

A Guide to the Accomack County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1829-1833; undated

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History

Processed by: M. Long

Title Statement

A Guide to the Accomack County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1829-1833; undated

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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, 19 February 2025

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Accomack County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

.23 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 Accomack County.

Processing Information

Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1829-1833; undated were removed from the Accomack County Court papers and processed by M. Long.

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Preferred Citation

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Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also the [Accomack County \(Va.\) Military and Pension Records, 1778-1861, undated](#) at the Library of Virginia.

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

Accomack is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. Additional Accomack Records may be found in the Lost Records Localities Digital Collection available on the Library of Virginia. Search the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available at Virginia Memory.

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: Accomack County was named for the Accomac Indians, who lived on the Eastern Shore at the time of the first English settlement in Virginia. The word means "on-the-other-side-of-water place" or "across the water." It was one of the original eight shires, or counties, first enumerated in 1634 and spelled Accomac without the k. The county's name was changed to Northampton County in 1643. The present county was formed from Northampton about 1663. In October 1670, the General Assembly temporarily reunited Accomack and Northampton Counties as Northampton County. In November 1673, Accomack County was again separated from Northampton. In early records, the county's name was spelled many ways. In 1940 the General Assembly adopted the present spelling, Accomack. The county gained a small part of the southern end of Smith's Island from Somerset County, Maryland, in 1879, after the United States had approved boundary changes between Virginia and Maryland that had been agreed to in 1877. The county seat is Accomac.

Lost Locality Note: Accomack County is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. A significant number of loose records from the 1700s suffered extreme water and pest damage. Volumes that record deeds, court orders, and wills exist.

Scope and Content

Accomack County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1829-1833; undated, 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 Regiment Virginia militia; the Accomack County militia; the 9th Virginia Regiment; the vessels Diligence Gally and Accomack Gally; and the Virginia State Line, Virginia Continental Line, and the State Navy of Virginia in general.

Applicants also gave accounts of being present during several military engagements, including the Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Chestnut Hill, Battle of Iron Hill (also called the Battle of Cooch's Bridge), and Battle of Germantown.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1829-1833; undated**, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1829-1833; undated

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Arranged chronologically.

Barcode number 0007902711: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1829-1833; undated