

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Puryear (Puryers) W5587 Nancy Puryear f70VA  
Transcribed by Will Graves 12/11/12: rev'd 5/8/21

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

Virginia, County of Buckingham: SS

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June 1829, personally appeared in open Court being a court of record of the County of Buckingham, Reuben Puryear resident of the said County, 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 provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, and the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820; that he the said Reuben Puryear enlisted on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 1779 for 18 months under Captain Reid of Charlotte [County] in the State of Virginia was marched to Petersburg and there enlarged his enlistment to three years under Captain Taliaferro in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said Corps (having been during the time a prisoner on board a British prison ship for 14 months) when he was exchanged and sent to Virginia, when being weak, sick and unable to follow the Army he was discharged from the service in James City County in the State of Virginia in July 1781; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, except the present; that his name is not on the pension roll of any State; and that the following all the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension: He has not applied for a pension heretofore not because he did not badly need aid, but because he could not persuade himself to do it. He had rather deserve it, and not get it, than apply and be refused. He had rather fight every one of his old battles over again, than ask charity – but his friends now assure him that it is his absolute right, and he therefore asks. And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an 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” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. That, since the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818, there have been no changes in his property by sale or conveyance.

Description and amount of property possessed 18 March 1818

S/ Reuben Puryear

(Schedule) 100 acres of land, 3 slaves, a man, woman and a girl, 2 old horses (both dead since), 9 head of cattle, 6 head of sheep, 12 head of hogs, 2 plows and gear, one pot, one skillet and baker – Description and account of property possessed 18 March 1829 (viz.) the same 100 acres of

land, 3 slaves one old man worth \$100, one old woman worth \$50, one young woman worth \$250 (no horses), 11 head sheep, 8 hogs, 2 plows and gear, one pot, one oven, 5 chairs. – There has been no sale or conveyance by me – No property of any kind has been received & no money except small sums for crops sold which has gone in payment of debts. I am by profession a tailor, but dim sighted, and I suppose out of fashion, I get nothing from that service, nor have I for many years – I have a wife aged 68 or 69 years weak and infirm and has been for a great number of years, altogether unable to maintain herself

S/Reuben Puryear

*Reuben Puryear.*

[p 14: On February 16, 1841 in Buckingham County Virginia, Mrs. Nancy Puryear, 78, filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Reuben Puryear a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him May 13, 1786; that her husband died August 30, 1838 and that she is yet his widow.]

[p 8: family record:

Births

Reuben Puryear was born the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1763

Nancy Puryear was born the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1763

Salley A. Cobbs was born 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1787

W. H. Puryear was born 15<sup>th</sup> May 1789

Mary C. A. Puryear was born 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1796

Edward S Puryear was born 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1815

Cicely An Puryear was Born 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1821

William A. Puryear was born 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1828

Watson B. Cobbs was born 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1804

Norvell Cobbs was born 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1841

Thos. M. Cobbs was born 24<sup>th</sup> of November 1816

Marriages

W. H. Puryear and Mary his wife was married the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1813]

[p 10: Mary C. A. Puryear gave testimony that the above family record was taken from the Bible of Reuben Puryear deceased and Nancy Puryear his present widow and Sally A. Cobbs formerly Sally A. Puryear and William H Puryear whose names appear in said family record, which family record has been in the affiant's possession the last 26 years.

*Mary C A Puryear*

Her affidavit is attested May 31, 1843 in

Buckingham County Virginia.]

[Facts in file: the veteran and his wife Nancy were married in Hanover County Virginia. Her maiden name does not appear in the record. Beginning on p 41 and running to p 57, there are very detailed accountings of the debts incurred by the veteran and his family with local merchants.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1829, for service as a private for 3 years in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836.]

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[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

I do hereby Certify that Reuben Puryear served in the Continental Service in the first Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker and in Captain Zack Toliver's Company this 26 of March 1812

S/ Ishmal Baley,<sup>1</sup> X his mark

By the Books in this Office, it does not appear that any warrant was issued to Reuben Puryear; for his services in the Revolutionary war with Great Britain.

L. Off.

Decr. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1812

S/ John Davenport Clerk L. Off.

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<sup>1</sup> [Ishmael Bailey W5779](#)