

# A Guide to the Orange County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1836

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia  
Library of Virginia  
2013

## History

**Processed by:** Library of Virginia staff

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Orange County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1836

**Subtitle:** Orange County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions

**Author:** Greg Crawford

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2013 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

**Publisher:** Library of Virginia

## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Greg Crawford, 30 October 2013

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

### Language

English

### Collector

Orange County (Va.) Circuit Court

### Extent

.15 cu. ft. (1 box)

### Location

Library of Virginia

### Repository

The Library of Virginia

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

### Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

## Acquisition Information

These records came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Orange County.

## Processing Information

Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1836, were removed from the Orange County Court papers and processed by Library of Virginia staff with other Orange County military and pension records. Declarations filed by former soldiers rather than their widows and heirs, ranging from 1818 to 1836, were reprocessed and indexed as a distinct unit by M. Long.

Encoded by G. Crawford: October 2013; updated by M. Long: May 2024.

## Preferred Citation

Orange County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1836. Local government records collection, Orange County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

# Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Related Material

See also: [Orange County \(Va.\) Military and Pension Records, 1758-1900](#) at the Library of Virginia.

Additional Orange County Court Records can be found on microfilm at The Library of Virginia. Consult "[A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm.](#)"

## Historical Information

**Context for Record Type:** In 1818, Congress passed the first of three major Revolutionary War pension acts. The act granted lifetime pensions to all men who had served as regular army soldiers in the Continental Line and who could demonstrate financial need. Prior to the passage of this act, pensions had been restricted to former soldiers who were no longer able to support themselves due to injuries sustained while in service. The second act, passed by Congress in 1820, required applicants to provide more concrete evidence of this financial need in the form of a certified inventory of his property and income. They also had to include an account of all members of the applicant's family, including their health and ability to contribute to household income. In 1832, the third act extended pension benefits to include soldiers who had served in the state troops or militia. Congress also passed a related act in 1836 granting pensions to the widows and orphans of Revolutionary War veterans.

**Locality History:** Orange County, according to most accounts, was named for William of Orange, the Dutch prince who became King William III of England in 1688. It is more probable, however, that it was named for William IV, prince of Orange-Nassau, who married Anne, eldest daughter of King George II, in 1734—the year that Orange County was formed from Spotsylvania County. The county court first met on 21 January 1735. The county seat is Orange.

## Scope and Content

Orange County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1836, primarily record the declarations of individuals seeking to obtain Revolutionary War pensions provided by various acts of Congress. The applicants present detailed testimony of their time of service during the Revolutionary War. Information found in the declarations include date and location applicants entered into service, names of military companies they served in, names of military commanders they served under, names of fellow soldiers they served with, length of service, their age, and their place of birth. The predominant portion of the declarations are narratives of their tours of duty during the Revolutionary War with emphasis on battles they fought. The declarations also include affidavits from witnesses who could verify information provided by applicants.

Applicants in this series reported to have served in various military units, including the 2nd Virginia Regiment; 3rd Virginia Regiment; 5th Virginia Regiment; 10th Virginia Regiment; 16th Virginia Regiment; Albemarle Barracks Guards; Albemarle County militia; Albemarle Regiment; Elizabeth City County Minutemen; Orange County militia; Regiment of Grenadiers; Richmond Regiment; Northumberland County militia; Spotsylvania County militia; State Garrison Regiment; and the Virginia Minutemen, Virginia militia, Virginia Continental Line, cavalry of the Continental Service, and the Continental Service in general.

Applicants also gave accounts of being present during several military engagements, including the Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Germantown, Battle of Monmouth, Battle of Savannah, Siege of Charleston, and the Siege of Yorktown.

# Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1836**, arranged chronologically.

# Contents List

## **Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1836**

### **Extent**

.15 cubic feet (1 box)

### **Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically.

**Barcode number 0007848501: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1836**

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