

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

Pension Application of Beverley Randolph W4774

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Virginia To Wit;

This day [2 Jan 1837] personally appeared before me Robert M. Marshall one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the Peace for the County of Warren, Mrs. Martha Randolph of said County, who made oath as follows, that she was married to Beverly Randolph on the fourteenth of February seventeen hundred and seventy five. That she knows that the s'd Beverly Randolph, her late husband, while a student at William and Mary College, Joined Col. Innis [sic: James Innes] as a Volunteer and marched to prevent the seizure of the public stores, in the Arsenal [at Williamsburg, 15 Apr 1775], by Lord Dunmore, and that after she was married to the said Beverly Randolph, the date of which marriage is mentioned above, That the militia of his neighborhood or the County of Cumberland, were never [sic] called out, that he did not command as colonel [sic], That he served at different times throughout the war of the Revolution, he commenced with or before it, and ended with it, but from the loss of his letters, burned unfortunately with the mansion house at Chattsworth, she has no means of refreshing her memory, so as to particularize the different battles in which he was engaged – except the Battle of Guilford Court House [15 Mar 1781], where he received the thanks of Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene in public, before a large part of the army, and at the Capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781]

and farther this deponent saith not except that she has never been married since the death of the above named Beverly Randolph and that he never served in the army except as a volunteer or officer in the militia

At a Court held for Cumberland County the twenty eighth day of July one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven,

Beverly Randolph colonel Henry Skipwith lieutenant Colonel and George Carrington jun'r. major in the militia of this County and sworn according to law:
[Copy certified on 23 Mar 1837]

State of Virginia} Ss

On this eighteenth day of February 1837, personally appeared before me, one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the Peace, in and for the County of Warren, Martha Randolph, a resident of Happy Creek Manor in said County of Warren, and State of Virginia aged eighty four 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 4th 1836: That she is the widow of the late Co'Inl Beverly Randolph, who was a Colonel of the Militia, of the County of Cumberland, in the State of Virginia during the latter years of the Revolutionary War. That in consequence of the loss of his letters and papers, (which were burned with the Mansion House at Chattsworth) she has no means of ascertaining, and does not recollect when or at what date he received his commission of Colonel, nor does she recollect any Battles in which he was engaged, except that of Guilford Court House, and that he was present at the Siege of York, after the battle of Guilford Court House, he received the thanks of General Green, Publicly, in presence of a large portion of his army, and whatever documentary he may have had to establish the foregoing facts were consumed by the fire at Chattsworth.

She further declares that she was married to the said Beverly Randolph, on the fourteenth of February seventeen hundred and seventy five, that her husband the aforesaid Beverly Randolph, died on the seventh day of February 1797: and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. [signed] Martha Randolph

State of Virginia/ Henrico County to Wit:

This day [20 Mar 1837] personally appeared before me John G. Mosby, a Justice of the peace in and for said County, Samuel J. Winston esqr., who being first duly sworn according to Law says, That he is seventy two years of age, that he was at the Siege of York during the Revolutionary War, and that he then and there knew, and saw in service in the Militia, Colo Beverley Randolph, who he verily believes served at the head of his Regiment between three and four months before and during the said siege, and that the said Colo Beverley Randolph was afterwards [1788 - 1791] Governor of Virginia, and farther this affiant saith [not].
[signed] Sam'l. J. Winston

My dear Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] Senator Rives advised me the day before he left home for the City, if I had any more business at the Pension Office to address myself to you, & in consequence I take the liberty to forward part of a Certificate, the original now before me in due form &c. Cumberland County &c

John Holman [pension application S8738] of said County being first duly sworn deposeseth & saith, that in the date of 1781 he went as a volunteer to Norfolk, to repel an expected invasion at that place, that on his return home in the same date, he found a detachment of the Cumberland Militia ready to march, & did march on a tower to Petersburg to repel an invasion at this place headed by [Gen. Benedict] Arnold – that Beverley Randolph was in the date 81 acting Colonel of the commanding forces of said County of Cumberland. The deposition of Faris [sic: Jacob Fariss, pension application S8453] which you will oblige me by referring to shews, that Colonel Beverley Randolph took command of the Cumberland Militia that march'd in February 81 for Guilford Court House, & that he kept the command 'till after the Siege of York, which was late in Octo'r. Col'n'l. Winston proves positively that Col'n'l. Beverley Randolph did command a detachment of militia at little York – and Holmans deposition goes to shew that in the intervening time between the three months tour for Guilford & the three for little York Col'n'l. Randolph headed the Cumberland troops on their march to Petersburg: you are perfectly aware that no militia troops were ever call'd out during the revolutionary War for a shorter term than three months, of course as Beverley Randolph did command the three different parties of militia that march'd from the County of Cumberland between February & November 81 inclusive, I ask at your hands an addition of three months to the pension already granted to his Widow making nine months instead of six. Be kind enough to answer this as soon as you can that if affirmative I may enclose Holmans deposition with the County Seal &c. The Widow has been advised to petition Congress for three years services of her Husband, bottom'd on circumstances too strong to be resisted by persons, who are not bound by positive forms. In the event that we do petition, I have the promise of Mr. Rives & Mr. Roans support. With great respect.

Your obedient Servant/ Will'm Randolph/ September 9th 1837.

I fear my D'r Sir [J. L. Edwards] by your not answering my letter that you do not think the certificate enclosed sufficient to give the widow of Col'l Beverley Randolph an addition of three months to the pension which you have already granted for his services in the Revolutionary War, is so I will take the liberty to remind you that there were three distinct drafts for militia from Cumberland County in 1781 one one that march'd to Guilford Court House one to Petersburg and the other to Little York all commanded by Beverley Randolph, now as the period for calling out the militia was never less than three months and Arnold did not form a junction with Lord Cornwallis till late in the month of May [20th] it confirms the deposition of Faris which unequivocally states that Beverley Randolph did, command the Cumberland Militia from the 1st of February untill October 1781 and as the British did not surrender until the last of that month, I hope you will add three months more. Holmans deposition is enclos'd which you will reserve for me, that in the event I should petition Congress. the Character of Beverley Randolph for disinterested Patriotism throughout his native state is proverbial, in fact they conferr'd on him all the honours they could give. With very great/ Respect yours &c/ Will'm Randolph. September 29th 1837.

NOTES:

On 24 March 1837 Allen Wilson, member of the Virginia Legislature, stated that he had been born and raised in Cumberland County within 2 miles of Governor Beverley Randolph, and that he had heard his father say that he had served under Col. Randolph at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

The file includes an obituary copied by William Randolph dated 5 Jan 1837 that states in part: "On Tuesday the 7th of the present month [Feb 1797], died at his residence on Green Creek in Cumberland County, Col. Beverley Randolph in the forty third year of his age.... Mr. Randolph tho' debilitated by an hereditary gout at a very early part of his life yet never shrank from his portion of military duty. He was in arms at different periods from 1775 to the end of our late Revolutionary War. In the memorable year 1781 at the head of a Regiment of the yeomanry of his country he gain'd honour in the action Guildford Court House under the orders of General Green in the same year he served in the combin'd American & French Armies before York Town until the surrender of the British garrison under Lord Cornwallis – an event which terminated the struggles of the American States for their liberties & independence."

A letter dated 14 Nov 1838 indicates that Lucy B. Randolph, the only child and heir of Martha Randolph, attempted to collect the final pension payment owed to her mother up to the date of her death. The file includes "the family record out of our Bible," sent to the Pension Office by William Randolph of Front Royal, husband of Lucy B. Randolph, and transcribed below.

James Cocke & Ann Brown were married Sep't. 29th 1750

Martha Cocke was Born June 2nd 1753. Elizabeth Cocke April 20th 1756. Ann Cocke died Nov'r. 25th 1757.

James Cocke married Elizabeth Wray Nov'r 5th 1767. This [Their?] Son James was Born Aug't. 10th 1769.

John Cocke Oct. 25th 1770. Peyton Randolph Cocke June 26th 1772. John Cocke was born Aug't. 29th 1774

Ann Cocke Oct. 25th 1776. Beverley Innes Cocke Oct. 21st 1779. James Cocke the Pater Familias was born April 7th 1726 N.S. [New Style] and died Feb'y. 23^d 1789

James Innes & Elizabeth Cocke were Married

Robert Innes born. Novem'r 9th 1782

James Innes born. May 9th 1783. lived only a few days.

Anne Brown Innes born. March 10th 1785

James Innes died August 2^d. 1798 whose mind was moral as the preachers Tongue

The tongue that once commanded all the power of Eloquence has forgot it's cunning – where are now those strains of harmony, which ravish'd our ears? where is that flow of persuasion, which carried captive our judgments? the master of language, is become as silent as the night that surrounds him....

Robert Innes died at sea. . . 1802

And now he is gone – the struggles of reluctant nature are over. the body sleeps in death; the soul launches into the invisible state.

Elizabeth Innes died Dec'r. 16th 1811

Beverley Randolph & Martha Cocke were married feb 14th 1775

Lucy Bolling Randolph born November 7th 1775

Beverley Randolph died February 7th 1797

"Mark the perfect man & behold the upright for the end of that man is peace"