

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Owen R7845

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 2 Aug 2012.

Declaration in order to be placed on the pension list. For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution, approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828 I Peter Owen of the county of Henry and State of Tennessee do hereby declare that I enlisted in the continental line of the army of the revolution for and during the war and continued in its service until its termination, at which period I was a private in Captain William Hays's company in the [blank] Regiment of the continental line – and I also declare that I afterwards received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars which I was entitled to under a resolve of Congress passed the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1778 – and I further declare that I was not on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1828 on the pension list of the United States

[signed 27 Jun 1829] Peter Owen

State of Tennessee } SS.

Henry County }

On this third day of December 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the Circuit Court of Henry County now sitting, Peter Owen, a resident of Paris in the County of Henry State of Tennessee, aged sixty eight 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 Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: In the month of May 1781 he became a substitute for Benjamin Taylor, of Lunenburg [sic: Lunenburg] County, Virginia, who was drafted to serve a two months tour in the militia – the Captain was named William Hays – the Lieut. Richard Hays – he thinks the Colonel's name was Nelson, but cannot be certain – That he was immediately marched with the company to Rendezvous at Prince Edward Court House. after staying there some ten or 12 days the company marched along with a large number of troops to head Quarters, but he cannot recollect at what place head quarters was held. At head Quarters he recollects General [Anthony] Wayne with 600 Riflemen – & Marquis Lafayette & General [Thomas] Nelson – & General [Robert] Lawson who was the militia General, who commanded the Brigade or Division to which he was attached. He recollects hearing among the men, that the army, when collected at head Quarters consisted of twelve thousand men. He recollects the progress of the march from head Quarters through Virginia in pursuit of Cornwallis – recollects this army crossing a river in Boats – recollects that during the march the 4<sup>th</sup> of July came round & that the army celebrated the day. The troops were drawn up in Brigades – in the first place, 14 pounders were fired as a signal for the men to prepare for the celebration of the day – the men were accordingly drawn up in brigades as above stated – with a 40 pounder on the right & left of each Brigade, the firing commenced always on the right of each Brigade, the discharge of the 40 pounder on the right first took place – then the musquetry running from right to left – & then the 40 pounder on the left & so on – The Marquis Lafayette was through the ranks with his hat off during the celebration, accompanied by a few officers on horseback – recollects a thicket of Walnut trees in front that he occasionally retired to from the burning sun. Recollects that during the march two officers had a quarrel, which they settled by a duel with Pistols, & one of them was badly wounded in the breast. He recollects that toward the close of his two months it became the general talk in the Army that there was more men embodied there than was any use for, & that it was running the government to an unnecessary expense: – a few days – perhaps a week before his term of 2 months expired, a proclamation was issued informing the men that any that chose to enlist in what was called the Virginia State Legion, had liberty to do so. – the conditions of service, in which Legion was, that the men were considered as minute men were permitted to go home & to attend their officers at the nearest rendezvous whenever

ordered by their officers – the term for which they enlisted in this corps was three years – & they were bound not to leave the state during that time. Capt Hays, the captain under whom he entered the service became an officer in the State Legion, & invited as many of his men as thought proper, to enlist under him in this new corps – He (applicant) was one of the first that turned out, & received half of the bounty – Seven Dollars, & took a promise for the other seven, which was never paid – recollects three of his mess mates – viz – William Hinton, Mathew Hubbard & Rice Waller – all from his own neighborhood in Lunenburg County (where this applicant should have sooner stated, that he was born & always lived till the time of his entering the Service) – a great many enlisted at the same time in this new Corps & returned home – after which they were occasionally called out & exercised for 3 or 4 days at a time – sometimes near a week. This applicant was repeatedly called out to the Rendezvous in Lunenburgh County & drilled – until peace was proclaimed, after which the officers became more remiss, & called the men more seldom to the rendezvous to exercise – He was never discharged from the service – After the conclusion of the peace some little time Capt Hays & his brother Lieut Hays came to call on the men, & the corps, or that company seemed to be away without any formal dismissal or discharge – this applicant cannot possibly state how long he belonged to this State Legion – he is safe however in saying that he belonged to it one year & a half, commencing in July 1781 –

He was never in any engagement – that he has no Documentary evidence of his service & that the only person that he now knows, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, is Mary Morgan, the widow of Peter Morgan dec'd – who lived during the Revolutionary War, at the same house with this applicant, & now lives in Hickman County, Tennessee, & to whose evidence, annexed hereto he refers.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State Sworn to & subscribed the year aforesaid –

[signed] Peter Owen

#### Questions by the Court

1. Where & in what year were you born?

Ans. In Lunenburgh County Virginia – & suppose in 1765 – as, from the account I have kept, I am upwards of 68 years old –

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Ans. I had a record, but left it at Ben Taylors, in Lunenburgh County Virginia –

3. Where were you living when called into service? where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Ans. In Lunenburg County Va. as above stated – from thence I moved to Orange County North Carolina – & lived near Hillsboro' [sic: Hillsborough] 7 years – from thence to Buncomb [sic: Buncombe] Co NCa on french broad River – from thence to Logan County Ky, where I lived 10 or 11 years – from thence to Illinois, on Cash River – where I lived about 15 [illegible abbreviation] – from thence back to Logan Co Ky – thence to Williamson County, Tennessee, where I staid two years – thence into Maury County Ten'e. where I staid 11 years – thence to Henry County Ten'e – where I have resided for the last 10 years –

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was a substitute for Benjamin Taylor as above stated, in the first instance – & I then enlisted in the State Legion of Virginia

5. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops, where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans'r. Never knew the names or numbers of any of the Regiments of the Regular Army that he was with – As above stated – he recollects well the Marquis Lafayette – General Wayne – & his 600

Riflemen – General Nelson & General Lawson – The general circumstances of the Service I have already detailed as far as I can recollect –

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service, and if so, by whom was it given & what has become of it?

Ans. I did not – as above stated.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Ans' r. I will name the hon' l J. W. Cooke – James Jones, Thos K Porter, John H Dunlap, T. Cooney – Saml. McGowen, and in fact all the old settlers of this county. [signed] Peter Owen

NOTE: On 27 Nov 1833 Mary Morgan of Hickman County TN stated that she had known Peter Owen from infancy, and that they both lived at the home of Benjamin Taylor, for whom Owen substituted.