

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Bertrug S18309

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS

County of Tyler }

On this 10th day of October in the year 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace in and for the said County of Tyler, Peter Bertrug a resident of Fish Creek settlement in Tyler County and State of Virginia aged 83 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. In Augusta County near the Town of Staunton in the State of Virginia in the month of July in the year 1777 he volunteered in a company of militia commanded by John Hopkins Capt. rendezvoused at Staunton under Col. Dickinson [John Dickenson], Majr McClenahan [possibly McClenachan], then marched under said officers in company of 5 other companies of Militia raised in Augusta at this time to the Warm Springs now in Bath County Va. and to Jackson River crossed it proceeded across the Allegany Mountain [sic: Allegheny Mountains] to Camp Union then on Greenbriar [Greenbrier] river (the place where Lewisburg now stands) here formed a Junction with Col. [George] Skillern's Bat. raised in Bottetourt [sic: Botetourt] County Va. and in Aug't proceeded across the Sewell Mountains to the Great Kanawha river, halted 4 miles below the falls for a few weeks, then descended the river to Point Pleasant at the confluence of the Great Kanawha with the Ohio. arrived here in Oct. found the Fort Garrisoned with a few hundred troops under Command of Capt. Mathew Arbuckle, huttred here awaiting the arrival of Gen'l. [Edward] Hand who was to have formed a Junction here with Colo. Skillern & Dickison. while here (believes it was the last of Oct. or first of Nov.) witnessed the death of Cornstalk, the celebrated Indian Chief [see endnote], soon after which Genl Hand arrived from Fort Pitt without an army, and after some time spent in consultation the expedition against the Indians across the Ohio - which had been contemplated, was abandoned and in December the Troops began to retrace their steps. arrived at Camp Union on Greenbrier some time in Jany. 1778. the weather being extremely cold they halted here about two weeks the seperating with Col. Skillern's Troops march to Augusta and was in Feb 1778 dismissed having served as a private militia man seven months.

In Augusta County and State of Virginia in the month of August 1778 was drafted and marched under Capt. Smith through Swift Run Gap in the South Mountain [of the Blue Ridge Mountains] to Fredericksburg then to Alexandria and was stationed here under Col. Ramsey until Nov. 1778 and was there discharged having served as a private 3 months the time for which he was drafted. while here he seen none of the enemy and consequently was not in an engagement. he was employed in fortifying the place and keeping tories in check.

In Augusta County Virginia in Sept 1779 he was again drafted as a private and placed in a company of Militia under Capt. Bell and marched through the Rockfish Gap in the South Mountain to Charlottsville [sic: Charlottesville], from thence to Rich[mon]d Va was here placed under command of Col. [George] Moffett remained here untill the term of service expired. was in Dec'r. 1779 discharged, having served 3 months as a private. In this year the enemy [Commodore George Collier and Gen Edward Mathew, 9 - 24 May] had been in the lower counties of Virginia and committed many depredations and had destroyed much property but before Declarant arrived they had returned to their shipping and again moved off towards the north therefore he was in no Battle this tour —

In Augusta County Virginia in Sept. 1780 he substituted for John Stephenson as a private in a company of militia commanded by Capt Buchannon, marched through Rock Fish Gap to Lynch's Ferry on Jas. River the place where Lynchburg now stands from thence to Dick's [sic: Dix's] Ferry on Dan River, crossed there and proceeded to Hillsborough in North Carrolina there joined the Army Commanded by Genl. [Horatio] Gates - marched to Salisbury was there attached to Col. Howards [John Eager Howard's] Regt. this was in Oct. 1780. Marched from Salisbury to

New Providence [now in Charlotte] lay here some time then marched down the Cataba [sic: Catawba] River, to where some of the enemy lay - an engagement ensued - and the enemy were captured in a few minutes and upwards of 100 taken prisoners - then returned to Charlotte, arrived there about the first of Dec'r. when Genl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] superseded Gates in the command of the Army. was then dispatched with Genl. [Daniel] Morgan, in the said Regt. commanded by Col. Howard to Broad River - crossed it, and proceeded to Packoletts [sic: Pacolet] River crossed it and was in the Battle of the Cowpens fought in January 1781 [sic: Battle of Cowpens SC, 17 Jan 1781], which resulted in the defeat of the enemy under Col. Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] then recrossed Packoletts river, then marched to Broad River, recrossed it with the Brittish Prisoners taken at the Battle of the Cowpens then to Cataba River crossed it [at Cowan's Ford, 1 Feb] some distance above the old Nation ford. Then marched to Guilford Courthouse, from there to Haw River remained in this neighborhood watching detachments of the enemy, cutting off foraging parties &c untill some time in the spring of 1781 he believes about the middle of March, when he rejoined Gen'l. Greens Army and was in the Battle fought at Guilford Court House which was fought about this time [15 Mar], soon after which he was discharged having served as a private 7 months including the time in marching to the Head q[uar]ters of Gen'l. Gates at Hillsborough and returning from Guilford C. House to his residence.

Then in Augusta County Virginia in May 1781 he was ordered out by Col. Moffett to guard the passes in the South Mountain, and to prevent the Brittish under Col. Tarlton from crossing the mountain into Augusta. was placed under command of Capt. [Thomas] Rankin. Served under him as before about 6 weeks and was then dismissed - this service was also as a private.

In Augusta County Virginia in June 1781 was drafted as a private and placed under the Command of Capt. Given, rendezvoused at Rock Fish Gap in the South Mountain was there attached to Col. Hugarts [Thomas Hugart's] Regt. Marched to Charlottesville Virginia from thence to Richmond, was here joined to Gen'l. Campbells [William Campbell's] army - was marched from Richmond near to Williamsburg, was here in a battle fought with the enemy under Col. Simpcoe [sic: John Simcoe, Battle of Hot Water Plantation 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 Jun], was defeated, and retreated, the retreat covered by Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne. this Battle he believes was fought towards the last of June 1781. Marched from Muddy Run Camp to Richmond, thence crossing James River, lay there some time. Gen'l. Wayne with his Pennsylvania Militia [sic: Continentals] lay at the same time on the Amelia side of the river; from Goods Bridge [sic: Goode's Bridge on Appomattox River] marched to Petersburg, from thence to Blanford [sic: Blandford now in Petersburg] from Blanford to Eastham recrossed the James River, and marched to New Kent Court house, from New Kent Courthouse marched to Williamsburg. there in Augt. 1781 formed a Junction with the Army under command of the Marquis LaFayette. pursued the enemy to Yorktown, was here during siege [28 Sep - 19 Oct], and at the Battle [sic] in Oct when Lord Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis] capitulated. was then discharged having served as a private 4 months making in all near 26 months service as a private militia man. He was born in Fairfax County in the State of Virginia on 15th day of February 1750. Moved to Augusta in 1773, from thence to Tyler Co. Va. in 1811. He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can testify to his services.

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.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] Peter Bertrug
The said Justice then proceeded to propound the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, to which he made the following answers Viz. To the

1st He saith, he was born in Fairfax County in the State of Virginia on the 15th day of Feb. 1750

2^d He saith he hath not [a record of his age]

3^d He saith he was living in Augusta County and State of Virginia when called into service, that he continued to live there untill the 1811 when he emigrated to Tyler County Virginia where he now lives -

4th He saith - He was a volunteer, under Capt. Hopkins. that he substituted for John Stephenson and in Capt. Buchannon, and that he was drafted in all the other tours which he served except under Capt. Rankin when he was ordered out by Col. Moffett.

- 5th He saith He does not remember the number of any one of the Regts. that he served with that he knew Cols. Skillern from Bottetourt Co. Va. & Col. Dickason from Augusta at Point Pleasant Capt. Arbuckle who commanded the garrison that he knew Genls. Gates, Green and Morgan in the South, that he knew Col. Ramsey who commanded at Alexandria, at Richmond he knew Gen'l. Campbell who commanded there at York Town seen Gen'ls. Washington, Wayne, Clinton, Fayette, and many more
- 6th He saith, He rec'd discharges at the end of each Tour except when under Capt. Rankin, that they are all lost and he does not now remember by whom they were signed.
- 7th He saith. He is known to Isaac Horner and George Bertruck who reside in his neighborhood and can testify for him &c. [signed] Peter Bertrug

NOTE: Enraged by the murder of Lt. James Gilmer near Point Pleasant, American soldiers murdered Cornstalk, his son Ellinipico, Red Hawk, and Petalla, who had been held hostage. See the pension application of William Pryor (S8979).