

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Hugh Pierce (Pearce) S3690
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

MD

State of Ohio Belmont County Ss

On this day of March personally appeared in open court before Jeremiah H Hallock John Davenport & George Sharp Judges of the court of common pleas now sitting Hugh Pearse a resident of Wheeling Township Belmont County and state of Ohio aged seventy six 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 enlisted in the army about two years before the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] but was not called out until a few weeks before the battle and that he was in the 10th Regiment commanded by General [William] Smallwood, Colonel Hewey & Captain Hewey – went from his residence in Kent County Maryland in company with Captain Maxwells company of Militia. From Brandywine to Germantown where there was another engagement [4 Oct 1777] this applicant states clearly that he was in both these engagements and that both commenced so far as he can recollect very early in the morning From Germantown the army marched to the North and had an engagement but can not recollect where but thinks it was in some of the New England States and in six or 8 months returned and was discharged in Germantown. He states that at Brandywine there was but eight men left of his company. This applicant enlisted again in about two or three years under his Brother John Pearse [John Pierce or John Pearce] who was a captain and who promised him a commission as Lieutenant which commission he received he thinks he entered the service the second time in the winter of 1780 or spring of 1781 so far as he can recollect – was stationed at Anapolis [sic: Annapolis] – from that marched to Washington [sic] from thence to prince George [sic: Prince Georges] County and from that to Yorktown where he was in another engagement [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and after which he was discharged The General was Gen. Washington. Capt. John Pearse Lieutenet himself. The applicant states that he was a year in the service the second time – and after the battle of yorktown he received a discharge from the hand of General Washington who then promised him 100 acres of land in the west. [see endnote] That discharge was worn out and the pieces lost. From the first enlistment until the final discharge was over six years. The applicant has no documentary evidence nor has he any person whose testimoney whose testimoney he can procure who could testify to his service And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his not on the pension roll of the agency of any state Sworn to and subscribed this 12 day of March AD 1883 [sic: 1833] Hugh hisXmark Pearse

3^d Question Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you now lived

I lived after I left the service about 16 years in Kent Co Md at which place I lived both times when called into sirvicies – thence to Hartford Co. [sic: Harford County] M.D. & remained there 3 or 4 years – thence to Alexandria live there 8[?] years thence to Ohio Co Va there 8 years thence to this Co where has lived for nearly 20 years – wheelig Towship Belmont Co Ohio

1st Where and in what year were you born? I was born in Kent County Maryland. I think I am about 75. I was 17 when I enlisted which was two years before the battle of Brandywine

2^d Have you any record of your age? I have none It was in my mothers bible.

4th How were you called into service? I volunteered both times.

5th State the names of some of the regular offisers who were with the troops where you served such continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstance of your service.

The first term of service I served under Gen Smallwood – Colonel Hewey & Capt. Hewey I joined the army of Gen Smallwood shortly before the Battle of Brandywine. I was in the Battle of Brandywine – went from there to Germantown was also in that Battle afterwards we proceeded

north and remained there 6 or 8 months – returned and was discharged in Germantown.. The officers in the second tour were General Washington Capt John Pearse He was a Lieutenant himself – marched both times from Kent Co Md Entered the service in 1780 in winter or spring of 1781 – went from Kent Co. to Annapolis and was stationed there some time thence to Washington – thence to prince George Co thence to Yorktown where he was in another engagement after which he was discharged – can recollect no officer of the continental line

6th Did you receive a discharge from your first tour of your service? I did but it is worn out by carrying it in my pocket.

7th Did you receive a commission and by whom was it signed? I received a commission but can not recollect by whom it was signed I was Lieutenant during my second term of service.

8th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution?

I would mention William Grimes, John Wylie & James Campbell.

Land Office, Annapolis, May 3rd 1833;

I Certify, that it appears by a pay roll or list, remaining in this Office, headed as follows; – “An Alphabetical List of Discharged Soldiers of two Battalions of Militia raised to serve 9 months, or until the 10th day of December 1781;” – That the name of Hugh Pearse appears upon said list to have been discharged on the 3rd day of December 1781, and received £10.0.0

George G. Brewer/ Reg’r. L’d Off. W.S.Md.

Memo. – It does not appear by any of the rolls or Army Ledgers, in this office, that Hugh Pearse, ever served, at any time as a Lieutenant, as he states in his declaration

George G. Brewer/ Reg’r. L’d Off. W.S.Md.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for Belmont County Ohio Hugh Pearse who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he can not swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following grade For 9 months I served as a private under Capt. Hewey – Col. Hewey & in the regiment of General Smallwood and for such service I claim a pension said service was in the revolution

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 11th day of Nov. 1833

Hugh hisXmark Pearse

NOTE: Commissions were granted only by the Governor of a state except in extraordinary circumstances. Commissioned officers were not discharged but served until they resigned or were cashiered. Bounty land for services was granted by states and later by the federal government, never by General Washington. Finally, it would be extraordinary for a commissioned officer to be unable to sign his name, unless he was physically incapable. Hugh Pierce received a certificate for a pension of \$30 per year for nine months service as a Private.