No. 5 you will see a correct likeness and account of the old lady. [see endnote] Any communications relative to this matter may be addressed to me at this place.

Yours Respectfully,/ Marshall Wheeler

NOTES:

A typed summary in the file states that Aaron Osborn died on 27 June 1819.

A letter in the file dated 1 March 1897 states that the maiden name of Sarah Benjamin was Sarah Matthews, and that she "died in 1861, aged 116 years." Although women and other camp followers were numerous in the Revolutionary War, Sarah Osborn Benjamin is among the few whose names are known.

Cornwallis, pleading indisposition, delegated the formal surrender at Yorktown to Gen. Charles O'Hara, and Washington therefore directed that the sword be received by Gen. Benjamin Lincoln. O'Hara was probably the portly British officer whom Sarah Osborn saw. Her statement that Cornwallis had crossed eyes may be attributed to the fact that Cornwallis had suffered an injury to one eye while playing hockey as a student at Eton.

The article from the American Phrenological Journal, XX, No. 5 (New York, Nov 1854, p 101) can be found at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951d00324527y&view=1up&seq=255> and is transcribed below with the portrait from that article. In a photograph taken in the 1850s, available at <https://www.nps.gov/people/sarah-osborn-benjamin.htm> and below, Sarah Osborn Benjamin appears younger than in the portrait.

SARAH BENJAMIN.
ONE HUNDRED AND NINE YEARS OF
AGE.

A CORRESPONDENT, to whom also we are indebted for the daguerreotype from which our portrait was engraved, furnishes us with the following account of this remarkable lady:

Mrs. Sarah Benjamin was born in or near Chester, Orange Co., N.Y. She will be one hundred and nine years old on the 17th day of the present month. She has had three husbands, all of whom are now dead. Her first husband, Wm. Reid [William Reid], was killed in a battle at Charleston, South Carolina.* They were married in Orange county, Pa. Her second husband died in the far West. His name was Aaron Osborn. They were married in Albany, N.Y. He was enlisted for three years in the army at the time of marriage. Her third husband, John Benjamin, died at Pleasant Mount, Wayne county. They were married in Orange Co, N.Y. By her last two husbands she had several children.

She was with the army all through the Revolutionary War. She was in Albany during the hard winter of 1780, and at West Point two or three years, while the army was stationed there; and when it left under General Washington, she followed. Her business was cooking and washing for her husband and other soldiers. She speaks distinctly of riding on horseback through the streets of Philadelphia on the way to Yorktown, and also of embarking on board ship at the head of Elk river, and of cruising down Chesapeake Bay, and landing (I think) at James river. She was at or near Yorktown during the entire siege, employed as usual, and saw the surrender of the place. She says that the roar of those cannon is still in her ears, and the memory of the sights and scenes of that time are as fresh in her mind as though they happened but yesterday. She says that Cornwallis did not give up his sword to Washington,—Cornwallis appointed one of his officers to do that disagreeable part of the business: Washington also appointed an officer to receive the sword. Cornwallis feigned sickness as an excuse, and the generosity of Washington overlooked the matter.

She speaks of the officers and men of the British army *weeping* as they passed, in long files, by the place where their conqueror stood—unarmed, defenceless, and in a strange land. She says that those tears made the Americans feel awkward, but she presumed that the British felt more so.

It was during the siege that General Washington came along and cautioned the old lady about exposing herself to the enemy's bullets, as she stood near one of the trenches. "Oh!" said she, "General, the bullet never cheats the *gallows!*" and the General passed on with a smile.

Of such stuff were the women of '76 composed! How different from the delicate ladies of 1854, who can't stand a breath of pure air coming in at the open window, for *fear* of a death - cold! Nevertheless, the world is growing better.

Mrs. Benjamin was in the town after its surrender, and speaks of the appearances presented there. She saw the work of the bombshells upon the houses, dead negroes lying around, and, in stacks standing by themselves, the arms of the enemy. No white men were left unburied. In due time she returned to Orange county, and remained there for a while, at or near Newburg. she afterwards retired into the interior of the county—her husband having gone to the West—and earned a living by working for the farmers. She afterwards removed to White Lake, and there married Benjamin.

She has been a resident of Wayne county thirty-seven years. Her memory is as good as ever. She



SARAH BENJAMIN. (100 YEARS OF AGE.)

speaks of things happening when she was only five years old!—*more than a century ago!* She mentioned the circumstance of her father holding her up in a boat while crossing the Delaware, near where Stroudsburg now is, to pick some berries from a bush which grew out from an overhanging bank. She was only five years old then! She speaks of the costumes of the maidens a century ago—her playmates and young friends, long, long years ago in heaven. She counts by halves and quarters of centuries, as you and I would by halves and quarters of years. Her eye is a little dim, her hearing a little thick, and she stoops a little. The hand of time has been lightly laid upon her. Her hair is not very gray, and but a few years ago she had teeth. Her voice is still rich, full and unshaken. She has an old umbrella-stick which she uses as a staff, though not *necessarily*. She spins her thirty-two knots of yarn weekly, and doubles and twists it, having previously carded the wool. When I came in upon her, the old spinning-wheel—the only one which I have seen for years—was humming its olden tune, and she walking to and from the spindle! I assure you, Sir, it is not often that you will find a century of calico playing upon the good “old-fashioned piano!” When she perceived me, she turned about and gave me a hearty shake of the hand, and we sat down to talk of what I have written you. M. W.

* Note by transcriber: The only engagement near Charleston SC before 1780 involving troops from Pennsylvania was at the Old Race Track on 11 May 1779 between the Legion of Gen. Count Kazimierz Pulaski and Loyalist forces. However, no one named William Read (or Reid or Reed) is found on the surviving rolls of Pulaski’s Legion from that period (<http://revwarapps.org/b222.pdf>).

