

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Brewer W3652

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Pennsylvania } Ss

Fayette County }

On this the 6th day of February eighteen hundred and forty seven. Personally appeared before me James Fuller one of the associate judges of the several courts of Fayette County, John Brewer a resident of said County Perry township aged eighty five years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed in the year 1828 may the 15th and also to obtain bounty land in accordance with the provisions made by the Continental Congress: that in or about the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight he resided with his father about three miles from Winchester Virginia and at said time his father was draughted to serve in the Virginia line and that he John Brewer the deponant being then about sixteen years of age took the place of his father as his substitute and served nine months in said line the time for which his father was draughted. My officers in that service were General Morgan [see endnote], Colonel James Willis, Capt Samuel Denny, and lieut James Dunbar, paymaster Jas Cimmeral. We first marched into South Carolina I was in no battle during said nine months at the expiration of which time my father being draughted a second time for the length of eighteen months I continued to serve as his substitute under the following officers viz General James Morgan, Colonel George Zein, Capt Aaron Messer, lieut John Darlington during which eighteen months I was in two battles the battle of Cowpens [7 Jan 1781] and the battle of Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] in South Carolina after which battles the second term for which my father was draughted being expired I then immediately enlisted for during the whole war which was in the fall of seventeen hundred and eighty one under the following named officers General John Mullenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] the name of my Colonel I think was a french name and I cannot now mind it my Capt also I now at this time disremember. After I enlisted I was only in one battle the battle of Yorktown the time of the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] which was my last engagement. I received my regular discharge the July following which discharge is now lost. The paymaster who last paid me was Andrew Dunbar. The above is all true to the best of my recolection. I never have and do not now receive any pension

John hisXmark Brewer

State of Pennsylvania } SS

Fayette County }

On this the 6th day of February 1847 personally appeared also before me James Fuller Samuel Brewer a resident of Perry township said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say that he is the brother of the applicant above named John Brewer and that to his personal knowledge John was in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War in the Virginia line, that he saw him standing as a guard at the Winchester Barracks some six or seven miles from Winchester and he knows that he was away from home some three or four years and came home when the revolutionary war was over.

Samuel hisXmark Brewer

State of Pennsylvania

County of Fayette

Personally appeared Joseph Whipple [pension application S40675] aged about 83 years a credible witness, long a resident in said county and late a Revolutionary & Continental Soldier of the Virginia line, who after being duly sworn doth declare on his solemn oth that he has been long acquainted with John Brewer, and after hearing said Brewer's statement, relative to his continental services, as a regular

enlisted soldier of Captain Denney's company, also of Captain Simmerell's company, & in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Williss for the term of three years as a private soldier of the Virginia line, & deponent further states that he and said Brewer both resided in the same neighbourhood, in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia aforesaid, and that he is the same identical, same John Brewer, whom he represents himself to be, and that deponent verily believes that he the said Brewer did well and truly serve, as appears to be setforth in his preceeding declarations, and that he knew him to be honorably dissharged, and after which the said Brewer and Isaac Artist enlisted in Cols. Milen's, & Armond's Regiment [sic: Charles Armand's Legion] in 1781 of the Pennsylvania line for one year though attached to other troops of said line, & was honorably discharged &c by Col. Armon.

Joseph hisXmark Whipple

[Dated 10 Mar 1832 and sent in support of Brewer's application for a pension from Pennsylvania.]

NOTES:

On 5 May 1849 Samuel Brewer stated that his brother, John, died on 6 Jan 1848 and "for some years before his death, his mind and memory had failed and he was unable to make an inteligible statement of the details of his Revolutionary services." The loss of memory is evident in the names given for his officers. None of the officers could be identified except those whose likely names are given in brackets in the declarations. The only General Morgan was Daniel Morgan, who did not enter South Carolina until early in 1781. There was an Ensign Samuel Denny and a Lt. James Simerall in the Frederick County Militia.

A letter dated 23 Feb 1848 explains the late application for a pension by the fact that Brewer believed that he could not collect a pension from the United States while already receiving a pension from Pennsylvania.

On 22 Dec 1849 Mary Brewer, 77, of Jefferson Township in Fayette County, applied for a pension stating that she married John Brewer on 22 Nov 1790, and he died 7 Jan 1848. A letter dated 6 Jun 1856 stated that Mary Brewer was 84, infirm, and still an applicant. On 5 May 1849 Samuel Brewer declared that he was present when his brother was married in Winchester by Rev. George Ayres to Mary Martin. On the same date Daniel, John, and Ayres Lynn stated that the following children of John Brewer survived him: Martha, wife of Abner Locey; Elizabeth, wife of Abram Geary; Sarah, wife of Isaac Geary; Richard Brewer; John Brewer; and Mary Brewer, still single. They stated that all the children were very poor.