

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Gentry ¹ W5711

Sarah Gentry

f56NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 8/5/08 & 5/12/15

[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' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Jackson County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions February Sessions
1834

On this 11th day of February in the year 1834 personally appeared before the worshipful John Welch, John Sweeny and William Scantland [?], Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County of Jackson, now presiding and holding said court, the same being in open court and a court of record, David Gentry, a resident citizen of the County of Jackson in the State of Tennessee, aged eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to the laws of the land doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the war of the revolution. He cannot state the year from old age and frailty of recollection and refers to facts. He states he enlisted whether in the Virginia line or Continental line he cannot state not knowing the difference as he is quite illiterate and ignorant on these subjects, but will make the following statement of facts according to the best of his recollection. He states that he enlisted in the County of Bedford in the State of Virginia for during the war and joined a company commanded by Captain Lewis (thinks James Lewis). He marched to Richmond in said State and there joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel P. Cleveland,² he thinks the Major was called Lewis, a brother of the Captain. He remained in Richmond but a short time. From Richmond [he] marched to King's Mountain & there he was in the battle of King's Mountain [October 7, 1780]. From that [he] marched to the Cowpens and was there in the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]. [He] Still continued in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Cleveland. From there he marched to Augusta in the State of Georgia. Being changed at the Cowpens, he was placed in a company commanded by Captain Griffin, believes his Christian name was William. Colonel Anderson commanded the Regiment to which he belonged and General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] commanded the Army. He remained there in the Army for something like three months. He went from there up to a place called the Sand Hills [sic, "High Hills of the Santee"?], South Carolina still under the command of the same officers;

¹ BLWt31908-160-55

² This veteran's testimony is confusing. As far as I can find from the resources available to me, there was no Col. Cleveland who served from Virginia. It is well known, however, that Col Benjamin Cleveland of North Carolina did command forces at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He is not thought to have been at the Battle of the Cowpens. Almost all of the Virginians who were at the Battle of Kings Mountain were under the command of Col. William Campbell.

remained in that section for some time, cannot say how long; marched to the Mulberry Fields in North Carolina or near the line, on Broad River; continued in that neighborhood sometime; from that place marched to the Moravian Towns in North Carolina. He states he was again placed in the company commanded by Captain Lewis and in the Regiment commanded by Col Cleveland; remained there some considerable time. Then marched to the Shallow Ford of the Adkin River [sic, Yadkin River] in North Carolina. And while at that place he learned that peace was made and the war was closed. And here his services as a soldier of the revolution were closed making in all more than two years. He states that from old age & frailty of recollection, he has been unable to make as minute in detail as would be desirable. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/David Gentry³

Sworn to & subscribed in open court this 11th day of February 1834.
S/William Gailbreath, Clerk

[p 10: On April 11, 1853, Sarah [Sary] Gentry in Jackson County Tennessee, Sarah Gentry, widow of David Gentry deceased, a revolutionary war pensioner, filed a claim for a pension under the 1853 act stating that the deceased pensioner (her husband) resided in Overton County Tennessee for about 15 years before his death and that previous thereto he resided in Bedford County in the State of North Carolina; she states that she married David Gentry in North Carolina in Bedford County [sic, there is no Bedford County in NC but there is in Tennessee] on or about the 12th day of May 1807 and that her maiden name was Sary Johnson; that her husband died in Overton County Tennessee July 16, 1847 and that she remains his widow; that she is about 80 years of age but has no record of her marriage or the death of her husband; she directs that if she is entitled to arrearages of pension that the same be sent to James A Spurlock at Gainesboro Jackson County Tennessee & that her pension money be payable at the Nashville, Davidson County Tennessee agency.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sary + Gentry". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The word "Sary" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, and "+ Gentry" is written in a smaller, more delicate hand to its right. The signature is positioned above a closing bracket "]" on the right side of the page.

[p 11: On April 11, 1853 in Jackson County Tennessee, David Gentry, L. C. Gentry and Thomas Gentry all gave testimony in support of the widow's application. Their relationship to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.

³ I don't think the veteran actually signed this application. The handwriting appears to be identical to the handwriting of the body of the application. Since the veteran said he was illiterate, it is unlikely he could sign his own name to the document.

David Gentry
L. G. Gentry
Thomas Gentry
mark

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[p 13: On May 4th, 1855 in Jackson County Tennessee, the widow, aged about 80, made application for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner; in this document she states that she married David Gentry in Anson County North Carolina in February 1807; that they were married by one Smith, a JP and that her maiden name was Sarah Roberts; that her husband died in Overton County Tennessee on or about July 19, 1846 and that she remains his widow this document she signed with her mark.]

[p 33: On October 17, 1856 in Jackson County Tennessee, the widow filed yet another affidavit in which she gave her age as 90 years old. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 49: On April 7, 1857 in Jackson County Tennessee, the widow applied for a duplicate of her; in this document she states that she is aged about 85 years pension certificate. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia [sic North Carolina] militia as a private. His widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing February 3, 1853.]