

A Guide to the Cumberland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1827

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2013

History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff; M. Long

Title Statement

A Guide to the Cumberland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1827

Subtitle: Cumberland 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

Cumberland 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 1960 transfer of court papers from Cumberland County under accession number 25085.

Processing Information

Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1827, were removed from the Cumberland County Court papers and processed by Library of Virginia staff with other Cumberland County military and pension records. Declarations filed by former soldiers rather than their widows and heirs, ranging from 1818 to 1827, 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

Cumberland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1827. Local government records collection, Cumberland County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also the [Cumberland County \(Va.\) Military and Pension Records, 1757-1912](#) at the Library of Virginia.

Additional Cumberland 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: Cumberland County was named for William Augustus, duke of Cumberland, third son of King George II. It was formed from Goochland County in 1749.

Scope and Content

Cumberland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1827, 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; 7th Virginia Regiment; 8th Virginia Regiment; 24th Virginia Regiment; 2nd Georgia Regiment, 8th Company; Florida Scouts; and the Virginia militia generally.

Applicants also gave accounts of being present during several military engagements, including the Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Christian Bridge, Battle of Germantown, Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Battle of Gwynn's Island, Battle of Monmouth, and Siege of Savannah.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1827**, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1827

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Barcode number 0007848502: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1827

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