

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Hartman W7680

Christina Hartman

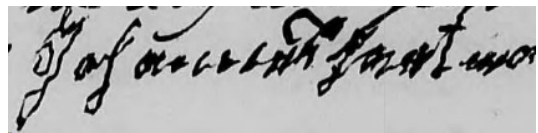
PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia Preston County SS

on this twelfth day of November AD 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the county court of said county no setting John Hartman a Resident of said county & state aforesaid aged seventy three years or thereabouts who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7 1832 that he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers & served as herein after stated he was drafted in Berks county pensylvania and marched under Captain — Scanly a french man or part french he does not recollect what year only by refferance to the occurances which he had heard of at that time he recolects of hearing of the capture of fort washington [16 Nov 1776] he marched and joined Col Erwins [probably James Irvine] Redgement & marched to Philadelphia & from thence to Barns Hill he was in the engagement of that place [sic: see endnote]; he Recolects of the british attacking the Malitia & they gave way until Morgan attacked them when they gave up he recolects it was said they took 11 hundred prisoners he then returned home having served two months he again was drafted in a short time propably not more than three months he marched under Capt Wagnor & joined Col Yager's[?] Redgment & marched to chesnut hill some where between Reding [Reading?] & Philadelpha he remained there & in the neighbourhood of Philedelphia for two months in this tower he was in no engagements he then returned home he was again called out & marched under Capt Crowl & joined Col Bulls Redgment he marched to Philadelpha and down to the bay the british then was in Brunswick [NJ] he this time joined the main army under General washington he retreated from Philadelpha and the British crossed & took it [26 Sep 1777] he was out this time two months & returned home he was afterwards out in the service as a driver in the place of an old man who was a neighbour whose name was Adam Aletat[?] & whose team was taken out he served in this way about one month and was discharged he said he had discharges but long since lost them that he suposes there is persons in Berks county yet living who knows of his survices but of this he is not scertain as he has left them upwards of forty years has an old neighbour William Gable of this county who knew him in Berks he does not recolect his age exactly he has no record of his age but thinks he was about twenty years old when he entered the sarvice he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension but this one and he is not on the pension list of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



[Signed Johannes Hartman in German. Joseph Smith and Samuel R. Trowbridge certified that Harman was "a German of not much education."]

Preston county Ss

This day William Gable a respetable citizen of this county came before me the undersigned Justice of the peace and after being duly sworn saes he knew John Hartman the above aplicant in Berks county Pa. that this affiant was not known personally to the services of said Hartman but recolects that it was said & believed then he did serve in the revolution This affiant has heard Hartman of his old master one Christian Hackler and many others who served together talk of their services before hartman left Berks county This afixant has no doubt of his services though he never saw him in the service and further saith not this 12th Nov 1832

John Crane JP

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications in present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on the report "Suspicious comparison," presumably referring to supposed differences between Hartman's statement to him and his declaration.]

John Hartman. served 6 mo.

I the undersigned John Hartman at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the narrative following of my age, and revolutionary services – to Wit. I am in my 74th year of age. I am a native of Germany. emigrated to the United States in 1775 & settled in Bucks County Pennsylvania – about four years after I had come to this country I was drafted in Berks County for two months and marched to Philadelphia under Capt Sceneley thence to Barren Hills at which place an engagement took place between the American & British army. We took Eleven hundred prisoners – the American army was commanded by Genl. Erwin & Col. Morgan. I was attached to Col. Bulls Reg't. My time of service expired. I went home. a month or so after this I was drafted again for two months, and march from same County under Capt. Reeves[?], to the Schulskill [sic: Schuylkill River], thence to Chesnut Hill. there lay until my time expired. there were 4 or 5 hundred troops at Chesnut Hill. I cant recollect who command there, nor can I recollect the name of my Colonel.

five or six months after the last mentioned service I was again drafted for two months & marched under a Capt Waggener down the Schoolkill and was stationed in chester county in the woods[?], remained there until the British took Philadelphia – there were 80 or 90 men at the station in three or four companies. Capt Reems[?] was principal commander, this is all the service I done William T. Burns wrote my Declaration. told him the same I now tell. I cant tell any of the years in which I done the service above detailed – nor can I tell how it is that I have alledged in my Declaration, that the service was done in 1781 [sic]. In Witness that the forgoing contains the truth I hereto subscribe my name. August 4th 1834
Witness/ S. R. Trowbridge
John hisXmark Hartman

Note – this case I think must be wrong.

W. G Singleton/ Nov. 24 1834

Recd 10 Augt Kingwood Va, June 2nd 1835

Dr Sir [Lewis Cass, Secretary of War] Permit one who is the father of a numerous offspring, whose Chief Care and pride it is and ever has been to hand down to that offspring as their paternal inheritance a reputation untarnished, and the recollection that their ancestor bore an humble part in the toils and hardships of the revolution which achieved the independance of their Country, and gained for them the freedom which they now enjoy, Both of which, paternal inheritance and pleasing recollection is about to be destroyed by and lost by an act of your department. I mean the striking my name from the roll of "Pensioners." Do not understand me as casting any reflections upon any of the officers of your department, no such thing, but I do know that I am a soldier of the revolution and served as stated in my declaration to your department.

As to the amount of the pension which I draw in a pecuniary point of view I disregard it. I am perfectly independant without it and all my decendants are in like circumstances.

I first applied for it because I was told it was offered in honour of those whose youth had been devoted to the service of their Country in the trying times of the revolution. Altho my declaration upon oath has been disregarded and cast aside as a thing unworthy of belief – yet I think I am not mistaken when I say that I have not a single acquaintance in the Community in which I live who would not give full credence to my statement when I reaffirm that I am a "soldier of the revolution" and that I would not mistate one single fact in relation to my services for ten times the amount of the pittance, which these services entitled me to draw

Please file this with my declaration & other papers.

Most Respectfully

John hisXmark Hartman

We the undersigned take pleasure in stating that there is not a more honest honourable and candid man living in our community than the above named John Hartman and would believe any thing he would affirm.
[more than 40 signers]

NOTES:

I could not identify a battle at Barns Hill. This could not have been the aborted battle at Barren Hill PA on 20 Mar 1778, which occurred long after the capture of Fort Washington, and in which the Americans escaped without engaging or taking a large number of prisoners. The only engagement soon after the loss of Fort Washington in which Americans captured a large number of prisoners was the Battle of Trenton on 26 Dec 1776. Hartman might have been confused with the skirmish at Edge Hill PA on 7 Dec 1777, which was part of the Battle of Whitemarsh, 5-8 Dec. Col. James Irvine and Col. Daniel Morgan were both present at this battle, but there was not a large number of prisoners captured by either side.

Hartman's accounts in both his declaration and statement to Singleton were confused but not inconsistent with each other, as nearly as I can tell from the two badly written documents. Singleton apparently thought Hartman claimed in his declaration that he served in 1781. Singleton's misrepresentation resulted in the temporary suspension of Hartman's pension of \$20 per year.

On 8 Sep 1846 Christina Hartman, 86, applied for a pension stating that as Christina Kellar she married John Hartman in Berks County on 15 March 1779, and he died on 30 Nov 1842. She submitted the family record in German, a 1938 translation of which is transcribed below. Near the end of the record in English are the following three entries:

John Hartman was Born June the 24 Day 1757

Christene his wife was Born March the 15 Day 1760

Rebecky dewit was born July the 6 day 1824[?]

On 22 Sep 1846 Michael Hartman, 60, certified the marriage of John and Christina Hartman.

On July 24, 1780, my son Johannes was born into the world.

On April 18, 1783, my two girls Bud (?) and Ann-marie (?) were born in to the world.

On July 1, 1785, my son Mügl was born into the world.

On December 1, 1786, my son Jacob was born into the world.

On March 3, 1789, my Geti was born into the world.

On February 3, 1792, my Betzi was born into the world.

On July 19, 1794, my son Johangorg was born into the world.

On November 4, 1796, my Grüsttiene was born into the world.

On June 23, 1799, my daughter Sara was born into the world.

My Thini (Tuwit?) was born in 1820.

From German by Matteossian 8/23/38