

A Guide to the Amherst County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1820-1845

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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2014

History

Processed by: G. Crawford

Title Statement

A Guide to the Amherst County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1820-1845

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

Author: Greg Crawford

Publication Statement

Date: © 2014 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Greg Crawford, 13 November 2014

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Amherst 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 Amherst County.

Processing Information

Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1820-1845, were removed from the Amherst County Court papers and processed by G. Crawford. Declarations were indexed by M. Long.

Encoded by G. Crawford: November 2014; updated by M. Long: July 2024.

Preferred Citation

Amherst County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1820-1845. Local government records collection, Amherst County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Amherst 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: Amherst County was named for Major General Jeffery Amherst, British commander in North America during the latter part of the French and Indian War and governor of Virginia from 1759 to 1768. It was formed from Albemarle County in 1761. Islands in the Fluvanna (now the James) River were added in 1770. The county seat is Amherst.

Scope and Content

Amherst County (Va.) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1820-1845, 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, Rifle Corps; 2nd Virginia Regiment; 3rd Virginia Regiment; and the Virginia Continental Line and Maryland Continental Line.

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

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1820-1845**, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1820-1845

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Barcode number 0007545986: Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1820-1845

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