

A Guide to the Giles County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819-1820

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1819-1820

A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2015

History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff; M. Long

Title Statement

A Guide to the Giles County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819-1820

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

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2015 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Greg Crawford, 10 December 2015

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Giles 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 Giles County.

Processing Information

Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819-1820, were removed from the Giles County Court papers and processed by Library of Virginia staff. Declarations were reprocessed and indexed by M. Long.

Encoded by G. Crawford: December 2015; updated by M. Long: July 2024.

Preferred Citation

Giles County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819-1820. Local government records collection, Giles County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Giles 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: Giles County was named for William Branch Giles, United States senator from Virginia in 1806 when the county was created from Montgomery, Monroe (now in West Virginia), and Tazewell Counties. Several subsequent additions were made from Wythe (1808), Monroe in 1829 and Mercer in 1841 (both now in West Virginia), Craig (1880), and Tazewell (1826 and 1836) Counties. The county seat is Pearisburg.

Scope and Content

Giles County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819-1820, 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 1st Virginia Regiment, 7th Virginia Regiment, 13th Virginia Regiment, Scorpion Sloop-of-war, and the Pennsylvania Regiment of Artillery Artificers.

Applicants also gave accounts of being present during several military engagements, including the Battle of Augusta, Battle of Eutaw Springs, Battle of Stony Point, and Siege of Ninety-Six.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819-1820**, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819-1820

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Barcode number 0007845051: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819-1820

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