

A Guide to the Goochland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839

Goochland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839
1818-1839

A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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History

Processed by: M. Long

Title Statement

A Guide to the Goochland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by McKenzie Long, 15 July 2024

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Goochland 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 items came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Goochland County.

Processing Information

Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839 were removed from a collection of Goochland County military and pension records papers and processed and indexed as a distinct unit by M. Long.

Encoded by M. Long: July 2024.

Preferred Citation

Goochland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839. Local government records collection, Goochland County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also: [Goochland County \(Va.\) Military and Pension Records, 1758-1904, undated](#) at the Library of Virginia.

Additional Goochland 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: Goochland County was named for Sir William Gooch, lieutenant governor of Virginia from 1727 to 1749. It was formed from Henrico County in 1728.

Scope and Content

Goochland County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839 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 4th Regiment of Light Dragoons; 2nd Virginia Regiment; 4th Virginia Regiment; 5th Virginia Regiment; and the Virginia militia, Virginia State Line, and Continental Establishment generally.

Applicants also gave accounts of being present during several military engagements, including the Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Camden, Battle of Eutaw Springs, Battle of Germantown, Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Battle of Monmouth, Battle of Princeton, Battle of the Red Banks, Siege of Yorktown, and a minor skirmish in Savannah, Georgia.

Significant materials in this collection include the pension declaration of a free Black soldier, John Banks.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839**, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839

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Barcode number 0007888103: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1818-1839

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