

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Portman W7305

Catharine Foster

PA

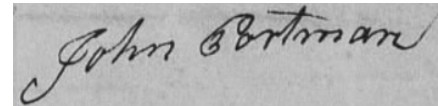
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The handwriting in the following is very poor.]

Pennsylvania

Allegheny County SS

Be it known that on the twenty sixth day of april eighteen hundred & nineteen personally appeared before me Samuel Roberts President of the Courts of Common Pleas in and for the fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania John Portman who on his Solemn oath doth depose and say That in the month of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six he inlisted in Captain Moses Carsons Company of Infantry in the eighth Pennsylvania Regiment on continental establishment commanded by Col [first name undeciphered] McKay [probably Eneas Mackay] afterwards by Col Daniel Brodhead That he served faithfully from the time of his enlistment untill the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] when he was taken prisoner and continued a prisoner till the conclusion of the Revolutionary war. That he enlisted for five years or during the war but on account of his captivity he never obtained a discharge. That he is now sixty nine years of age residing in the County of Warren State of Pennsylvania. This Deponent further saith that he hath no property not personal or mixed that he is unable to labor and for the last two years has been principally supported by the kindness of his friends. From his reduced circumstances he is in absolute need of the assistance of his country for support.



Before me also appeared on the same day and year John Finley [pension application S31025] who being duly Sworn saith In the year seventeen hundred and seventy six he was a lieutenant in Captain Moses Carsons Company of infantry in the eighth Pennsylvania Regiment and was personally acquainted with John Portman the foregoing Deponent who was enlisted in the Company aforesaid and served faithfully from the month of July AD 1776 till the battle of Brandywine After the battle the said John Portman was reported missing and this Deponent did not know whether he was killed or taken prisoner. This Deponent further saith that the said John Portman is now present & this Deponent well recollects him and knows him to be the same who served as aforesaid Said Portman was fogleman for the Company being very expert at the manual exercise – & further saith not Sworn & subscribed before me this 26 April 1819.



[On 14 Aug 1820 John Portman made an application in Allegheny County similar to the following but less detailed.]

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Warren County Ss

On this fifth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the County of Warren because the proceedings are according to the course of the Common Law with a Jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount keeping a Record of their proceedings and have unlimited power in point of imprisonment) John Portman aged seventy one years resident in Warren County in said Commonwealth who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the eighteenth March 1818 and the first May 1820 that he the said John Portman enlisted during the war in August in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six in the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the Company Commanded by Captain Moses Carson & in the eighth Regiment of the Pennsylvania line on the Continental establishment commanded by Col Enos McCay upon the death of Col McCay [14 Feb 1777] Col Broadhead succeeded to the Command of the Regiment & that he continued under the command of Capt'n. John Finly with whom he served to the close of the war he was not discharged as he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Brandywine and confined on James Island [South Carolina] from which he escaped the evening before the British evacuated Charlestown [Charleston SC, 14 Dec 1782] and before he arrived at his Regiment it was disbanded. That he was in the Battle of Brandywine and Boundbrook [Bound Brook NJ, 13 Apr 1777] & various Skirmishes and that he has no other [evidence] now in his power of his said service except this his own declaration that Major John Finly whose certificate he obtained on his last application has since Removed to the State of Kentucky. He also states that on the twenty sixth day of Aprile in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen he applied for Relief under the act of the eighteenth of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen and that he has received a pension certificate the number of which is 15.459 And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th 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 18th 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. This declarant also states that he is by occupation a weaver but that owing to old age weakness and a failure of sight he has been unable to labour much for several years and that he is in a great measure dependant upon the liberality of his friends and acquaintance for subsistance that he has not kept house for several years but resides principally with a Mr Hugh Marsh who is not a relation nor under the least obligation to contribute towards his support and he does also further state that in the Spring or Summer of 1820 he appeared in the Court of Common pleas of Allegany County where the proceedings pointed out and prescribed by the Act of first May 1820 were had and forwarded as he believes to the war office by the late Judge Roberts of that County that he has received no answer which he is informed is owing to his having applied out of his own County.

John Portman

A Schedule of all the estate Real and personal of John Portman of the County of Warren

In the month of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen I disposed of all my property real and personal to one James Portman for which I received three Judgement bonds for one hundred dollars each one of which was payable in the Spring of one thousand eight hundred and fifteen another in one year thereafter and the other in the year thereafter These Judgement Bonds I caused to be entered up in the Court of Common pleas of Venango County to which the County of Warren was then attached in march 1814 one has been paid or principally paid and the others are still due the Judgements were received by Scire facias in August 1820 and executions Issued on which not enough has been collected to pay the costs and I have very little expectation that any thing more can be collected the said James Portman being insolvent. At the time I sold my property to the said James Portman there was a Judgement against me in favour of the Holland Company which the said James Portman agreed to pay and satisfy but it having been neglected by him the real estate which he had of me has been sold at Sheriff Sale there for but for a sum insufficient to satisfy the Judgement as I am informed. My claims against the said James Portman are all the property which I have in law or equity except a few articles of bedding and my wearing apparele

John Portman

NOTES:

On 27 May 1820 John Portman petitioned unsuccessfully for a divorce, stating that on 9 May 1784 he married Catharine Gudbling in Cumberland County PA, and that she "hath been guilty of the Crime of adultery and wilful and malicious desertion, and absence from the habitation of the said John without any reasonable cause for and during the space of two years and more."

On 23 Sep 1850 Catharine Foster, 82, resident of Pine Grove Township in Warren County, applied for a pension stating that she married John Portman in 1784, and he died on 12 Nov 1833. She stated that she married Thomas Foster in 1839, and he died on 30 April 1846. Her application was certified by her daughter, Mary Martin, and her husband, Thomas Martin.

On 28 Sep 1850 Thomas Martin gave the following explanation to the Pension Office for why the court did not proceed with John Portman's petition for a divorce from Catharine Portman: "in the fall of 1814 the old man Portman made over all his property to his sone James whoe was to support the old Lady hee the old men went to the state of Ohio & was absent betwen two & three Years James Runn through what property hee had and the old Lady was Left with nothing to subsist upon & she went and Cept house for a man by the name of Acor the old man Portman Returned in 1817teen shortley after his Return he obtained his pension & to deprive the old Lady from comeing on him for his support hee applied for a Divorce & under all the Sircumstences the Court would not grent a Bill."

On 25 Oct 1851 Mary Martin stated that she was 52 years old, that her mother's maiden name was Catharine Goodlink before she married John Portman near Carlisle PA, and that they had the following five children: "Elizabeth Portman who was born about ten months after said marriage, Rebecca Portman, James Portman, Mary Portman who was born in the year 1791 and died in her Infancy, and John Portman who was born in the year 1793." She stated that her mother married Thomas Foster on 5 July 1839, and that she died on 7 Feb 1851 leaving the following six children: James Portman, John Portman, Sarah Green, Mary Martin, Jane Sloan, and Catharine Washburn. Anther document states that Rebecca Portman married William Carpenter.

On 1 April 1852 James Portman was living in Kalamazoo MI.