

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Berry S14941

f51VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/1/09 rev'd 9/4/14

[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 Kentucky Clarke County

On this 3rd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Richard French judge of the Clarke Circuit Court, being a court of record, now sitting Thomas Berry a resident of Clarke County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-five years last June, 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the year 1776 in the spring of said year, the month I do not recollect, I enlisted for the period of six months in a company of minute men commanded by Capt. James Anderson -- Said company was raised in the County of Mecklenburg in the State of Virginia, where I resided at the time I enlisted in it. We were marched near Norfolk, and stationed at a little Town in sight of Norfolk named Hampton, after remaining there some time we were taken across James River and stationed at Portsmouth, where we remained until our six months expired, and we were there discharged -- If I got a written discharge I have forgotten it and have lost it; my impression is that we got no written discharge, but were directed to return to our homes -- There were two or three companies of minute men stationed together at the places above mentioned. We were commanded by a Col., but his name I have forgotten, being then very young myself. There were no other troops there during the time we remained.

In the spring of the year 1779 he was drafted in a Company of Militia commanded by Capt. Charles Clay -- Said company was also raised in Mecklenburg, State of Virginia, where I lived at that time. Our Col. was Lewis Burrill [Lewis Burwell] of the same County -- We were marched until we arrived near Charleston in South Carolina, where we joined General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Army. We were at his camp for some considerable time. I was in a battle at a place called Stono Ferry [June 20, 1779]. Lincoln's Army marched in the night, and the battle commenced next morning about sunrise. Shortly after that, the British left that part of the country having abandoned the Fort they occupied at Stono Ferry, which was taken into possession by Lincoln's troops. Having served six months in that tour I was discharged, together with the other militia from Virginia. If I got a written discharge I have lost it. The Virginia Militia at the battle of Stono were commanded by General Mason [at that time Col. David Mason].

In the Beginning of the year 1781 he was again drafted in a company of militia commanded by Capt. Robert Smith. The company was raised in Mecklenburg, Virginia, where I still live. Col. Robert Munford of the said County commanded the Regiment. We were marched

to Gen. Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army in North Carolina. After reaching his camp, we were marched and counter-marched across the country watching the movements [of] Cornwallis, and engaged in a contest of maneuvering. I was in the battle at Guilford Court house [March 15, 1781] -- in the brigade of Virginia militia commanded by Lawson [Robert Lawson] -- The North Carolina militia fled at first fire. The Regiment that I belonged to was on the extreme right in said battle, we were after a warm contest fired [?] back and compelled to retreat. Shortly after Cornwallis commenced a retreat, and the Army of Greene in which I still was, continued to follow him, until we reached Broad River, when I was discharged having been served a tour of three months. The Regiment to which I belonged marched back together, into the State of Virginia, and having got into our own state, we were dismissed without any written discharge.

My whole service in the revolutionary war was fifteen months --

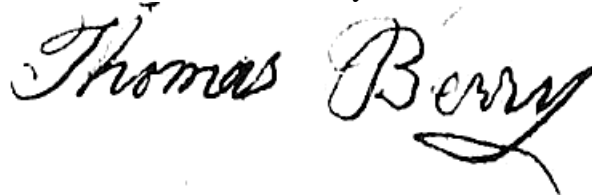
I was born the 8th of June 1757. I have a record of my age in a Bible which belonged to my father, now in the possession of my sister -- Elizabeth Brasfield. I was born in King & Queen County Virginia as his parents have always informed him, but he was living in Mecklenburg County and State of Virginia when he was called into service as before mentioned. In the year 1783 or 1784 he moved to the State of North Carolina, and in the year 1787 or 1788 he left North Carolina and moved to the State of Kentucky, where he has been ever since the two first years in Mercer County and the remainder of the time in what is now Clarke County. He has no recollection of the names of any of the regular officers who were with the troops, where he served except those he has named.

He is known to Lewis Berry, William Rash, Wiley W. Brasfield, Hubbard Taylor and James Rainey and others in his neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution --

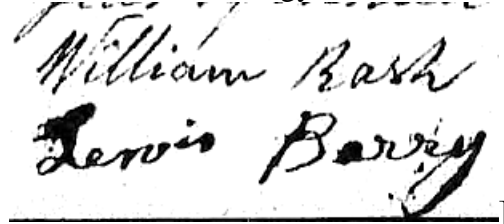
He knows of no person living by whom he can prove his services in the revolution except, his two sisters, Elizabeth Brasfield and Sarah Harris, who from their age are unable to get to court without great inconvenience but they are affidavit he has preserved and now reads it to the court.

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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Berry



[William Rash, a clergyman, and Lewis Berry gave the standard supporting affidavit.



Clark County

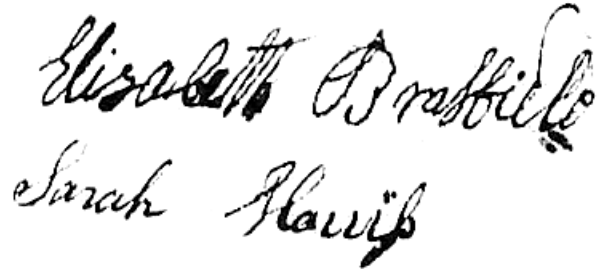
We Elizabeth Brasfield and Sarah Harris state, that our brother Thomas Berry is now 75

years old as we have always understood in the family -- That we recollect during the war of the revolution that the said Thomas Berry went out 3 different times as a militia man. We always understood that he served his time out each time and done his duty as a soldier, such was always the understanding in the neighborhood, and we never heard it contradicted -- We then lived in Mecklenburg County in the State of Virginia, where I'll father and our said brother Thomas also resided. We cannot now recollect how long said Thomas Berry was out each time, that we know he was gone from home a considerable length of time, every trip.

Sworn and subscribed on this 3rd day of October 1832

S/ Elisabeth Barsfield

S/ Sarah Harris

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is "Elisabeth Barsfield" and the second is "Sarah Harris". Both are written in dark ink on a white background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the Virginia militia.]