

- submitted by Mrs. B. W. Gandrud, 311 Caplewood Ter., Tuscaloosa, Ala.

1. At a Court held for Russell County the 2d day of June 1818 James Berry who resides in the County of Russell wishing to become a pensioner under the Act of Congress of the 18th of March last, entitled, an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war, declared on oath that he enlisted as a private soldier in the 10th Regiment of the Pennsylvania line, commanded by Colo Richard Butler, and in Capt. Robert Sample's Company, in which regiment he served two years; that he was in the battle of Germantown, at the battles of Brandywine & James Town, that he went from thence to Little York and was at the taking of Cornwallis that he was discharged by Capt. Larry at Philadelphia, having served the whole seven years. He also declared that he is in indigent circumstances.

It appears to the satisfaction of the Court that the said James Berry is a person of good, credit as a witness, and that he served in the revolutionary war against the common enemy. And it was also satisfactorily proven to the Court that the said James Berry, according to the report of her neighbours previous to the passage of the said Act of Congress, had served as Secretary of the Department of War.

A copy Teste Henry Dickinson, C R C
(County Court Clerk of Russell Co. Va.)

2. Washington City, Sep. 3rd 1837
To Col. J. L. Edwards, Commission of Pensions

Dear Sir,:

I inclose you herewith the Power of Attorney of Mrs. Berry, widow of James Berry deceased, late a pensioner of the United States. Her identity has been satisfactorily proved, and certified, but the certificate of the Court seems to be somewhat informal. That is however an omission, which I hope it will be in your power to waive, without the delay of sending it back to Russell. The certificate itself is in proper form I believe, but to the first, the clerk has omitted to sign his name at the foot, although it appears in the body of the certificate in what I know to be his own hand writing; his name is also signed to the further certificate as to the signature and official character of the parties before whom the power was acknowledged. If this objection can be waived with propriety, and I think it may, or I would not have asked that it should be, you will oblige me by instructing the agents at Richmond accordingly and returning the power to me that I may forward it to Mr. Mitchell.

Very respectfully, I am yours

G W Hopkins

3. State of Virginia Montgomery County

On this 28th day of September 1833, personally appeared before the Judge of the Circuit Superior Court of law and Chancery for the county of Montgomery James Berry a resident in the county of Montgomery and state of Virginia aged Eighty two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed 15th May 1820. That he enlisted in the army of the United States to serve for and during the war in the year 1777 with Captain Robert Sample and served in the tenth Regiment of the Pennsylvania line under the following named officers viz: --- Cook was his Colonel, Edward Stuart the name of his Major, Robert Samples was his first Captain, John Land his second, John Milligan was his Lieutenant he has forgotten the name of his Ensign; he continued in the service until he was disbanded at Philadelphia after the capture at Yorktown. After having served his country

Jamesberry

under but one term of enlistment and at the time he enlisted he resided in Bucks County and State of Pennsylvania about twenty five miles from the city of Philadelphia and was engaged in the following named battles, the battle of Brandywine, the battle of Germantown a small battle at James Town in Virginia and the last battle in which he was engaged was at the taking of Lord Cornwallis; after he enlisted he moved from Philadelphia to Trenton from thence to Princeton from Princeton to Morristown from Morristown to a place called Somerset and through other parts of the country, the names of which he now disremembers. Your applicant further states that he was not aware of the existence of the law of 1828 until he came to apply under the act of 7th June 1832 when he was informed of the other law. He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

his
James X. Berry
mark

Outside fold - Virginia 23 001

James Berry of Montgomery in the State of Va. who was a pri. of the Regt commanded by Col. Cook in the Penna. line for 2 years. Died 4 December 1836

Inscribed on the Roll of Virginia at the rate of 8 dollars per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March 1831. Certificate of Pension issued 24 Oct. 1833.

Arrears to 4th Sept. 1833 200 Semi-ann. allowance ending 4 Mar. 1834 40
\$240

250 pound grave
marker

ELIZABETH S., Wife of JOHN HOUSTON
born 1797, Died 1824, Age 27 years

Big Talbot
Island

A pioneer buried more than 8 miles westward off Down Avenue near Lem Turner Road, Jacksonville, the great-grandmother of Guy W. Sackett of the city, though only 27, had 10 children in the land where she has roughed it against the odds of unfriendly Seminole Indians and the Spaniards who held Florida. According to this descendant, John Houston came to Virginia in the 1700's and later moved to South Carolina. He was related to Sam Houston who moved to Tennessee and later to Texas. In the late 1700s, John moved to Big Talbot Island after he and John Christopher bought much of the land north toward Fernandina from Spain. John Houston married Christopher's daughter, and the two families pioneered development of the island areas where they grew corn, cotton, peanuts and their sons were bar pilots out of Mayport. Mr. Sackett said that he believed the Big Talbot cemetery to be the second oldest Florida cemetery for white settlers, St. Augustine being the oldest, and there are more than 100 graves there. Unfortunately vandals are playing havoc with the graves and markers. R. C. Dennette, 72, of this city also, stated his parents, Samuel and Florida Dennette are buried there. He remembers the Houstons, Latimers and Palanas and their plantations on Big Talbot.

Mrs. Winifred B. Shepard, 2804 Bay Avenue, Tampa, Fla. 33611, through her ancestry searching has learned that she too is a Houston descendant. She has furnished the editor with some notes on her ancestor John Johnson who was born Kanud S. Bie, Grimstad Norway about 1800, and came to Jacksonville about 1840. He also was a river pilot. Mrs. Shepard came to this city a few years ago to make her first effort at ascertaining her lineage and has been amply rewarded for her diligence and perseverance even with limited facilities and transportation for her task.

The above information on the graveyard was taken from an article in the Florida Times Union under date of August 26, 1968, pages B-1 and B-3.

BARNES, Daniel B. born Oct. 20, 1835; Margarite Ellen b. July 18, 1845;

Eliza born Oct. 31, 1854. Ref: BARNES in SHAW Family Bible, Ohio.

Mrs. Gilbert F. Jenkins, 11101 Hershey St., Sun Valley, Calif. 91354, contributor