

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Peter Curtis W3005

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

To the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Garrard Circuit Sct Sept 22nd 1818

To the honble Secretary at war of the U.S.

the Petition of Peter Curtis. This Petitioner states on oath, that he served as a regular soldier on the continental establishment in the revolutionary war, under three several enlistments, for the period of about five years and six months. That he first enlisted together with three of his brothers, at Guilford court house in North Carolina under Capt John Armstrong a short time before Christmas in the year 1775, for the term of one year, and was attached to the second North Carolina regiment on the continental line, commanded by Col. Alexander Martin and marched to Wilmington, and from there to Charleston, & continued there until the term was out. In the spring of the year 1777 he and his brothers enlisted again at Camden to go to the Northward for three years, that they were furloughed to go home that he was taken sick & was ordered on to the southward, when recovered, in the new levy serving for nine months, and was attached to the 1st regiment commanded by Col. James Clanton. that he was with [Gen. Horatio] Gates at the defeat at Rugely's Mills [Battle of Camden SC, 6 mi S of Rugeley's Mill, 16 Aug 1780]. His time being nearly out he again enlisted about two weeks before the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] for the term of 18 months, that he was with Genl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] at the battles of Guilford and Eutaw Springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781], that he was on a detachment against some tories when the news came that Cornwallis was taken [19 Oct 1781]. He states that he obtained three discharges for the above term of service, which he has lost. that he resides in this county, that he is in his fifty ninth year, that he is very frail & infirm, and in indigent circumstances.

Peter hisXmark Curtis

State of Kentucky Lincoln County Court Sct

At a County Court holden for the County of Lincoln at the Court house in the Town of Stanford on Tuesday the ninth day of march in the year eighteen hundred and twenty four being the Second day of the term Peter Curtis an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress passed on the eighteenth day of March eighteen hundred and eighteen exhibited into Court a Written Statement of the manner in which he entered into the Service of the United States and also a Schedule of his property pursuant to the late act of Congress passed the first of May eighteen hundred and twenty which was Sworn to by the said Peter Curtis. And the Court from an inspection of the said affidavit and the examination of other testimony is of opinion that the Statement and affidavit of the said Peter Curtis are true and ordered that the same be recorded Copied and Certified to the Secretary of the War department, and the same follows in these words towit. Declaration. In order to obtain a Pension under the Several acts of Congress Concerning Revolutionary Soldiers, State of Kentucky, Lincoln County Sct On this 9th day of March 1824 personally appeared in open Court for the County afsd Peter Curtis a resident in s'd County aged Sixty three years who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820 that he the s'd Peter Curtis enlisted for the term of Twelve months on the [blank] day of February 1776 in the State of North Carolina, in the Company commanded By Capt John Armstrong in the Reg't commanded by Col Alx'r Martin in the line of the State of North Carolina on the north carolina Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in the said Corps untill November of that year when he was furlowed from s'd service in Willmington in North Carolina and remained at home longer than was proper as he has been since informed he being entirely deranged during his absence, but before the expiration of his Term was restored sufficiently to return to the service which he did and served out his time in Capt Williams Company Col Donoho's Reg't and Gen'l Sumpters [sic: Jethro Sumner's] Brigade. He was deranged when furlowed as he has been informed and believes for he has no recollection of it personally. In the Spring 1778 he enlisted again at Guilford North

Carolina under Capt John Leaks in the 3rd North Carolina Regt and Transferred to Capt Williams in Col [John] Paisley's Regt. and served out his time which was nine months faithfully and was discharged at Monks Corner [sic: Moncks Corner] in South Carolina near Charleston By Col Donoho But he has lost his discharge during the Service he was in the battle of Stono [Stono Ferry SC, 20 Jun 1779], of Campden and Guilford and Eutaw — And in pursuance of the act of 1st March 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th March 1818 and that I have not since that time By Gift sale or otherwise disposed of any part of my property with intent thereby 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 March 18th 1818 - and that I have not nor has any person in Trust for me any property or security 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 I made out a Declaration similar to the foregoing in 1819 and had it presented to the war office but the application was rejected on the ground (as I was told) that I had been returned as a deserter during my first Service; I now declare on oath that I never deserted and that if there be such return it must have been produced by the absence occasioned By my mental derangement as aforesaid

I have one blind mare worth.	\$30
one mare with the use of only three legs.	5
Two Cows.	20
Two Sows and pigs.	<u>10</u>
Total	\$65

My occupation is agriculture, I am very infirm and hardly able to labour my family consists of my wife an old woman and three Children one a girl aged 13 years and two Boys one 17 and the other 14 years old, and two orphan grand children one 4 years old and the other two years old.

Peter Curtis

NOTES:

The file includes a deposition by Rachal Finnell dated 13 Feb 1830, who declared that she was a neighbor of Curtis during the entire war, and that he enlisted at the same time as his three brothers: Bartholomew Curtis, Joshua Curtis [pension application S39392], and Reuben Curtis [possibly Sgt. Reuben Curtis mentioned in the pension application of Gideon Johnson S4456].

On 19 Mar 1839 Susanna Curtis, 65, applied for a pension stating that she married Peter Curtis on 29 Oct 1791, and he died 26 Mar 1835. Her application was supported by the following deposition:

“The deposition of Susanna Curtis of Lincoln County Kentucky taken at the house of her Mother in Lincoln County and State aforesaid to be used as evidence in favour of the application of Mrs Susanna Curtis for a pension under the act of Congress 7th July 1838

Deponent being Twenty [sic] Eight years old the 12 June 1839 Depoeth and Saith that She is the Daughter of Peter Curtis and Susanna Curtis That she knows her Father Peter Curtis was a pensioner on the roll of the Kentucky agency at the time of his death and that her father the aforesaid Peter Curtis died on the Twenty Sixth day of March Eighteen hundred and thirty five and that her Mother the aforesaid Susanna Curtis has remain a widow ever since. The deponent further states that the family Bible containing the record of the Childrens ages of her Father & Mother has remained in the possession of her Mother whom the deponent has lived with eversince the death of her Father And the said record of her Mothers Children commences with Rubin Curtis born in the year of our Lord 1792 October the 29, Avarilly Curtis was born in the year of our Lord 1794 February the 15 and continues with ages of John W Curtis Susanna Curtis Peter Curtis Lapsley Curtis & Isaac [sic] Curtis. The two first names Viz Rubin Curtis and Avarilly Curtis the Deponent believes to be in her Fathers own hand write The balance of the names the deponent understood is in the hand write of a School Master. The Deponent States that two of the names registered above Rubin Curtis on the same leaf is names of the Children of her father which he had before he the aforesaid Peter Curtis was married to her Mother which Leaf and register she now makes part of this her deposition and further saith not

Susanna herXmark Curtis”

An attempt to transcribe the original family register follows:

Bartholomew Curtis was born June[?] 28 174[page torn]

[first name illegible] Curtis was born December 14 1746[?]

Nanse Curtis born February ye 1748

John Curtis born ye January 1750

Joshua Curtis was born January ye 1752

Jude Curtis was born September 5th 1752

Rubin Curtis was born December 28th 1755

Peter Curtis was born February 25 1760

Mary Curtis was born in the year of our lord 1786 february 9th

Charles thorenton Curtis was born in the year of our lord 1788 September the 19

Rubin Curtis was born in the year of our lord 179[?] october the 22nd

Avarilly Curtis was born in the year of our 1794 february the 15

John H. Curtis was born february the 14th 1777

Susanna Curtis was born June the 12th 1801

Peter Curtis was Born Feby 14th day 1806

Lapsley Curtis was Born April 12th 1809

Jude Curtis was Born Augst 12th 18[??]

Madison Hogan was Born June 1st 181[?]

Elizabeth Hogan was Born March 15th 1821.

Eliza Jean Curtis was Born July th 1823.