

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Peter Borders R1029

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

On this second day of March in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty five personally appeared before the County Commissioners Court for the County of Sangamon Peter Borders, a resident of Sangamon in the State of Illinois, 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 June 7, 1832.

That he the said Borders was born as he verily believes in the year 1767 in Lancaster County Pennsylvania & removed when four years old to Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County Virginia. He knows of no record of his age. He entered the service in March 1781 at Loudon County Virginia as a substitute for one John May, a resident of Loudon County – and served for the period of six months as a private in a company of militia. The service in which he was employed was in guarding the prisoners who were sent to Winchester Barracks, Frederick County Virginia. There was only a Captains command during the six months that I was at the Barracks. The officers names were Capt James Simmerel alias Simrel [sic: James Simerall of Frederick County Militia] and Lieut Shannon who was an Irishman. There were no regular officers at the post during the time I was there – nor continental officers except those named. Just previous to our discharge General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] with his regiment arrived at Winchester Barracks. There was no battle fought, nor was there any skirmishing – while I was with the company of Capt. Simmeral I was not attached to any company until I arrived at the Barracks. My discharge if I received any written one has been lost.

Questions propounded to Peter Borders by the County Commissioners Court in open Court

1st. Where & in what year were you born?

Ans. In 1767 Lancaster County Pennsylvania & removed when four years old to Loudon County, Virginia.

2^d. Have you any record of your age & if so where?

Ans. I know of no Record of my age.

3^d Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Ans. When Called into service I resided in Loudon County Virginia. In or about the year 1803 I removed to Clark County Kentucky. In 1804 I removed to Green [sic: Greene] County Ohio. From Ohio I removed to Sangamon County Illinois in 1828 where I now reside.

4th. How were you called into service.

Ans. I was a substitute for one John May a resident of Loudon County Virginia.

5th State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served – such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your services?

Ans. I served under a Captains command as before stated & during the six months I serve there were no other troops with us except the company to which I was attached. Just previous to our discharge however General Muhlenburg arrived with a regiment. I do not recollect the names of any Regiments or officers except those already named. We were employed during the whole term of my service in guarding the prisoners who had been sent to Winchester Barracks. A part of the prisoners were those taken at the capture of Burgoyne's army [at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and held at Albemarle Barracks from Jan 1779 until 20 Feb 1781] & a part of them were sent from the south.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge?

Ans. I received no discharge in writing

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify as to your veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Ans. The Rev'd. Thomas Hargus & Mr Jonah B Smith.

I Peter Borders do further state that I know of no person living by whom I can prove my services and I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state. [signed] Peter Borders

[The claim was rejected on the grounds that militia tours in Virginia were of three months duration, and that Borders would have been under the military age of 16.]

State of Illinois } Ss.

County of Logan } On this fourteenth day of August in the year one thousand eight Hundred and Fifty, personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Peter Borders, a resident of the County of Logan and State of Illinois, 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered the service of the United States as a militiaman in Capt. James Simmeral's Company in the Regiment commanded by Colonel [James] Wood of the town of Winchester in the State of Virginia in the month of May in the year one thousand seven Hundred and eighty one. That he entered the service at the time above stated as a substitute for one Michael May, and remained in said service for the space of two months – to wit – the months of May and June of the year AD 1781.

this declarant further states that he entered the service of the United States a second time in the month of July 1781 and remained in the service two months as a substitute for a man whose name this declarant has forgotten. That the name of the Captain of the company under whom he served the second time was James Simmeral, and the Colonel of the Regiment the same as the one above stated to wit, Colonel Wood.

This declarant further declares, that he entered the service of the United States a third time in the month of September AD 1781, and remained in the service two months, as a substitute for a man named Thompson, whose christian name this deponent thinks was Samuel, under the same officers as before stated.

This deponent further declares that at the time he entered the service of the United States he was a resident of Loudon County State of Virginia and that during the six months he remained in the service aforesaid he was employed in Garrison at the Barracks near Winchester in the State of Virginia – that the duty of said company to which this declarant belonged was to guard the prisoners kept at the station aforesaid near Winchester. He further states that he does not recollect any of the Continental Regiments or companies which were in the service at that time and that there were no regular officers on duty at the garrison at which he served, and that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

NOTE: Borders's claim was finally rejected for lack of proof of his services.