Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Michael Byerly S16065 Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } September Term 1832

Washington County } On this 11 day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powel Judge of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity for the County of Washington within the state aforesaid Michael Byerly a resident of said County & State aged 75 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 the 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers, & served as herein stated: towit that being a Resadent Citizen of the County of Berkley [sic: Berkeley] in the state of Virginia, he volunteered in the Revolutionary war, under Capn Charles Morrow, of the aforesaid County of Berkley, and the company assembled in Shepherds Town [Shepherdstown] & marched from thence under Col Philip Pendleton in said Morrows Company to Fredericktown [Frederick MD], thence to Tawneytown [sic: Taneytown], by little york [York PA] Lancaster Redding [sic: Reading], and to Perky Omy creek about fifteen or eighteen miles from Trenton where we joined the main army under Genl Washington, & marched from thence to little chesnut hill [sic: Chestnut Hill near Philadelphia] and encamped at the white Marsh [Whitemarsh PA], & from thence moved to the Darby Mills on the 5th of November 1777 by his said Capn Morrow as will appear by referring to his said discharge which is hereto annexed, haveing served from the tenth day of July 1777 the time at which he entered until the 5th of November following, exclusive of the time consumed in returning home from the said place of discharge, which was eight days, & caused said declarant to serve more than four months from the time of his entering until his return home

That in the month of June 1781 as well as now recollected in the said County of Berkly he again volunteered to go and entercept Cournwallis [sic: Cornwallis], under Capn McIntire [McIntyre], and Col Scott of the Militia, & marched from Shepherds Town by Battle town, Falmoth [sic: Falmouth], & to Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg] where he thinks Col Scott returned home from indisposition & Col Dark [sic: William Darke] a regular officer took command, & under the said Dark declarent with the army by the way of Boling Green [sic: Bowling Green], Hanover, New Castle [now Old Church], Bottoms bridge, to William Burgh [sic: Williamsburg], & after marching two miles below s'd Williamsburgh encamped, and from thence to Little York & remained there until a short time before the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] when a new recruit of militia came on as relief the time of those with whom declarant served haveing expired & they & he were discharged, by Col Dark & returned home, but had not more than arrived at home when the news of the surrender of Cornwallis reached him & was from June until some time in October in said campaign, being in the two tours about the time of eight months. The discharge for which last term he has lost in the lapse of time, & states that it is the result of accident that he has the first one. That he has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove his said services, nor is there a resident minister of the Gospel in his vicinity by whom he can establish the facts set forth by the witness[?]

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.

Michael his Xmark Byerly

This is to certify that the Bearer Michael Byerly has served as a Soldier in my Company in Col. Phillips Pendleston Batalion of Berkly Militia & has served out his tour of Duty Witness my hand this 5th Day of Nov'r. 1777 Char's Morrow

NOTE: On 6 Nov 1837 Michael Byerly applied to have his pension transferred from Tennessee to Indiana, having moved to Jackson County because "from his advanced age and Infirmity together with the partial loss of his sight, [he] deemed it nessesary to be near his Children." This application was witnessed by Samuel M. Byarlay (as he signed). Documents in the file state that Michael Byerly died in Jackson County IN on 12 Aug 1844. He was survived by a widow, Rebecca Byerly, who died on 19 April 1847, leaving the following five children: Hannah Morrison of Palestine IL, about 70, the oldest surviving; Michael Byerly of Washington County TN; Rebecca Huffman of Jackson County IN; Mary Thacker of Jackson County IN; and Margaret Byerly of Jackson County IN. It was also stated that Michael and Rebecca Byerly had been married in Berkeley County before 1794, as shown by evidence that Michael Byerly, Jr. was born on 23 Dec 1791.