

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Guess (Guest) S32283

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Alabama, Fayette County

On this 28th day of April 1834 personally appeared in vacation before the Honorable Walter Harkins Judge of the County Court of said County Benjamin Guess a resident of Marion County Alabama aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That I was born in the State of Virginia in Fauquier County from which place when I was about 12 years of age my Father and family moved and settled in Wilkes County in North Carolina where I remained until the commencement of the Revolutionary War. About June 1776 myself with others volunteered under Captain Isaacs who was commanded by Colonel Gordon to suppress the Indians on the Frontiers of North Carolina and was marched under the same command to a Fort on the head of the Yadkin River and was there stationed until some time in October thereafter and was then discharged after being in service about five months.

The whole of the Company then returned home where I remained until June 1780 at which time I volunteered in a horse company commanded by Captain Pearson and Colonel Isaacs and General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and marched from Wilkes County to Salisbury thence to near Cheraw Hills and joined General Gates [Horatio Gates], thence to Rugeley's Mills and was there encamped two days and nights. The third night we were ordered to march in order to suppress the British then in Camden but was met by the British about halfway between the mill and Camden where we had a battle known as Gates defeat where Colonel Isaacs was taken prisoner, we were all scattered after the battle the most of the company with the Captain and myself returned home to Wilkes County where we remained four or five days when we were again gathered by Captain Pearson the Colonel's name I do not recollect and continued in service until we were met by Colonel Polk near Camden and was discharged near Camden some time in September 1780 making a service of about three months after which time I returned home to Wilkes County but when I arrived at home I found the Tories were bad. I did not stay at home more than 10 days before I went and volunteered again under Captain Moses Guess (my brother) who was commanded by Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and was marched from thence to near the fork of Broad River where we joined Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] and Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and from thence we were marched to the Cowpens and were joined by Colonel Williamson [sic, James Williams] and from thence we were marched to King's Mountain where we had a Battle with the British and Tories and I was in said battle. After the Battle we were marched as a guard over the British and Tory prisoners which he had taken to Moravian town where we were encamped some time and from thence we were marched on scouting parties after the Tories below Moravian town and thence back to Wilkes County and was there discharge some time in December 1780 making a tour of full three months.

After our return home Captain Guess raised another volunteer Company myself with others volunteered under him some time in January 1781 under Colonel Cleveland as minute men and were more than half of our time actively engaged against the British and Tories for more than 12 months or until the war was ended during which time we had

several skirmishes against the Tories and were then discharged making in all my tours (allowing to have been in service at least six months the last tour) full 17 months and for said services I claim a pension. I had a regular discharge for each tour of duty. My second discharge together with my pocket book was stolen from me. The others in the lapse of time have all been mislaid or destroyed and my reason for claiming out of my County is in order to obtain a certificate of a clergyman with whom I have been acquainted for many years. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State and for testimony of my credibility, I refer to the annexed certificate of Luellen Moore & William L. Taylor. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Benjn Guess

Test: S/ Jas B. Martin, Clk

Answers to interrogatories:

A1. I was born in Fauquier County, Virginia in the year 1757

A2. I have a record of my age taken from my father's record in my family Bible.

A3. When I was called into service I was living in Wilkes County in North Carolina, since that, in South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee & now in Alabama.

A4. I volunteered each tour of duty.

A5. Among the officers were Major Lewis, Colonel Cleveland, Colonel Isaacs, Colonel Polk, General Rutherford.

A6. I received a discharge for each tour which was given by my captains as well as recollected, my second discharge was stolen from me together with my pocket book, the balance was as I believe burnt in my house some years since.

The State of Alabama, Fayette County: Circuit Court for September Term 1831

On the 13th day of September 1831 personally appeared in open court (being a court of Record for the County aforesaid) Benjamin Guess of the County of Marion & State aforesaid aged 74 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the first of May 1820 that he the said Benjamin guess served in the War of the Revolution in the North Carolina Militia under the command of Captain Pearson in the Dragoon Service under the command of Colonel Elijah Isaacs three months during which tour of service he fought in the battle of Gates' Defeat after which time he joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland & during which time he fought at the Battle of King's Mountain & served in said Regiment three months after which time I served in a company of light Horse commanded by my Brother Captain Moses Guess called Minute Men for about 18 months. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the Roll of any State except North Carolina that the following are his reasons for not making earlier application for a pension, to wit never until the present time has he felt himself laboring under such bodily infirmity or in such reduced pecuniary circumstances as to render necessary the charities of his Country for a comfortable support and in pursuance of the Act of the first of May 1820 I the said Benjamin Guess do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any other

manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby to diminish it so as to bring myself within the provision 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 18th day of March 1818 and 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 hereto annexed and by me subscribed that since the 18th of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property on the 18th March 1818 I had a Negro woman about 50 years old, seven head of horses, one wagon & gear about 15 head of cattle, some hogs, household and kitchen furniture. The Negro woman I yet have but she is aged & afflicted so much so that she is an expanse to me I was so unfortunate as to lose my [illegible word] of my horses by [illegible word] & was under the necessity of trading my wagon for one horse which I have at this time – about two years ago I had my house and everything except the cloths myself & wife had on was consumed by fire as we were at the time from home.

A schedule containing the whole estate and income necessary [illegible word] appraisal excepted of the said Benjamin Guess, to wit:

One horse beast worth about fifty dollars -- three cows and calves & two yearlings about thirty head of hogs of all sizes – about twenty five dollars worth of household & kitchen furniture.

Sworn to and subscribed to this 18th day of September 1831.

S/ Benj. Guess