

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

Pension Application of William Berry S2371

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Ohio Mercer County SS.

On this second day of November in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas for county aforesaid now sitting, William Berry a resident of Saint Mary's in the county aforesaid, aged sixty nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

That he entered the said service in Rockbridge county in the state of Virginia some time in the month of February 1781 as a volunteer in a company of drafts & volunteers raised for the performance of a three months tour of duty, which company was commanded by Capt. Alex'r. Telford [Alexander Telford; see endnote] in the Regiment commanded by Col. Samuel McDowell & Major Alexander Steward [also spelled Alexander Stuart] – that he with the company & Reg't. aforesaid marched from Rockbridge county aforesaid, across Roanoake [sic: Roanoke River] the Blue Ridge, through Bedford county across Staunton river & Dann river [sic: Dan River] to Guilford – that he was in the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] – that Gen. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] commanded the militia in said battle & that the army was under the command of Gen. [Nathanael] Greene – after the battle he remained with the army in the neighborhood of the battle ground until his term of service expired when he was discharged and returned home – and further that about the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1781 he entered the service of the United states in Rockbridge county aforesaid as a volunteer in the company commanded by Capt. John Telford in the Regiment commanded by Col. John Boyer [sic: John Bowyer]. this force was raised in consequence of a report which had been received that the British had made a landing and were marching up through virginia. nearly every man in the neighborhood capable of bearing arms turned out. they marched from said county to Deep run church about 12 miles [NW] from Richmond at which place it was ascertained that the British forces had retired and the services of the militia being no longer required he was there discharged from the service – that he was in the service last aforesaid about six weeks and further, that about the last of July or first of August he again entered said service in Rockbridge afd as a drafted militia man for the term of three months in the company commanded by William More [probably William Moore]. that the troops raised in said county rendesvoused at Col. Andrew Mores [Andrew Moore's] in said county and marched from thence to Richmond, Williamsburg, and thence to York Town. that he was there during the siege and at the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. that he was one of the guard to conduct a body of about four thousand prisoners to Winchester Virginia where he was discharged from the service at the expiration of his said term being still under the command of said capt. More.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. He further states –

1<sup>st</sup>. That he was born in Augusta county Virginia on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1768

2 He has a record of his age in his possession

3<sup>d</sup> He lived when he entered at the place before mentioned. That he resided in Rockbridge Co. Va. until 1794 when he removed to Fayette county Ky. where he remained about 3 years & then removed to Scott Co. K. where he remained 10 or 11 years. from thence he removed to Miami County Ohio where he remained until 6 or 7 years ago when he removed to the town of St. Mary's Mercer county Ohio where he has resided ever since and where he now resides

4<sup>th</sup> He has already stated how he was called into the service

5 He is not able to state the names of any of the officers in the service with him further than he has already stated them

6 He never received a written discharge from the service

7 He states the names of Isaac Applegate & Wm. Armstrong to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution

That he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person, except Alexander Telford [pension application S4681], whose affidavit he has procured, who can testify to his services.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court Nov. 2<sup>d</sup> 1832 [signed] Wm. Berry

The State of Ohio Miami County. S.S.

Court of Common Pleas Septr. Term 1832

Personally appeared in open court Alexander Telford who being duly sworn saith that William Berry of Mercer county Ohio, entered the service of the United states as a volunteer or draft in a company composed of drafts & volunteers, about the month of Feby 1781 in the county of Rockbridge state of Virginia, which company was under the command of Capt. Alexander Telford, for a three months tour of duty in the Regiment commanded by Samuel McDowell & Major Alex'r Steward; this deponant knows that the said Berry left home in said service and returned home about the end of three months or more – that on the return of said Berry this deponant had a conversation with him and got an account of the battle of Guilford in which he was engaged as he stated and this deponant learned from him that Capt. Alex'r Telford was killed in said battle which was the first account this deponant received of that fact – and further that about the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1781 the said Berry entered said service in Rockbridge Co. aforesaid as a volunteer in the company commanded by Capt. John Telford – this deponant was in the same company, which was in the Regt commanded by Col. John Boyer – they marched to Deep river church about 12 miles from Richmond and their services being no longer required they were there discharged and returned home – that said Berry was in the service, on the tour last aforesaid five or six weeks – further that this deponant saw the said Berry in the service of the United States at Yorktown about the commencement of the siege, in the company commanded by Capt. William More – that at the time of this deponant's discharge about the close of the siege, the said Berry was still in the service as aforesaid, and as he understood and believes remained there until the surrender and helped convey the prisoners to Winchester Va. this deponant does not recollect the exact time when the said Berry returned home as he has been, for some time before and after the time he understood said Berry returned, labouring under severe indisposit[ion] but he fully believes that the said Berry served out his full term of three months  
[signed 24 Sep 1832] Alexander Telf[ord]

The State of Ohio }

mercerc County } SS. Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace within and for said County William Berry a resident of St. Marys in s'd. County and produced to me his application for a pension under the act of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 marked No. 20075 with an accompanying brief of the same number from the Pension office &c and being sworn saith that the application aforesaid to which this is attached is his declaration &c. that he cannot positively swear as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades for three months as a volunteer private under Col. Sam'l. McDowell Major Alex'r. Steward and Capt. Alex'r. Telford. – for forty two days as a volunteer private in the United States Service under command of Col'n. John Boyer and Cap'tn. John Telford – for three months as a drafted militia man in the company commanded by Cap'tn. William Moore. was at the siege and battle of york town as a private in s'd last company &c – Deponent believes the last term of service to have been over three

months but is not willing to swear positively to the excess and has placed all his several terms of service within the actual time as he verily believes. This deponent further states that as answers to Nos. 11 & 12 of the brief, there is no clergyman settled and resident within his County to whom he could apply for an affidavit. that the two citizens whose testimony he procured to wit Isaac Applegate and William Armstrong are the Sheriff of the County and the Auditor of Public Accounts –

That Deponent claims a pension for the several terms of service specified and further saith not Sworn to and subscribed before me at St. marys the 29<sup>th</sup> day of march 1833. [signed] Wm. Berry

NOTE: The surname Telford is often spelled Tedford in references. Alexander Telford signed his name thus in his pension application.