

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of George H. Puntenney R8522
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

MD PA VA

[The following is very faded.]

State of Ohio, Adams County. Sct:

On this the sixteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty two, personally appeared in open Court, before the Probate Court of the County of Adams, and State of Ohio, now sitting, George H. Puntenney, a resident and citizen of Green Township, Adams County, Ohio, aged ninety three years on the 10th day of April, 1852, 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, as well as all other acts of Congress which may in any way appertain to his claim set forth in this Declaration and Application:

I entered the service of the United States, in the Revolutionary War, about the last of March in the year 1778, with the following named officers, and served as hereinafter stated to the best of my knowledge and belief:

As above stated, I entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, about the last of March 1778, being somewhere about nineteen years of age at that time, and a resident of Westmoreland County, in the State of Pennsylvania. I lived in that part of Westmoreland County, which is now Allegheny County, (Westmoreland having been divided since the Revolutionary War.) I lived in what was called Forbes' road between the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, something like [illegible] miles west of the place where Gen Braddock was defeated [illegible] years before [at present Braddock PA, 9 Jul 1755]. The place of this defeat was called "Braddock's field."

I entered the service at the place above mentioned under Colo John Gibson [pension application S41578]. Captain Samuel Brady commanded the Company in which I first enlisted. I cannot now recollect the number of the Regiment, but I am certain it was commanded by Col. John Gibson.

I first enlisted as a private for the term of one year. I served as a private the first four months of this time, at the end of which time, Mr. Michael Baker [possibly Michael M. Baker S46700], who was then the first Sergeant of our Company, being ordered to Fort Pitt [at Pittsburgh], I was appointed to fill his place. I acted as the first Sergeant of Captain Samuel Brady's Company, in the place of Michael Baker, for nine months. I thus served four months as a private and nine months as Sergeant, under the command of Captain Samuel Brady, in Col. John Gibson's Regiment, being one month over the time for which I had enlisted.

Captain Brady received orders before I enlisted to raise men and proceed to guard Fort Crawford, on the Allegheny river [at present New Kensington PA]. As soon as the company was made up, we proceeded to Fort Crawford, where we remained, guarding the fort for some six or seven months, at the end of which time, most of the American settlers having left the neighborhood, being frightened away by the Indians, thus leaving fort Crawford in such a defenceless condition, that we evacuated the fort and went to fort Pitt. When we arrived at fort Pitt, some of our men enlisted for "during the war." Those of us who did not so enlist, were put in what was called the "Boat service," to fill out the time for which we were previously enlisted. I, (not having filled out my time) was put to boating provisions down the Monongahela river, to supply soldiers who were placed at different forts and stations on the Ohio river. We supplied Fort Pitt and Fort McIntosh [at present Beaver PA]. Baker's fort [on Ohio River near present Arroyo in Hancock County WV] and Dunkard's fort [possibly Fort Baldwin or Fort Statler on Dunkard Creek in present Green County PA] were supplied, I think, with provisions [illegible word] the farms that lay back of them. I think I was some three or four months in the "Boat service." I am not positive as to the length of time. I thus served out the remainder of this thirteen months. The way I came to serve thirteen months instead of twelve, was as follows: I took a boat up the Monongahela River, I think, in March, 1779 (the months in which [illegible words] which I had enlisted was out) to get a load of Provisions; but Sergeant Robert

Porter [probably S4651] having arrived at the place where the provisions were deposited, a short time before I arrived with my boat, and there not being enough to load both boats on hand, I was compelled to remain there until a new supply was gathered from the farms. This circumstance caused me to remain in the service thirteen months, instead of twelve.

I received a regular discharge for the above mentioned service from Captain Samuel Brady. I think the Discharge was for twelve months instead of thirteen, as it should have been.

Shortly after I received my Discharge, as above stated, I returned to my home in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. I had been at home but a short time when Lieutenant Guffy [James Guffey or James Guffy, S31718] received orders to raise a body of men to go immediately to the relief of Walt Hower's fort [sic: Christopher Waldhower's Fort, about 1½ mi E of present Irwin], about 18 to 20 miles from where Pittsburgh now stands, which was besieged by the British and Indians. We hastened to the relief of the fort, but the British and Indians had fled before we arrived. Gasper Walt Hower, (or Jasper Walt Hower, it being a German name,) while defending his father's fort, seeing a British officer at a distance giving command, at the same time flourishing his sword in his hand is said to have levelled at him and fired. After the retreat of the British and Indians, Walt Hower went out to look for the officer whom he supposed he had killed, but found nothing but his gold laced hat. I was in the service at this time twenty days, as a private, and received a Certificate from Lieutenant Guffy, stating that I had served the length of time out in the manner above mentioned.

Near the same time last above mentioned, Colonel Gibson received information that Wheeling was besieged whereupon he called for volunteers to go immediately to its support. I volunteered, with a number of others, and we proceeded nearly to Wheeling, it being a very severe engagement, as we were informed that the enemy were very numerous, consisting of British, Indians and refugees. The enemy (as I supposed) hearing that their plans were discovered, and perhaps that our company was approaching, raised the siege before we got to Wheeling. It was said in the army that at the besieging of Wheeling the British attempted to frighten the Americans by presenting a wooden cannon at them instead of a metal one. But a negro man by the name of Peter, having previously escaped from the British to the Americans, informed those who were defending the town of the stratagem. When the Americans were required to surrender, some person who was defending the town cried out "we will not surrender your cannon is but wood." A soldier among the British immediately answered by saying "turn out Peter! turn out Peter!" I was in the service at this particular time about five or six days. I do not recollect certainly whether Colonel Gibson gave me a Certificate for this service or not: my impression is that he did not.

After this time I returned home to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where I remained some two or three years, as well as my memory now serves me, taking care of a single sister. She having married, I went to the "Falls of Ohio" [then in Virginia, now Louisville KY] some time about the end of the year 1782 or the beginning of 1783 [sic], where Colonel Clark's [Gen. George Rogers Clark's] Regiment had its head quarters at that time. I think Col. Clark's Command extended along the western waters from Wheeling as far west as the Colonial claim was understood to extend. There were soldiers stationed at Opost [Fort Sackville at Vincennes IN], Kaskaski [sic: Kaskaskia in present IL], and at a place then called the "Iron Banks" [on Mississippi River just below Wickliffe KY, site of Fort Jefferson], but the latter place was soon vacated [by late June 1781]. Colonel Clarke's principle occupation seemed to be giving protection to Boatmen and others who were going up or down the Ohio river, against the merciless Indians, who were in the habit of murdering all who came within their reach. I volunteered, I think in the early part of the year 1783 [sic], to go up to the Miami country in Col. Clark's Regiment, as a part of it, on a campaign against the Miami Indians, and I think I was attached to Captain George Owens' [George Owings VAS81] Company. I served an entire campaign on, and near, the Miami river, and in the Miami country, now included in the southwestern part of the State of Ohio. Col. Clark went with us, and had the command. William Pursley was our Pilot, there being being no considerable settlement then, (if any) in Ohio. We met a body of Indians near one of the miami rivers, who fired upon us before we saw them; we advanced upon them, and soon drove them from their little town, which I think was called Pickaway or Pickawicka [Piqua, 10 Nov 1782]. My recollection is faint as to the name of the town. Having quieted the

Indians to a considerable extent, Colonel Clark's regiment returned to the falls of Ohio. We crossed the Ohio river below the mouth of the Kentucky river. we were on duty in this Campaign something over one month. I do not recollect whether I ever received any Certificate especially for this service, (separately or not: But recollect that we received great applause for this dangerous adventure. I served as a private.

Colonel Clarke, mentioned in the 8th paragraph, was sometimes called General Clarke, but I do not know whether he ever was commissioned as General or not. [commissioned a General in the Virginia Militia in Jan 1781] Most of the soldiers called him Colonel Clarke.

When we returned from the Miami Campaign to the falls of Ohio, there was a man in Col. Clark's regiment, by the name of Elijah Helm (or Helms), who had previously enlisted for "during the war," who said he lived in Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County, Virginia. He said that he had recently learned that some difficulty had arisen in his family in Virginia, which made it necessary that he should quit the service and return home immediately. He asked me if I would agree to take his place for "during the war." As the time for which I volunteered had expired, I told him that I would, whereupon he received his discharge, and left the army, and I was substituted in his place "during the war." I served out his time in the Garrison, at the falls of the Ohio river, in Captain Roberts' [Benjamin Roberts S31343] Company, (to which he belonged) and in Colonel Clarke's Regiment. I received my discharge from Captain Roberts when we learned that peace had been declared. My discharge was for "during the war." I do not recollect how long I was in the service at this particular time. I served as a private.

I recollect distinctly that when the news reached us that the war was over, that Captain Roberts made us a sort of a speech in the Garrison. What makes me recollect this fact so distinctly, is, that he drawled out his words in a very dry, slow, and lifeless manner, when we all desired something cheerful and lively. After he had finished his speech, and while we were yet on parade, he handed us our discharges. I recollect distinctly that my discharge was for "during the war." Thus ended my service in the war of the Revolution.

Addendum.

In the year 1776, I think, when the British fleet [probably under the Virginia Royal Governor, Lord Dunmore] sailed up the Chesapeak [sic: Chesapeake] Bay, my father, Joseph Puntenev, was called into service in Colonel Aquilla Hall's regiment, to keep the ships from landing. (We then lived on the western shore of the Chesapeak Bay, in the State of Maryland. This was before we moved to Westmoreland County, in the State of Pennsylvania, where we lived at the time I enlisted under Captain Samuel Brady, in Col. John Gibson's Regiment, as before stated.) I think I was not yet sixteen years of age at the time, and consequently was not liable to be called into service. But my father being somewhat unhealthy, in order to relieve him in his arduous duties, I assisted him on duty for six weeks, as well as I can recollect, sometimes doing only a part of his duties, and at other times doing them all, as he was a private. I was the bearer of numerous Dispatches from near the mouth of Bush river [in Harford County] to a portion of the Regiment situated near Swan Creek. I was not in any engagement during this time. I am not aware whether I am entitled to any Pension for the services mentioned in this addendum or not. I served my father and my country perhaps this is reward enough However I lay it before the Department with my other services for consideration.

Acquaintances.

I was personally acquainted with the following officers together with many others whose names and ranks I have forgotten, and also many others whose names I still recollect, but which I suppose it is not necessary to mention: Colonel Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead], Colonel Byard (or Bayard) [possibly Stephen Bayard] Col. [Lachlan] McIntosh, Col. Richard Campbell (commonly called Col. Dick Campbell), and Col. John Campbell, each of whom, I think had command of a regiment or part of a regiment, in various parts, about or during the time which I served under Captain Brady, in Col. Gibson's Regiment. Several of the above mentioned officers I knew intimately.

I also recollect that Col. John Gibson and Col. Broadhead had a difficulty about which of them should [undeciphered word] preference in command, or about some such thing. There was some talk among the people about a duel between them, but there was no duel fought. This, I think, was some time after my 13 months served had expired. I think Col. Broadhead and Col. McIntosh both returned to what was called

the "Grand Camps."

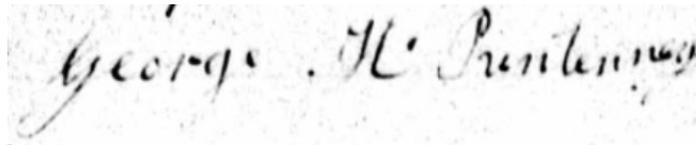
Discharges & Certificates lost.

The Discharges and Certificates of service herein before mentioned have all been lost. The Discharge for "during the war," which I received of Captain Roberts of Col. Clarke's regiment, I placed in the hands of Major Croghan [possibly William Croghan] shortly after the close of the war, and took his receipt for the same. Some years afterwards on enquiring after my Discharge, or the Land Warrant which Major Croghan was to get for me, and send to me at Pittsburgh, I learned that he had died, and I have never received or heard of the Discharge, or Warrant to this day. My Certificates, my Discharge for one year and Major Croghan's receipt, were lost in the Ohio river sometime between the years 1784[?] & 1790. Some seven persons of us were passing up the Ohio river in a canoe when we run under some Brush which nearly upset the [undeciphered word] and filled it part full of water. I jumped out with the [undeciphered word] to swim ashore. My papers above mentioned were in my vest pocket, rapped up in a squirrel skin wallet, as well as I recollect. The papers were literally washed to pieces in my pocket.

I do not know of a single living person by whom I can prove my services. All my associates at the time they were rendered, I believe are dead.

I hereby relinquish all claim to every Pension or annuity whatever, except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Given under my hand and seal this sixteenth day of July one thousand eight hundred and fifty two.



Questions by the Court.

1. Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Harford county Maryland in the year 1759 or 1760. I think in 1759.

2. Have you any record of your age; and if so where is it?

I have none. If there is any record, it is in Annapolis, Maryland.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War; and where do you now live?

I lived in Westmoreland County near Pittsburg, State of Pennsylvania, when I first enlisted under Capt. Sam'l. Brady, in Col. John Gibson's regiment; since the Revolutionary War, I have lived in Alleghany county, formerly Westmoreland county Pennsylvania from which place I removed to Bourbon county, Kentucky, near Paris, where I resided nearly five years; after which I removed to Stouts Run, in Adams County, Northwestern Territory, now Green township Adams County, Ohio, where I have resided for the last fifty three or fifty four years, and now reside.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute; and if a substitute for whom?

I enlisted to go to defend Fort Crawford, in Capt. Brady's company; this fort was supposed to be in danger of an attack from the Indians; Capt. Brady was prior to the time of my enlistment a Captain of a Company of regulars at Fort Pitt, and put in the command of the company sent to the defence of Fort Crawford. As stated in the preceding declaration, I was a substitute for Elijah Helm or Helms, during the latter part of the war, in Col. Clark's Regiment, at the Falls of the Ohio.

5. State the names of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

The answer to the the above, is contained in the preceding declaration.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

I receive discharges as stated in my declaration, to which I refer for answer to this question.

- 7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can

testify as to your character for your truth and veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

I refer to Wm. Stout, jr. R. Y. Humphreys. Joshua Smith John Wikoff Esqr. Robert Lockhart, John Collier, Esq'r. John Wikoff, Esq'r. Robert Baird, David Furnier and Thomas Russell, all of whom reside in my immediate neighborhood; and to John M. Smith, who resides in West Union, Adams County.

Given under my hand and seal this 16th day of July in the year 1852.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George H. Puntney". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

NOTES:

A document in the file states that George H. Puntney lived with his son, John Puntney, on Stout's run about three miles from Rome.

The file contains a newspaper clipping about "George Hollingsworth Puntney" when he was 94, stating that he had 10 children, 64 grandchildren, and 37 great grandchildren, most of whom lived near him. Another item from the "People's Intelligencer" of Manchester OH dated 28 July 1852 states that "George Puntney" at age 93 was "quite as active as many of our young men."

Puntney's claim was rejected for lack of proof. A soldier claiming service in the Continental Line whose name was not found on documents was required to provide testimony from two eyewitnesses, which was of course impossible in Puntney's case.