

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Henry Peninger S8946

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[A note in Peninger's file indicates that his pension application was sent to District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from Lewis and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. Peninger's pension certificate indicates that he was initially awarded \$80 per year for two years service as a private in the Virginia Militia under a Capt. Hamilton and Col. Samuel Lewis. The following is Singleton's report on Peninger, on which Singleton wrote "Fraud.".]

Henry Pennenger. Pensioner two years —

Saw Pennenger at his house on the 30th June 1834 and had from the following statement. - Says he is 73 years old born and raised in Pendleton County Virginia & resided there until within the last seven or eight years. he served a tower of duty of three months in the year 1773 under Capt. McKay. this service was done west of the allegany [sic: Allegheny] Mountains after he got home from this term and about eighteen months had elapsed. he was drafted for eighteen months (this was called the young mens draft). he was unable to go. his Father hired a substitute who went in his place. the substitutes name was John Bruns[?]. the substitute served out the tower of eighteen months in Pennsylvania under Genl. Washington. - this is all the service he done both before and during the War of the Revo.

Jonathan Wamsly [see note below] wrote his declaration gave Wamsly the same account of his services that he now gives. Wamsly read his declaration to him. (he cant read English) - he contracted to give Wamsly the first draw but Wamsly got \$105.

The forgoing statement haveing been read to me and finding it all right. In testimony of which I hereto subscribe my name

Witness William Penneger

Signed in dutch [i.e. German]

Nathan Goff [Pension agent at Clarksburg]

A true copy from the original in my possession

W. G Singleton

Respectfully Reported — W. G. Singleton Special Agent.

NOTE: Jonathan Wamsley was a leading conspirator in what Singleton termed the "Lewis Speculating Gentry," who tricked many old, illiterate men into putting their marks on fraudulent pension claims.