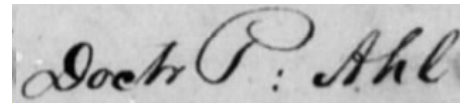


Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Peter Ahl (Venall) S5234 MD
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

District of Pennsylvania } In the Court of Common Pleas of said
Westmoreland County Ss } County being a court of record

On the 20th November 1820 Personally appeared in open court Doct. John Peter All late a surgeons mate in the army of the United States aged Seventy two years & upwards resident in the County of westmoreland aforesaid who being duly sworn saith that he entered the service of the Untied States as surgeon's mate under Doct. De la Roche attached to the Regiment of Col. Armong [sic: Tuffin Charles Armand] on the 5th July 1777 and that he was wounded on the 16th Nov 1787[?] in a skirmish and was discharged honorably on the 5th July 1781. That this deponent continued in the army as a Volunteer under General [Peter] Muhlenberg until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York Town [19 Oct 1781] at which time the Declarant was present. And this declarant doth further swear that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself 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 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income. that this deponent has no property but two tin buckets 1 Bed & bedding 1 spinning wheel 1 wood Stove 1 Bureau 1 old French watch 1 Copper Kettle 1 Chairs and some other articles of Kitchen furniture not worth mentioning In all not exceeding in value sixty two dollars & twelve & ½ cents. This declarant further states that he has an aged wife and that by means of age and bodily infirmity he is unable to procure a living by pursuing any occupation and this declarant further states that he was entered on the Rolls of the Army by the name of John P. Venall being advised by the Colonel of the Regiment to make that change as he has before been impressed into the British service and had not been regularly discharged.



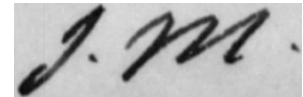
To the honourable the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled

The Petition of John Peter Ahl of the City of Baltimore respectfully represents that your Petitioner entered into the revolutionary army as surgeon's mate in the Legion commanded by General Armong at the commencement of the War. That on the 17th of March 1777 he was dangerously wounded at White Plains, by a saber cut on the head from one of Tarlton's Dragoons [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion; see endnote], while in the act of assisting the wounded. that your petitioner to the present day has never been able to recover from the effects of said wound; on the contrary is under the necessity of using Opium to the value of one and a half dollar every week to assuage the pain attendant thereon, and to preserve his life. Your Petitioner gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a Pension of twenty dollars per month notwithstanding which, having an aged wife, and being himself far advanced in the seventy fourth year of his age, and being necessitated to expend a large portion of his pension upon Opium, he has unavoidably contracted debts to the amount of three hundred dollars, which he is wholly unable to pay. Your petitioner represents that after he quit the legion of General Armong he was duly commissioned by Congress as Surgeon in a regiment under the command of General Muhlenberg with whom he served untill the sixth day of November 1783 when he was regularly discharged. From these facts your Petitioner is advised that Congress has provided a grant of Land to the revolutionary soldier in his disabled & helpless condition, and that his case cannot fail to meet the attention it merits, from your honourable Body. He therefore prays that the accompanying documents may be taken into consideration,

and that such donation of Land may be granted to him as is contemplated by the Laws of Congress and the practise in like cases & that your honourable body may also further consider the peculiarly distressed circumstances of your petitioner's case, and in your bounty allow him such extra Pension as these circumstances, verified by the annexed certificate (as required by Law) may seem to justify. And your Petitioner will ever pray &c
Baltimore February 14th 1822.

I recollect P. Ahl as an inhabitant of Augusta county in Virg'a, soon after the revolution, and am under the impression that he then stated to me what he now does, that he had serv'd in the Corps of Col. Armand several years in the revolutionary war. But of that fact I have no personal knowledge. I think that I have seen him since, his countenance being familiar to me, & that he enjoys a good character.

[signed] J. M. [James Madison, former President of the US]



State of Maryland } Sct
Baltimore County }

Be it remembered that on this Twenty Sixth day of January in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty two personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid John M Haupt [John Matthias Haupt, pension application W3806] and made oath that Doctor John P Ahl enisted in the Revolutionary Army early in the year 1777 and acted as Surgeons Mate under Doctors Laroche and Remmeckle[?] that deponent knew the said Doctor John P Ahl to be wounded at the battle of White plains [see endnote] by Tarltons dragoons about the time the British burned Danbury and Richfield in Connecticut [sic: Danbury and Ridgefield, 21-27 Apr 1777] and the time that General Woorster was killed [sic: David Wooster, mortally wounded at Ridgefield 27 Apr 1777]. that said John P Ahl was a long time confined by his wound before he was able again to attend his duty, and often complained that he had to take a quantity of Opium pr. day to relieve the pain in his head, occasioned by his wound, deponent further states that Doctor Ahl was very zealous for the Cause and often volunteered his services to assist in arms, and have seen him act under General Mulenburg at the Surrender of Cornwallis.
Sworn & subscribed before me/ Francis D. Cummins

State of Maryland } Sct
Baltimore County }

Be it remembered that on this fifteenth day of February in the year eighteen hundred and twenty two personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace fore the County aforesaid John F Whittimore and made oath that Doctor John P. Ahl inlisted in and during the revolutionary war, AD 1781, (the month he does not recolect) and was duly commissioned by Congress as a surgend in the Richment under Gen'l. P. Mulenberg, then comending General, and had said J. P. Ahl his papers in possission as a safe keeping, until the sixt day of November 1783 when said J. P. Ahl was again regularly discharged and went with Gen'l. Washington & Mulenberg to New York, with an intention to return to his native country, but to his gread disapointment was informed that he culd not go safe, he returned again after three months with an intention to stay longer, and has been a residend a long time in Virginia and of the United states ever since.
[signed] John Frederi Whittimore

NOTES:

The Battle of White Plains NY occurred on 28 Oct 1776. I could find no record of an engagement at White Plains in the late winter or early spring of 1777.

On 7 Aug 1821 John Peter Ahl applied to have his pension transferred from Pennsylvania to Maryland, having moved to the City of Baltimore. A letter dated 8 Aug 1821 to the Secretary of War states that Ahl was to "undergo the painful operation of being Trepanned," and that his address was

North Eutaw St. in Baltimore.

The file contains a letter to the Pension Office from Peter Ahl of York PA dated 5 June 1847 inquiring about bounty land for the service of his father, John Peter Ahl, who died in Baltimore on 13 July 1827. The reply states that Surgeon's Mates were not entitled to bounty land.