

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Petrie S38993

f29SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/22/09 & 11/14/17

[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.]

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United States of America South Carolina District:

Pursuant to the act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" approved March 18, 1818 –

Personally appeared before me John Drayton District Judge of the United States for the District of South Carolina at Charleston in the said District George Petrie of Charleston aforesaid who being duly sworn before me upon his Corporal Oath made the following declaration:

That by a Commission bearing date at Philadelphia the 27 day of January 1779 and in the 3rd year of the Independence of the United States of America issued by order of Congress and signed by Henry Laurens President thereof he the said George Petrie was appointed to be a 2nd Lieutenant in the first Regiment of South Carolina in the Army which Commission he the said George Petrie excepted, and acted as 2nd Lieutenant in Captain Simeon Theus's Company in the said first Regiment; in which capacity he did duty, was on duty in the Garrison of Charleston at the Siege of the said Town by the British Troops in the year 1780, was wounded during the siege, and at the fall of the Town [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780]¹ was made prisoner, then ill of his wound. That some time after he was sent to James Town in Virginia at the place appointed for the exchange of Prisoners, where he was exchanged -- and being without funds he went on to Philadelphia, having resigned his commission under which he had served until the said Exchange, a period of about eighteen months, during which time he had been in the Military service on the Continental establishment. The aforesaid Commission is herewith produced.

The said George Petrie further saith that he afterwards held a Commission dated 23rd of April 1782 of Lieutenant in a Company in the 2nd Battalion of the Charleston Regiment of Foot signed by John Mathews Governor of South Carolina, which commission is herewith produced and the said George Petrie further saith that he continued to serve under the State authority to the end of the War -- and that he has never received any Pension from the United States or from the State of South Carolina, and that he does relinquish hereby his claim to every Pension from the United States anterior to this present claim: and the said George Petrie further declares and swears that from his reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his Country for support.

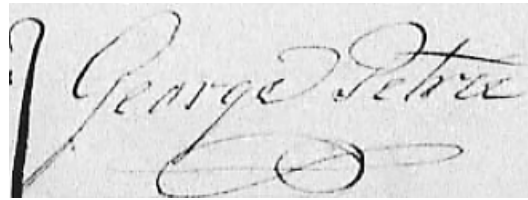
Charleston South Carolina

Signed & sworn to before me this 22nd May 1818.

S/ John Drayton, District Judge South Carolina

S/ George Petrie

¹ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

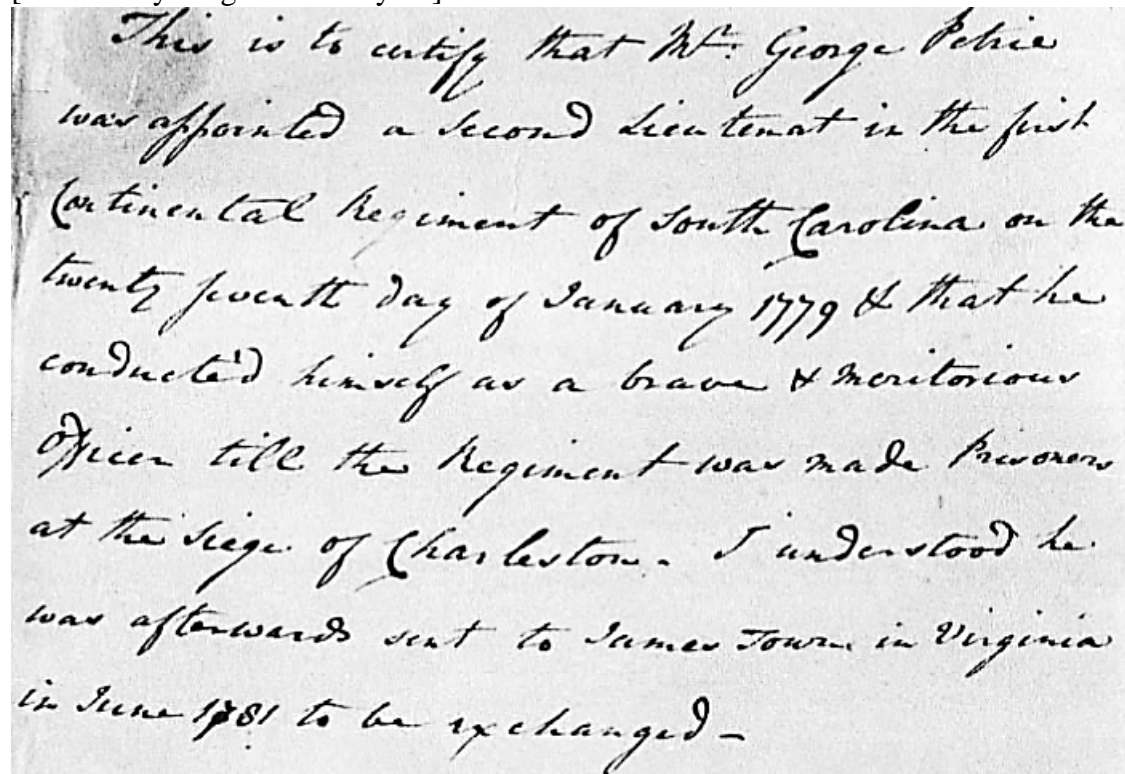


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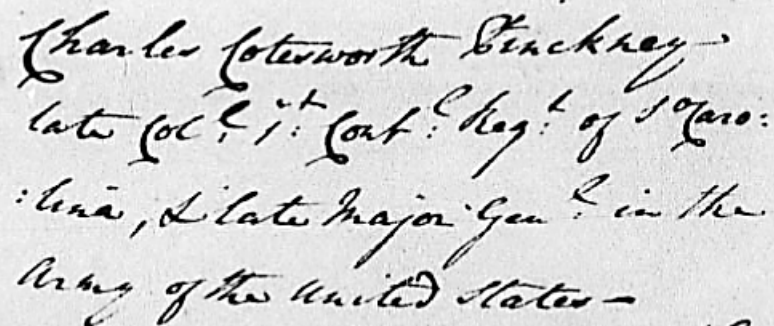
This is to certify that Mr. George Petrie was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the first Continental Regiment of South Carolina on the twenty seventh day of January 1779 & that he conducted himself as a brave & meritorious officer till the Regiment was made prisoner at the Siege of Charleston. I understood he was afterwards sent to James Town in Virginia in June 1781 to be exchanged.

S/ Charles Cotesworth Pinckney²
late Colonel first Continental Regiment of South
Carolina & late Major General in the Army of the
United States

[Attested by Judge John Drayton]



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Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
late Col. 1st Cont. Regt. of S. Caro:
lina, & late Major Genl. in the
Army of the United States -

² [Charles Cotesworth Pinckney BLWt1759-500](#)

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United States South Carolina District

Schedule exhibited by George Petrie of the City of Charleston in the State of South Carolina aged sixty-three years Before the Honorable the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas for the said State, being a Court of Record, now met and sitting in Charleston in the Term of May in the year of our Lord 1820 containing his whole Estate and Income pursuant to the regulations of the Act of Congress entitled, "An Act in addition to an Act entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818: the said George Petrie having been first put upon the Pension list pursuant to the said act and having received payment of that part of the Pension which became due on the 4th day of March 1820 -- which Schedule of his whole Estate and income (his necessary Clothing & Bedding excepted) is as follows --

A Wooden House in Society Street Charleston bought by Mrs. Petrie by her own Industry while a widow & belonging to her in which she keeps a small School of about 6 children the House & a lot cost her about \$1500 -- 1. Negro woman about 36 years old her 3 Children -- the eldest a boy about 14 now bound out to a trade, a little boy of about 11 years & a little girl of about 8 years --

The House has got the usual quantity of plane [plain] furniture -- The occupation of the said George Petrie is going about to collect small sums of money, chiefly for Religious Societies, the Commissions upon what he may collect is all the income he has; which for several years has not exceeded \$100 per year: and from the infirmities of age and the effect of the wound he received in the revolutionary war, which affects our every day more & more felt (as the ball with which he was shot have never been extracted) he expects soon to be disabled longer to pursue that active course of life.

S/ George Petrie

I George Petrie do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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 18th 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. That he has three Children living --

S/ George Petrie³

³ I asked fellow Southern Campaign of the American Revolution Roundtable member, Dr. Malcolm Marion, MD, whether or not Lt. Petrie's disability might possibly be explained by late onset of lead poisoning triggered by the bullet never having been removed from his body. Here is Dr. Marion's very informative reply:

If you had me asked about lead poisoning with a retained bullet several years ago, I would have told you no. Medical schools taught removal of the projectile was not nearly as important as cleaning the wound of any foreign material. The bullet removal was not felt to be as critical, although it was attempted if possible. I often think of movie portrayals of such injuries with "Gunsmoke" emergency medical care in which the victim was instantly cured when the projectile was dropped into the metal pan with a loud "clang".

Well... the need to remove the lead bullet may be important after all. There are several recent case studies in the medical literature which show lead toxicity can occur. In the past it was assumed the bullet would be harmlessly walled off in a scar. That usually happens in wounds to muscles. However, wounds involving the synovial cavities of joints and chest bones and others in the pleural spaces may increase lead absorption. Subjects with bullets or fragments near a joint have a 17% higher blood lead level than those who do not. Those with bullet or fragments lodged near a bone have a 32% higher blood level. There is a 29.5% higher lead level in subjects with a torso bone fractures versus those in subjects without such a fracture. Multiple bullet fragments increase the surface area for lead absorption and therefore may cause higher lead levels. These higher levels may peak at 3 months,

Sworn and Subscribed this 22nd May 1820 before me

S/ E. H. Bay

[Judge Bay valued the applicant's property at about \$2,550 and annual income of about \$100.]

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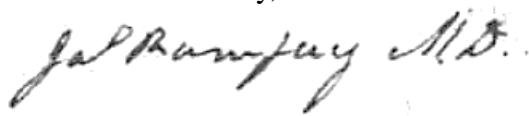
Physicians affidavit

James Ramsay of Charleston M.D. being examined touching the nature of George Petrie's disability and in what degree it disqualifies him from obtaining his subsistence saith that his opinion is from his own knowledge and acquaintance with the claimant that from the consequences of the wound which the said George Petrie received during the Revolutionary War from a Bullet in the right side between the 5th and 6th ribs he is totally disabled from obtaining his subsistence from his own exertions -- and from his age and the long-standing of the wound there is no prospect of his ever being enabled to maintain himself by his own exertions.

Sworn to before us this 3rd July 1823

S/ Rob. Y. Hayne,

S/ Jas Ramsay, MD



S/ Peter J. Shand

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State of South Carolina city of Charleston }

Before me personally appeared James Kennedy, formerly Lieutenant & Paymaster in the South Carolina Line in the first Continental Regiment of that State commanded by Colonel Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (since a Major General in the Federal Army of the United States) who being duly sworn deposes that George Petrie when he received his wound at the Siege of Charlestown then invested by the British Troops under Sir Henry Clinton, held the Rank of 2nd Lieutenant and that he was entitled, as well as this Deponent recollects & believes (not having it in his power to have recourse to the pay Rolls, or Acts of Congress of that date, at present) to the pay of twenty-six dollars and two thirds of a dollar per month.

Sworn to before me at

Charleston this 21st

but will continue over time. The younger a patient is at the time of injury, the greater the chance for long term toxicity. There are cases in the modern literature in which lead toxicity has been found after a gunshot wound and post therapy with a chelating agent (the standard chemical treatment of lead toxicity) but without removal of the bullet. In such situations, the chance for recurrent lead toxicity is likely.

The explanation for the significantly higher risk of toxicity with torso injury comes from two possible causes. The torso contains several body cavities with mobile organs and large fluid volume outside the blood vessels. After a penetrating injury, lead fragments are exposed to this large volume of fluid which include blood clots, pus, exudates, and joint fluid. In such an environment, the bullet fragments have a greater chance to be absorbed rather than encapsulated by scar tissue.

So, Lt. Petrie had an extensive right chest gun shot wound near the 5th and 6th ribs. As a young man receiving a large bore projectile wound with retained bullet fragments in the thoracic space, it is reasonable to assume he may have had elevated lead levels and possible toxicity. The description of his disability, however, is very vague. I really can't get a handle on his complaints, but it sounds as if he mainly has pain at the wound site.

Typical symptoms of lead toxicity would be abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, constipation, lethargy, headaches, tremor, neuropathies, memory loss, irritability, anemia, renal dysfunction, hypertension, muscle fatigue, arthralgias, and decreased libido and sperm dysfunction.

day of July 1823
S/ Lionel H. Kennedy QU

S/ James Kennedy⁴



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State of Carolina: The examination of witnesses taken by us on the claim of George Petrie for a Pension on account of a known wound received during the Revolutionary War taken by virtue of the annexed warrant or commission from the Honorable Thomas Lee District Judge of South Carolina this 3rd day of July 1823 -- all of the said witnesses being duly sworn by us --

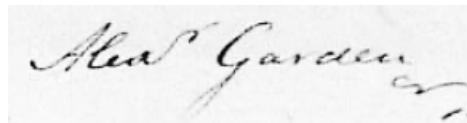
S/ Rob. Y. Hayne

S/ Peter J. Shand, Commissioners

Alexander Garden⁵ a Lieutenant in the Legion of Colonel Lee [Henry [”Light Horse Harry”] Lee] during the Revolutionary War deposeseth & saith that Lieutenant George Petrie entered the first Continental Regiment of South Carolina not long after the Commencement of the War certainly before the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] in which battle he served as a Lieutenant that he continued in service to the end of the War, and performed his duty on all occasions with the most exemplary courage, zeal and fidelity, and his conduct was so distinguished that on one occasion he received the thanks of his Colonel for his humanity -- That during the siege of Charleston, while acting as a Lieutenant and in the zealous discharge of his duty he received a severe wound in his side from a Bullet so severe that at first it was supposed to be mortal, & this deponent has understood and believes that he has not to this day recovered from the effects of it. That said George Petrie after the War & ever since has employed himself in collecting debts and other employments which have gained him a subsistence, but that of late years, the increasing infirmities of age & the effect of his wound have disabled him from gaining a livelihood by his own exertions, and that he now stands in need of assistance from Public or private charity, That he has constantly resided in Charleston South Carolina where he still resides.

Sworn to before us this 3rd July 1823.

S/ Alex^r Garden



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James Kennedy Lieutenant and Paymaster of the first Continental Regiment of South Carolina during the war of the Revolution and being duly sworn saith that George Petrie was a Lieutenant in the same Regiment & they served together the precise time when he entered the service Deponent does not recollect but certainly upwards of nine months prior to the capture of Charleston, that he was taken Prisoner when Charleston fell & Deponent believes continued a prisoner to the end of the War. That at the siege of Charleston Lieutenant Petrie received a very severe wound in the side from a Bullet while in the discharge of his duty -- that deponent saw him while laboring under the effect of that wound and has very frequently seen him since, and from the knowledge he possesses of the subject, has no hesitation in saying that he is fully convinced that the said George Petrie is so affected by said wound as to be disabled from active

⁴ [James Kennedy W490](#)

⁵ [Alexander Garden BLWt1825-200](#)

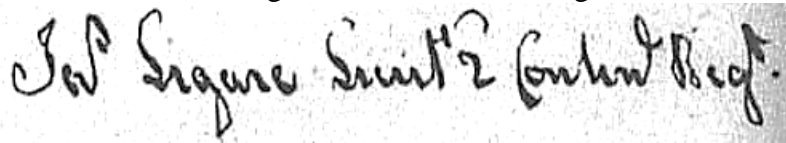
exertions & that he is therefore unable to maintain himself by his accustomed pursuits and therefore stands in need of the assistance that indeed he is totally disabled from obtaining his subsistence by manual labor. That his ordinary employment has been that of a Collector of Debts & that he is now unable to pursue that. That he has constantly resided and still resides in Charleston, but Deponent further saith that George Petrie was a gallant and meritorious officer and was always considered as such by his Brother Officers.

S/ James Kennedy

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James Legare⁶ a Lieutenant in the 2nd Continental Regiment of South Carolina during the War of the Revolution deposeseth & saith that George Petrie was a Lieutenant in the 1st Continental Regiment and as such served at the siege of Charleston, where he was taken Prisoner and continued a Prisoner to the end of the War, That during the siege he was very severely wounded in the side by a Bullet that Deponent saw him lying on the ground bleeding profusely, & from his situation in the nature of the wound it was considered to be mortal that he languished for a long time before he was well enough to go about -- The deponent has no doubt the said George Petrie is disabled him from obtaining a subsistence by manual labor; That he has constantly resided and still resides in Charleston, principally maintaining himself by collecting debts -- that Deponent believes that the effect of his wound acting on an enfeebled constitution now makes him unable to maintain himself by his accustomed employment, & that said George Petrie was considered a brave and deserving officer and had the respect & esteem of all his Brothers in arms of every grade [?].

S/ Ja^s Legare Lieut 2^d Contin^l Regt.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jas Legare Lieut 2 Contin Regt." The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

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State of South Carolina

George Petrie being duly sworn saith that he is not on the Pension List of the State of South Carolina or of any other State, and the reasons why he did not make application for a Pension before, are, that he was until within a few years past ~~enabled~~ by the means he possessed & such exertions as he was capable of making, enabled to obtain his subsistence without seeking pecuniary aid from others. But that he has been for some time past entirely disabled from maintaining himself. His wound has become more troublesome and acting on a constitution enfeebled by age and infirmities, has compelled him to resort to others for their benevolent aid, & he knows not where he has as much right to apply for relief as the Country to which he dedicated the best of his days & in whose defense he freely shed his blood.

Sworn to before me this 3rd July, 1823

S/ Rob. Y. Hayne, , Commissioner

S/ Jaco Axson

S/ George Petrie

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$15 per month commencing July 3, 1823, for service as a 2nd Lieutenant in the South Carolina Continental line. His pension was subsequently increased to \$20 per month.]

⁶ [James Legare W9123](#)