

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters


Pension Application of Valentine Fritts (Fretts, Frith) S42732  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

VA

The State Ohio }  
Brown County } Ss

On this fifth day of August 1818 before me the Subscriber one of the Associate Judges of the court of common please for said County personally appeared Vollentine Fritts aged Sixty years next February risedent in the said county of Brown and State aforesaid who being by me first duly sworn according to the law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions 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 in the revolutionary war That the said Vallentine Fritts enlisted in July, in the year 1776 in Barkly County & Shepherds Town [sic: Shepherdstown in Berkeley County] in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Abram Shepherd [Abraham Shepherd, pension application W19343] of the independent Rifle regiment commanded by Colonels Rollins [sic: Moses Rawlings] & [Daniel] Morgan {here Read third page [sentence inserted]} And in the month of April 1777 he was inroled in Captin Longs [Gabriel Long's] compeney of the eleventh Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col. Feebaker [sic: Christian Febiger] of the Virginia line on the continantle establishment. and that he continued to serve in the said Corpse or in the Service of the United States untill the month of July Seventeen Hundred an seventy nine when he was discharged from service in the Coves [possibly Smiths Clove in Orange County] in the State of New York that he was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777] & Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said Service

The State of Ohio Brown County Ss

on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of of August 1820 personally in open Court being a court of record (By possessing the power of fine and imprisonment) for said State and County Volentine Frith aged sixty one years resident in perry Township in said state and County who being first duly sworn according doth on his oath declare that he served n the revolutionary war as follows: In the Company commanded by Capt. Long and redgment commanded by Colonal Feebecker and that his original declaration was made on the [blank] day of [blank] 18 and received a pension certificate number 15918 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. Volentine his  mark Frith

Schedule of property of declarant sixty acres of third rate Land paid for with the pension heretofore received by me: one mare thirteen years old having the pool Evil [sic: poll evil] one four year old colt, two cows and calves 4 hogs grown 4 sows having 12 pigs one dutch oven dinner pot 3 dishes 6 plates on pale, piggin, churn, shovel, one pr stillyards 1 old plow 5 gees one hive of bees 1 table 3 chairs an old Loom 2 weaving reeds 1 smoothing Iron and drawing knife 3 knives & forks. This declarant further states that he is indebted to several person in the amount of forty Dolls I do further declare that my occupation is a farmer my abilities to pursue my occupation is from sickness age and infirmities is triffling in so much that I cannot do one good days work in a week. I have six persons in my family to wit Mary my wife age 57 years sick weak and labouring under continual debility Sarah my Daughter aged 19 years who has had fits since she was 8 years old and requires great nurture from the family – Volentine

my son aged 13 years Precilla my daughter aged 11 years This being the situation of my family they are not able to contribut to their support and I am obliged to get my neighbour women to do the washing of the family

Valentine his  mark Frith

NOTE: Fritts's property was certified in court to be valued at \$300. A 10 Jan 1859 letter by Aaron Stratton, attorney for the heirs of Valentine Fritz, stated that his pension was suspended under the 1820 act because he was thought to have too much property (more that \$200), that he died about 25 years previously, and that his widow died about seven years after him. A subsequent letter stated "that in chattel property he was very poor, that he had a large family many of them Girls, and one of them still remaining unmarried and poor, and that his girls were compelled to work from home to assist in supporting the father and mother, and... that the latter days of Valentine Fritts were spent by relying upon the charity of his married sons and Daughters..." The letter also stated that Fritts owned "not one foot of land," and that the schedule of "income & property furnished to the Government was a forgery gotten up by an enemy to said Fritts."