

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Pierce S38306

MD VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

District and State of Virginia Frederick County Sct

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year 1819 before me [Robert White] the subscriber sole and presiding Judge of the superior Court of law for the said County of Frederick in the District and state aforesaid personally appears John Pierce aged sixty five years resident in the County of Jefferson in District and State aforesaid and being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States during the revolutionary War. That he the said John Pierce enlisted in the latter end of the month of June in the year 1775 at Winchester in the aforesaid County of Frederick in the State aforesaid in a Company of riflemen commanded by Captain Daniel Morgan (afterward Gen'l Morgan) for one year which company together with one raised in the County of Berkeley in the same state, commanded by Captain Hugh Stephenson [sic: Hugh Stephenson], was raised by virtue of a resolution of Congress passed in the spring or early in the summer of the same year [sic: authorized by Virginia, June 1775]. That immediately afterwards he marched with the said company and joined the grand Army then lying before Boston. That the said two Companies were stationed at Roxbury and commanded by Captain H Stephenson (he being the oldest officer) but were never attached to, or made a part of any Regiment [Col. Hugh Stephenson's Virginia and Maryland Rifle Battalion] That sometime afterwards the said company, so commanded by the said Captain Morgan was, with two companies of Riflemen from the Penselvania regiment, detached to Quebec under the Command of Col., afterwards General, [Benedict] Arnold That the applicant marched with the said detached men was at the storming of Quebec [1 Jan 1776], and was (after the fall of [Richard] Montgomery) made prisoners with him. That he remained in the service of the United States in Captivity more than three months longer than the year for which he enlisted, after which he was exchanged and discharged That he hath now no other evidence of his said services in his power except the affidavits of Maj A Heiskell Frederick Shultz and Peter Lauck [Peter Lauk, pension application R6183] hereto annexed. That he was not in any battle of importance except the storming of Quebec as aforesaid and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of his country's aid for a support He further states that some considerable time ago he made a similar declaration to the present, before me, the subscriber Judge &c as aforesaid, except that it was not so circumstantial, which was forwarded to the Department of War and returned to him, because (as near as he recollects) neither his regiment, nor his Collonels name were designated (things impossible, in his situation to be done) That not being able at that time to take a journey to Winchester where the said Judge resides, the declaration was put away until he could do so, as the Judge should come in the course of his circuit up to the said County of Jefferson. That in the mean time it the said declaration has by accident been destroyed so that he can neither return it herewith nor fix the date thereof, unless some memorandum of it may remain in the office of the Department of War

Virginia Hampshire County Sct

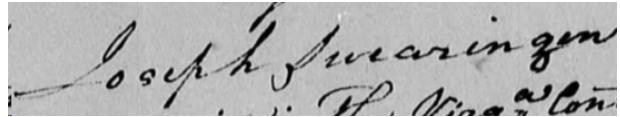
Major Adam Heiskell this day personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in & for said County and made oath that he is acquainted with John Peirce of the county of Jefferson who he is informed is about to apply for a pension under the act of the Congress of the United States passed 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818. That said Peirce was attached to the same company with the said Heiskell; To wit, the Company commanded by Captain afterwards General Daniel Morgan that they marched together in the summer of 1775 from Winchester in Virginia to Boston and from thence with said Morgan to Quebeck that they were there taken prisoners together and returned to Virginia in the fall of the year 1776 That said Morgan at that time commanded a riffle company attached to regiment commanded by Colonel Arnold of

that part of the army commanded by Gen'l Montgomery on the continental establishment. Given under my hand this 24 day of November 1819

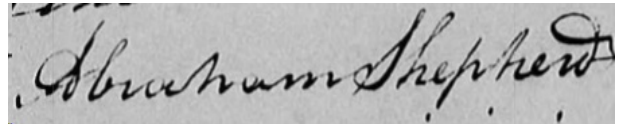
Memorandum That on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 1819 Frederick Shultz and Peter Lauck two respectable disinterested and independent Citizens of Winchester in the county aforesaid Personally appeared before me Robert White Judge &c as aforesaid and being by me first duly sworn according to law, did respectively depose that they the said deponants, together with the aforesaid John Pierce did about the last of June or the first of July 1775 enlist in the service of the united States in the aforesaid Company commanded by the aforesaid Capt D Morgan to serve for one year. That they the said John Pierce and the said Deponants did march from Winchester to Boston in the said company, and from thence to Quebec, and were there taken Prisoners together as is fully set forth in the aforesaid declaration. After which and after the time for which they were enlisted they were exchanged and discharged

We the undersigned, have lately been informed that John Pierce, of Jefferson County Va., Intends applying for a pension for services rendered in the war of our Independence – we therefore certify, that we have been acquainted with the s'd. John Pierce for many years, & we have no knowledge of any active, or productive propperty that he possesses. & we are well supported in a belief that he can expect little aid from his family & we also believe, that he marched from Winchester in Virginia, in the month of July or August 1775 in an authorized Company of Riflemen commanded by Captain afterwards Gen'l Morgan to join the army then Blockading Boston, & we know that Cap Morgans Company was ordered from Boston with Colo Arnolds Detachment, who was to untied with that under the command of General Montgomery, in and Enterprize against Quebec & we believe that John Pierce did perform the arduous march, & was made prisoner in the attack made by the americans, on that Fortress.

given under our hands at Shepherdstown  
Virginia the 12<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1820  
Joseph Swearingen [BLWt2065-300] late  
Captain in the Virg'a Continental Line

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph Swearingen". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

Abraham Shepherd [W19343] late  
Capt'n in the Virginia Continental Line

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Abraham Shepherd". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

Corporation of Shepherds Town [Shepherdstown] Va. Sect.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 1820 personally appeared in open court for the borough aforesaid, being a court of record, made so by an act of the Legislature of the state aforesaid, at its last session, John Pierce aged sixty six years, resident of the corporation afore said, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows viz. that he entered as a private in a company of riflemen commanded by Capt. (afterward, Gen'l) Daniel Morgan & marched from Winchester about the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1775 to Boston, from thence in the same company which was part of Arnolds Regiment, he marched through the wilderness to Quebec and was made prisoner after Montgomery fell at that place; in the September or October in the following year he was paroled and continued on parole until he was exchanged – after which he rec'd the appointment of Wagon Master in the Maryland line & continued, in that service some time, how long does not exactly recollect – and from age & other infirmity is unable to get a living for himself and family by manual labour – has a wife and daughter living with him. the age of the former sixty years & that of the latter thirty two years and is at present engaged in the precarious business of teaching a school, and has obtained a pension certificate No. 16,840. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United

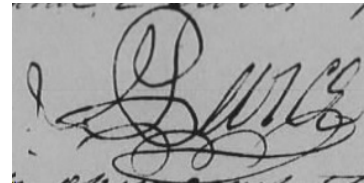
States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule

1 old log house in New Street Shepherds Town. 1 d[itt]o in Rockey [Rocky] Street in which my school is taught, for which I paid fifty dollars but am now perfectly certain that the person of whom I purchased it, is unable to make me a title or pay me the purchase money.

Sundry accounts amount not known but am perfectly certain that the debts which I owe amount to more than those ac'ts.

1 Bureau 1 writing desk 6 school benches & desks 6 split bottomed chairs 3 Windsor d'o –  
2 old bedsteads 2 tables 6 books, 2 Iron pots, 1 skittell, 1 Tea kettle, 1 Corner cupboard with cups  
saucers & plates – 3 washing tubs. 1 wooden bucket 1 Tin d'o. 10 knives & forks – 1 old flour barrel –  
2 wheels – 1 Cow – 2 small brass kettles, 1 Coffee pot, 1 Coffee Mill, 6 pewter spoons, 6 small ditto 2  
Candle sticks, 1 axe, 1 bread basket 1 Candle stand, 2 stoves pieces bacon  
Sworn to and declared in open court the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 1820

A rectangular inset showing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light background. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, appearing to read 'J. Pierce'.

NOTE: The court estimated the property of John Pierce to be worth \$409.31, which was well over the maximum of \$200 that would entitle an applicant to a pension under the act of 1820. A letter from the Pension Office dated 27 June 1850 states that Pierce was stricken from the pension list.