

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Peay S3673

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/9/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee Williamson County }

On this 6th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before Thomas Stuart Judge of the fourth Judicial Circuit of the Circuit Court of the State of Tennessee now Sitting at Franklin George Peay a resident of Williamson County & State of Tennessee aged seventy-five years 19 January last 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 in January or February 1776 I joined the Army of the United States as a volunteer in Guilford County North Carolina under Captain John Leak and [Lt.] Colonel James Martin we rendezvoused at Guilford courthouse and marched thence to Cross-creek where Fayetteville now stands. This expedition was against the High-land Scotch and Tories who had rebelled against the Government. Governor Caswell [Richard Caswell] having defeated [at Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] them before we arrived at Cross-Creek, we in a day or 2 returned home and stayed there two weeks then we were called out again to go to Wilmington and when we had marched to Rocky River in Chatham County an express met us stating the British had left Wilmington and hove out of sight we then returned home having been absent these two trips three months. Colonel Alexander Martin commanded a Regiment of Regular troops and we lay at the Cross Roads in Randolph County with his Regiment nearly four weeks during the first trip.

That about the 20th of June 1776 I joined at as a volunteer Captain John Leak and Colonel James Martin General Griffin Rutherford [sic, Griffith Rutherford] being our Brigadier General. In the County of Roan [Rowan] in the town of Salisbury we rendezvoused and marched thence to the head of the Catawba River near Cathy's Fort [Cathey's Fort] which is at a place called Pleasant Gardens where we remained near four weeks until General Rutherford and the balance of his army joined us. We marched thence against the Cherokee Indians across the Blue Ridge and stopped on the Tennessee River in the Cherokee nation¹ where we remained four weeks the Indians having been subdued by the southern Army commanded by General Williamson [Andrew Williamson of South Carolina] we returned home after an absence of about three months and a half, no battle having been fought this expedition.

That about the 20th of June 1778 I joined the company of Captain John Leak as a volunteer which company belonged to the Regiment called New levies commanded by Colonels Archibald Lytle and Henry Dixon. We rendezvoused about that time at Guilford Courthouse in Guilford County and our two companies from Guilford one commanded by Captain Leak the other by Captain George Hamilton marched thence to David Logan's, four miles from Guilford

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

Courthouse where we lay four weeks until the balance of said Regiment commanded by said Colonels Lytle & Dixon joined us. We marched thence to Dixon's ferry on Dan River in Virginia, on our way towards the North, where we met an express which caused us to return into North Carolina our services not being needed in the North: we marched thence to Moon's Creek in Caswell County North Carolina where we remained about a month. At this place I was attached out of Captain Leak's company and put into the company of Captain John Nelson who was a regular officer; after remaining in his company a week or ten days I left the Army and went to Henry County Virginia to attend to a lawsuit which I had there, my brother Elias Peay filling my place in my absence. When I returned to my father's in Guilford County North Carolina. I met my brother who brought me a furlough from Captain John Nelson until the 14th of March 1779. At the end of which time I received a discharge from Colonel James Martin for the whole nine months which discharge I left in North Carolina in 1810. I was in no battle during this campaign because there was none fought. Colonels Lytle & Colonel Dixon were regular officers. The Legislature of North Carolina having passed a law that any man who should volunteer nine months and served that time as such should be exonerated for three years from military service. I having a discharge for that length of time was on the 14th of March 1779 exonerated for three years from military duty and was to get 160 acres of land in the Western country which I never got.

In the last of May 1779 one company of men was called out from Guilford County to join the Army of General Lincorn [Benjamin Lincoln] in South Carolina. I entered that company as a substitute for one Mr. Rumley under Captain John Davis and George Pierce Lieutenant and Robert Moore Ensign. We marched to about a mile above Guilford Courthouse when I was sent back by Colonel Martin to bring up some men who had remained behind before I could collect those men the other part of the Army fought the battle at Stono ferry [June 20, 1779] in South Carolina and were discharged and returned home. I did not again join them but Captain Davis gave me a discharge signed by himself for three months tour. I was in no battle and saw no regular officer this expedition.

Sometime in the summer of 1780 I joined the company of Captain Peter O'Neal as substitute for William Stubblefield at Guilford Courthouse. We marched thence 14 miles towards Salisbury when I was sent back by Major Thomas Owens [Thomas Owen] to bring up some delinquents and being engaged in preparing them to march for a week or 2 the battle at which General Gates [Horatio Gates] was defeated [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] was fought and the men discharged. I did not join the Army again and received a discharge for a three months tour from Major Thomas Owens signed by himself which I left in North Carolina.

Sometime in July 1781, I joined the company of Captain Charles Williams in Pittsylvania County in Virginia as a substitute for Ned Warren said company marched to Yorktown at General Washington's head Quarters where our Company joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Maryweathers [Thomas Meriwether] & Major Givens and General Edmond Stephens [Edward Stevens]. I remained there till the last of the siege of York where Cornwallis was taken [Yorktown, October 19, 1781]. I received a discharge for three months signed by Colonel Thomas Meriwether on the 16th October 1781 which discharge I left with William Herin in Virginia to enable him to receive my pay which I never got.

I was born in Caroline County & State of Virginia on the 19 January 1757 as appears by a record of my age in a Prayer book which I have produced. I lived in Rockingham County which was taken off the North end of Guilford County North Carolina sometime after the war until 1810 when I left North Carolina and removed to Williamson County Tennessee where I have remained ever since. Gideon Johnson [sic] and Robert McClellan & Jacob Grimmer are acquainted with me and can testify to my veracity and their belief of my being a soldier of the Revolutionary war.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state.

I know of no person who can testify to my services personally as a soldier of the revolution all my companions in arms whom I have known in this country having departed this life and that I have not now any documentary evidence by which I can prove the same.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court

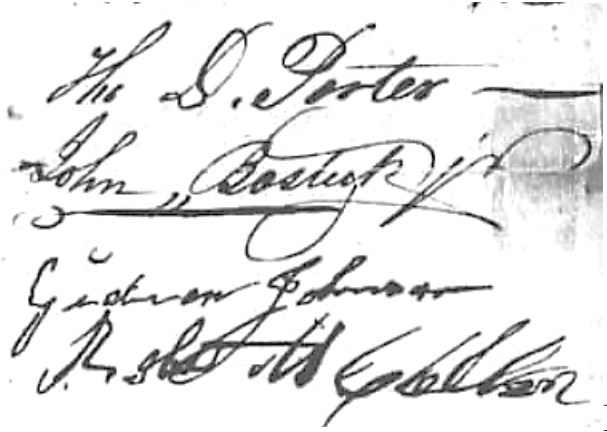
6th September 1832

S/ Preston Hay Clk &c.

S/ G. Peay



[Thomas D Porter, a clergyman, Gideon Johnson, Robert McClellan, Jacob Grimmer & John Bostick



[p 14]

State of Tennessee Williamson Cty} August 3rd, 1833

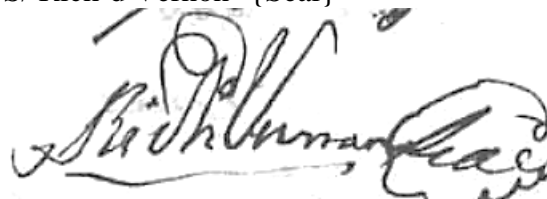
This is to certify at the request of George Peay – to State on Oath – that which I was witness to as it respects his services [spelled ‘cirvicus’] as a Soldier in the Revolutionary War, I then shall first state that I am about 75 years of age; I was acquainted with George Peay in the State of North Carolina in the County of Guilford & in the year 1776. – At which time an insurrection was Raised by a Set of people called Scotch Tories. In about the 1st of February 1776 the militia was called to arms. – Mr. Peay, with myself – and many others, turned out as volunteers – and marched to Guilford Court House, on 15 February 1776. – And thence formed a Regiment &c under the Command of Colonel James Martin and Captain John Leak (and his subalterns) and at that period, Guilford County was in Western part of North Carolina in a District called Salisbury, which was Commanded by Brigadier General Rutherford who at the time had all the militia of said District (in arms) – then marching down to the lower part of the State where these Tories were embodied; Our Regiment joined General Rutherford on the march and proceeded with him to a Town on Cape Fear River – At that time was called Cross Creek – when we understood for certain that the Tories were defeated (by Colonel Caswell near Wilmington in said State – we were then sent back Home; Excepting a Regiment of regular Troops that had marched down with us under the Command of Colonel Alexander Martin – And in about 15 days after we returned Home – A general alarm took place throughout the State – caused by the British Vessels appearing in the Capes adjacent to said State, at which time, we were, all called to arms, – Mr. George Peay with myself and many others Volunteered again, under our former officers and marched in military order to Wilmington – and the only notorious transaction that took place was an Express, that, came to Colonel Martin Stating that a party of

Tories were embodying in front of us to make an attack – We advanced near them myself and 13 others were sent to discover their situation – we proceeded to the place in the night and discovered a Large encampment – their sentinels fired at us and we returning to our Regiment – all preparation was made by us to advance and attack them. The next day – accordingly we met and prepared for action – we then discovered they were our Friends who had drove the Tories the evening before, – we then proceeded on our march for Wilmington – and were met by an express from the Executive of the State Stating that the British Vessels had left the Capes – contiguous to North Carolina – we were all remanded [?] Back to our homes – where we remained until the month of June – in the same year 1776. – The Cherokee Indians broke out and was committing Great depredations upon the Frontier Settlements of North & South Carolina – on which occasion a general call for the militia in the District of Salisbury took place about the month of June 1776 – Then Mr. George Peay & myself volunteered again under the command of (said) Officers – Rutherford – Martin & Leak. We were marched north a determined resolution to destroyed the Indian Settlements on Tennessee, Hiwassee [River's] which we effected by entering Wilderness on the 9th day of September 1776 – about 25 November following – we were discharged &c.

State of Tennessee Williamson Cty} Personally appeared before me James Johnson one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County Richard Vernon and made oath in due form of law to the foregoing statement given under my hand and seal this 6th Day of August 1833.

Sworn to before me & subscribed Date above
S/ James Johnson, JP

S/ Rich'd Vernon² {Seal}

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Vernon". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 18]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that the name of George Peay is not to be found on the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war or any document in this Office affording evidence of service in said line.

Given under my hand this 5th day of February 1834

S/ Wm Hill

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina militia.]

(Another version)

Pension Application of George Peay, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 1899, Application #S3673

Transcribed by Nancy Paquette

GEORGE PEAY, a resident of Williamson County, TN, aged 75 years:

“That in January or February 1776, I joined the army of the United States as a volunteer

² [Richard Vernon S1883](#)

in **Guilford County**, NC, under Captain JOHN LEAK and Colonel JAMES MARTIN. We rendezvoused at **Guilford Courthouse** and marched thence to **Cross Creek** where **Fayetteville** now stands. This expedition was against the Highland Scotch and Tories who had rebelled against the government. Governor CASWELL having defeated them before we arrived at **Cross Creek** [*per Heitman, February 27, 1776*], we in a day or two returned home and stayed there two weeks. Then we were called out again to go to **Wilmington** and when we had marched to **Rocky River** in Chatham County, an express met us stating the British had left **Wilmington** and hove out of sight. We then returned home, having been absent these two trips, three months. Colonel ALEXANDER MARTIN commanded a regiment of regular troops and we lay at the **Cross-Roads** in Randolph County with his regiment nearly four weeks during the first trip.”

That about the 20th of June, 1776, I joined as a volunteer Captain JOHN LEAK and Colonel JAMES MARTIN, General GRIFFITH RUTHERFORD being our Brigadier General. In the county of Rowan in the town of **Salisbury**, we rendezvoused and marched thence to the head of the **Catawba River** near **Cathey’s Fort**, which is at a place called **Pleasant Gardens**, where we remained near four weeks until General RUTHERFORD and the balance of his army joined us. We marched thence against the Cherokee Indians across the **Blue Ridge** and stopped on the **Tennessee River** in the **Cherokee** nation where we remained four weeks, the Indians having been subdued by the Southern Army commanded by General WILLIAMSON. We returned home after an absence of about three months and a half, no battle having been fought this expedition.”

That about the 20th of June 1778, I joined the company of Captain JOHN LEAK as a volunteer, which company belonged to the regiment called **New Levees** commanded by Colonels ARCHIBALD LYTLE and HENRY DIXON. We rendezvoused about that time at **Guilford Courthouse** in Guilford County, and our two companies from Guilford, one commanded by Captain LEAK, the other by Captain GEORGE HAMILTON, marched thence to **David Logan’s**, 4 miles from **Guilford Courthouse**, where we lay four weeks until the balance of said regiment commanded by said Colonels LYTLE and DIXON, joined us.”

“We marched thence to **Dixon’s Ferry** on **Dan River** in Virginia, on our way towards the north, where we met an express which caused us to return into North Carolina, our services not being needed in the North. We marched thence to **Moore’s Creek** in Caswell County, NC, where we remained about a month.”

“At this place, I was attached out of Captain LEAK’s company and put into the company of Captain JOHN NELSON, who was a regular officer, after remaining in his company a week or ten days, I left the army and went to Henry County, Virginia, to attend to a lawsuit which I had there, my brother ELIAS PEAY filling my place in my absence. I returned to my father’s in **Guilford County**, NC. I met my brother, who brought me a furlough from Captain JOHN NELSON until the 14th of March 1779, at the end of which time I received a discharge from Colonel JAMES MARTIN for the whole nine months...I was in no battle during this campaign because there was none fought...”

“In the last of May 1779, our company of men was called out from **Guilford County** to join the army of General LINCOLN in South Carolina. I entered that company as a substitute for one Mr. ?RUMBY under Captain JOHN DAVIS, and GEORGE PEARCE lieutenant, and ROBERT MOORE, ensign. We marched to about a mile above **Guilford Courthouse**, when I was sent back by Colonel MARTIN to bring up some men who had remained behind. Before I could collect those men, the other part of the army fought the **Battle at Stono Ferry** [*per Heitman, June 20, 1779*] in South Carolina and were defeated and returned home. I did not again join them, but Captain DAVIS gave me a discharge signed by himself for a three months tour. I was in no battle and saw no regular officers this expedition.”

“Some time in the summer of 1780, I joined the company of Captain PETER O’NEAL as

substitute for WILLIAM STUBBLEFIELD at **Guilford Courthouse**. We marched thence 14 miles towards **Salisbury** when I was sent back by Major THOMAS OWENS to bring up some delinquents and being engaged in preparing them to march for a week or two, the battle at which General GATES was defeated was fought [*at Camden, per Heitman, August 16, 1780*] and the men discharged. I did not join the army again, and received a discharge for a three months tour from Major THOMAS OWENS, signed by himself, which I left in North Carolina.”

“Some time in July 1781, I joined the company of Captain CHARLES WILLIAMS in Pittsylvania County in Virginia as a substitute for NED WARREN. Said company marched to **Yorktown** at General Washington’s headquarters where our company joined the regiment commanded by Colonel THOMAS MERRIWEATHERS and Major GIVENS and General EDMOND STEPHENS. I remained there till the last of the siege of **York**, where Cornwallis was taken...”

August 1833-RICHARD VERNON-“This is to certify at the request of GEORGE PEAY, to state on oath, that which I was witness to as it respects his service as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. It then shall be first stated that I am about 75 years of age. I was acquainted with GEORGE PEAY in the state of North Carolina in the County of **Guilford** in the year 1776, at which time an insurrection was raised by a set of people called Scotch Tories, and about the first of February 1776, the militia was called to arms.”

“Mr. PEAY, along with myself and many others, turned out as volunteers and marched to **Guilford Courthouse** on the fifteenth of February 1776, and there formed a regiment under the command of Colonel JAMES MARTIN and Captain JOHN LEAK (I acted his subaltern) and at that period, Guilford County was in the western part of North Carolina in a district called Salisbury, which was commanded by Brigadier General RUTHERFORD, who at that time had all the militia of said district in arms.”

“Then marching down to the lower part of the state where these Tories were embodied, our regiment joined General RUTHERFORD and then marched and proceeded with him to a town on **Cape Fear River**, at that time was called **Cross Creek**, where we understood for certain that the Tories were defeated by Colonel CASWELL [*Moore’s Creek Bridge, per Heitman, 27 February, 1776*] near **Wilmington** in said state, we were then sent back home, excepting a regiment of regular troops that had marched down with us under the command of Colonel ALEXANDER MARTIN.”

“In about fifteen days after we returned home, a general alarm took place throughout the state, caused by the British vessels appearing in the **Capes** adjacent to said state, at which time we were all called to arms. Mr. GEORGE PEAY with myself and many others volunteered again, under our former officers and marching in military order to **Wilmington**, and the only transaction that took place was an express that came to Colonel MARTIN stating that a party of Tories were embodying in front of us to make an attack. We advanced near them. Myself and 13 others were sent to discover their situation. We proceeded to the place in the night and discovered a large encampment. Their sentinels fired at us and we returned to our regiment. All preparation was made by us to advance and attack them the next day. Accordingly, we met and prepared for action. We then discovered they were our friends who had drove the Tories the evening before.”

“We then proceeded on our march for **Wilmington** and were met by an express from the executive of the state, stating that the British vessels had left the **Capes** contiguous to North Carolina. We were all remarched back to our homes where we remained until the month of June in the same year 1776.”

“The **Cherokee** Indians broke out and was committing great depredations upon the frontier settlements of North and South Carolina. On which occasion a general call for the militia in the district of Salisbury took place about the month of June 1776. Then Mr. GEORGE PEAY

and myself volunteered again under the command of said officers RUTHERFORD, MARTIN and LEAK. So we marched north, a determined resolution to destroy the Indian settlements on **Tennessee** and **Hiwassee**, which we affected by entering wilderness on the 9th day of September 1776. About the 25th November following, we were discharged.”