

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

Pension Application of Peter DeSpain S14559

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }
Green County Sct }

On this 20th day of August 1832 personally appeared in the Green Circuit Court State aforesaid in open court before the Judge of the Green Circuit Court Peter DeSpain a resident of Green County in the state of Kentucky and in the united states of America aged 19 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That he inlisted in the army of the united states in the year 1780 with Capt Bentley [sic: William Bentley, pension application S37745] and served in a Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Haws [sic: Samuel Hawes] on the Continental establishment. That he continued in service in the said Corps for eighteen months when he was discharged from the service in Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] State of North Carolina. That he resided in the County of Montgomery in the state of Virginia when he was inlisted. that he was in the following Battles and marched through the following Country, towit, the battles of Campden [sic: Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781], Guilford courthouse [15 Mar 1781], at the seige of 96 [Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] where Capt Bentley was taken prisoner by the British [see endnote] – when first enlisted he marched from Montgomery courthouse to Chesterfield, there mustered into service, thence after remaining there some time & marching to & from various places, & joined General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] & his troops at Cheraw Hills on Pede river [sic: Pee Dee River in SC, Jan 1781]. He has lost or mislaid his discharge so, that he cannot now find it. He the said Peter Dispain hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or any annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state whatever

Peter hisXmark DeSpain

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Peter Dispain/ age 17/ height 5 5¾/ farmer/ born in North Carolina/ residing in Montgomery County/ light brown hair/ gray eyes/ swarthy complexion/ enlisted 11 Sep 1780 for 18 months.

DeSpain's statement that Capt. William Bentley was captured at the Siege of Ninety Six resolves a conflict in the record. Bentley stated in own pension application that he served "until he was made a prisoner by the enemy; that at the time he was taken prisoner he was a Captain in the 5th Regiment of the Virginia line on Continental establishment; and that he remained a prisoner until the close of the Revolutionary War." Bentley did not say where he was captured, and Heitman's *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army* states that he was captured at Charleston on 12 May 1780. Continental officers captured there were not paroled, however, and several pension applicants state that they joined Bentley's company at Chesterfield Courthouse early in 1781, which would not have been possible if Bentley was on parole then.

On 22 Mar 1856 William Perry DeSpain, through his guardian William D. Skaggs, applied for bounty land stating that he was the only minor child of Peter DeSpain, born in Green County on 2 Aug 1837. He stated that his father and James Sherrill (pension application S31362) had often talked about their service together, and that Peter DeSpain died on 31 Mar 1850.