

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Byrnes W6224

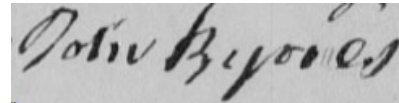
Esther Byrnes

PA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 Apr 2018.

Virginia towit

John Byrns of Harrison County personally appeared before the subscriber Presiding Justice of Harrison county Court, and made Oath, that he enlisted at Hagerstown in the state of Maryland in the year 1775 with Captain Kersley as a sergeant, and shortly after joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col Hendricks [James Hendricks VAS1490] in New Jersey in which he remained nearly two years, after which he was transfered to the 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment Commanded by Col [Edward] Hand, & served in the Company of Capt Skein, untill Col Hand was promoted [1 Apr 1777], and Capt Skein was made his aid de camp. he then served in Capt Busher Company in the same Regiment, which was commanded by Col Hubly [sic: Adam Hubley] till the latter end of the year 1782 when he was discharged by Col Hubly. that shortly after he was discharged he left his discharge with Samuel Agnew Esqr of Lancaster and is now unable to obtain the same, and that he is in indigent circumstances and unable to support himself without the aid of government, having had an arm broken



Virginia

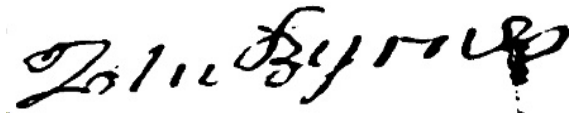
At a court held for the County of Harrison on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 1820 (being a court of record established by an act of the General Assembly of this commonwealth) Personally appeared before the Court aforesaid John Byrns aged 70 years resident of Harrison County Virginia who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he enlisted in the year 1775 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment Capt Caselys Company Virginia Line The date of his original declaration was april 13<sup>th</sup> 1818 his pension certificate is No. 3482. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the eighteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, 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 provisions 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, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, 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 hereunto annexed and by me subscribed., Viz I own one cow not paid for Six pigs Barndoor fowls about 12 — John Byrnes  
He further declared towit. I am by occupation a labourer but cannot live by my labour I have in family five viz myself my wife 45 years old My son Isaac 9 years old my son James 7 years old Samuel 17 years of age – Their joint labor would not support them. John Byrnes

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Harrison county to wit

This day John Byrnes a soldier of the revolutionary army appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said county and made the following statement under oath. That he enlisted on the first day of January 1775 as a soldier in the Virginia line on continental establishment. He was enlisted by Lieutenant Archibald Armstrong to serve during the war attached to a company commanded by a captain \_\_\_\_\_ Kennard a while and a part of his time under captain Benjamin Casey. He was marched to Boundbrook in the state of New Jersey attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Virginia line commanded at that

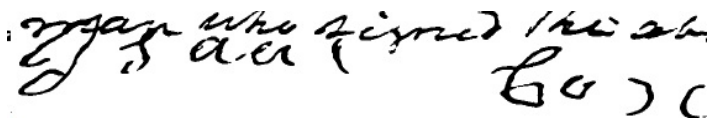
time by Col. Hendricks he thinks his name was Major Hendricks from Boundbrook marched to Fort Washington in New York on North river about 14 miles from the city this reg't was detached from General George Weedon's Brigade, which had been stationed at Boundbrook thence to New York at fort Washington affiant was made a prisoner by the forces under Count or General Knaphausen [sic: Knyphausen] [16 Nov 1776] – detained in captivity about 10 months and nearly starved to death – was then exchanged and again joined his regiment at or near Morris Town [Morristown] in Jersey – was then in the following battles Viz. at Cuckletown[?] in Jersey on the river Amboy. then he was in the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] – then went to Gressed plains had a battle with the Indians – returned to Jersey again was in the Battle of Monmouth about the month of June [28 Jun 1778]. was also in the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] affiant was at different times stationed at different places in Jersey to wit at Bound brook – Cuckle Town Morristown Middlebrook Elizabeth town – Baskenridge [sic: Basking Ridge] and Princeton Trenton and Paulus Hook he was on his way Yorktown in Virginia when Lord Cornwallis was captured [19 Oct 1781] affiant had got within about 18 miles and was countermarched by news of the surrender of Cornwallis – affiant was marched back to Philadelphia and was there discharged in the year 1783 – affiant is now 80 years of age he resides in Harrison County in the state of Virginia. he is now on the pension roll of the Virginia. he never received but one wound that was by an English dragoon done while affidavit was in the act of stabbing the dragoon with the Bayonett. affiant is very poor – suffered much whilst a prisoner. he was nearly starved to death he now asks his government his land bounty he claims to be entitled to three hundred acres.



I do certify that John Byrnes above signed signed and swore to the above statement this day and I do moreover certify that he is the same John Byrne who is on the roll of Revolutionary pensions on the Virginia agency and that his statement is in my opinion entitled to full credit. Given under my hand this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832. [signed] Jonthan F. Randolph jp

Lewis county to wit

This day I Isaac Cox [S9215] aged 89 and now an inhabitant of Harrison county do on oath make the following Statement Viz. That I saw and was well acquainted with John Byrnes in the revolutionary army. That said Byrne was attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Reg't of Virginia troops and was (as I often understood from him in the army) enlisted to serve during the war I saw Byrne at Paulus Hook at Quibble town Bound brook and Elizabeth Town was in the Battle at Paulus Hook [19 Aug 1779] with him. I saw him after the war ended in 1783 he told me he served it out. He is the same man who signed the above affidavitt



I do as a Justice certify that I am well acquainted with Isaac Cox who has signed and here sworn to the above statement and that in my opinion he is the age he states and that he is a creditable man and his statement is entitled to full credit. Given under my hand this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832. [signed] Sam'l Z Jones JP

Weston 24<sup>th</sup> Nov'r 1832

His Excellency Gov'r Floyd

Sir. I submit through Mr. Bland (of the electoral college) the claim of the octagenary veteran John Byrnes for bounty land. He is very infirm as is also his fellow soldier Isaac Cox Byrnes claims to be

entitled to three hundred acres. He is certainly entitled to at least 400 acres see Virginia laws. Hennings Statutes at large. Vol. 10. page 160-161 – also page 331-32 a copious and interesting note by Mr. Henning [<http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol10-16.htm>]. The act of Oct'r 1780. Vol 10. page 331 of H. Stat. at large fixes the bounties in land in enumerated cases (of which the applicant Byrnes is one at 300 acres. Then the law of May 1782 See Hennings Stat. at large Vol. 11. page 84 section IX

[<http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol11-05.htm>] increases the land bounty for every year above six. The applicant served more than Eight years. That the Executive practice has been [undeciphered word] hereto See Mr. Henning note in pages 331-32 (above stated) in Vol. 10 of Stat. at large \* I confidently hope that the practice will be corrected during your administration, and that those veterans whose just claims for revolutionary services which have remained unliquidated for half a century will speedily be satisfied when presented I am far from intending any reflection on any of your Excellencys predecessors. Mr Hennings note is a good explanation. Very respectfully/ Your ob't. Ser't.

J. Wamsley [Jonathan Wamsley; see endnote]

\*See also Vol 11 page 565 of H. Stat. at large note by Mr. Henning.

[Written sideways at the bottom.]

Advised that the claim of John Byrnes be allowed for during the War.

John Burnes is allowed Land Bounty for during the war. [signed] John Floyd

#### NOTES:

Jonathan Wamsley later became notorious as one of the leaders of a group referred to as the Lewis Speculating Gentry, which filed numerous fraudulent claims under the pension act of 1832. Samuel Z. Jones was also associated with the group. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. There appears to be no reason to suspect that Byrnes's application for a pension or for bounty land was fraudulent.

On 16 Nov 1850 Esther Byrnes, about 80, applied for a pension stating that she married John Byrnes around 12 Mar 1792, and he died in Nov 1836. Other documents in the file state that her maiden name was Cavalier. Rebecca Cavalier stated that she had been present at the wedding in Fayette County PA, and that the first child was a girl who was born in the spring of 1794 and lived only two or three days. On 23 Jan 1852 Elizabeth Matson stated that her first husband was Samuel Byrnes, son of John and Esther Byrnes, that she married him on 6 Jan 1822, and that he was killed by a falling tree on 8 Jul 1822.