

## THOMAS PIERCE REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION APPLICATION

**Page 1** – Service: New Jersey; Pierce, Thomas, No. S40267; Wt. 8652-100-Pvt., Issued July 16, 1789 to John Bray assignee, no papers.

**Page 2** – Pennsylvania – Thomas Pierce of Fayette Co. in the State of Pennsylvania who was a private in the regiment commanded by Colonel Ogden of the New Jersey Line, for the term of 3 years. Inscribed on the Roll of Pennsylvania at the rate of \$8.00 per month, to commence on 27th of June 1819. Certificate of Pension the 10 of Feb. 1821 and sent to Andrew Stewart, Esqr. now in this City. Arrears to 4th of Sep 1820 – 12 mos. 8/31, 4/30 = \$99.12 + \$48 = \$147.12; Semianl. All'ce ending 4 Mar 1821. {Revolutionary claim, Act 18th March, 1818 and frist of May 1820}. Commencement of pension corrected from 24th August 1819 to 27 June 1819 on the 29th Sep 1824 \_\_\_\_\_ AStewart Mar 18 '20(?)

**Page 3** – Case of Thos. Pearce #4652; Saml. Smith, Agt., Union Town, PA rec'd Aug 24, 1819. Jersey Line Rgmt. Col. Ogden, 1777 – War. See letter to Saml., Esqr. Of Union Town, PA then at Washington City, June 26, 1820.

**Page 4** - [A. Stewart, however, will hear to examine the records relative to line(?) for him.]

**Page 5** – District of Pennsylvania, Fayette County -- On this twenty second of June 1819, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Please for that said county personally appeared Thomas Pearce aged Sixty years, resident in the County of Fayette in the said district, who, being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late 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:” That he, the said Thomas Pearce enlisted for the term of during the war on the \_\_\_\_ day of June in the year Seventeen hundred and 77 in Bergen Co. in the State of New Jersey in the company commanded by Captain Piatt \_\_\_\_\_ of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Ogden, Lt. Col. Barber in the line of the State of New Jersey on the Continental Establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States, until the End of the War \_\_\_ 82 and 83, when he was discharged from service in June 1783 State of New York that he was in the battles of Monmouth, Elizabeth Towne, Springfield and at the taking Cornwallice[sic] and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services. Sworn to and declared before me, the day and year aforesaid. /s/ (his mark) Thomas Pearce.

I, James Finley, Judge, & c. as aforesaid, do certify that it appears, to my satisfaction, that the said Thomas Pearce did serve in the revolutionary war, as stated in the preceding declaration, against the common enemy, for the term of nine months at one time, on the continental establishment; and I now transmit the proceedings and testimony taken and had before me, to the Secretary for the Department of War, pursuant to the directions of

the aforementioned act of Congress. I am also satisfied that he needs the assistance of his country for support.

“I have know him about fifteen years to be very poor and industrious[sic] and believed by all to be an honest man so far as I have understood.” January 1819 /s/ James Finley seal of the court

**Page 6** -- Fayette County in the State of Pennsylvania – “I John St. Clair, Prosecutory(?) of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for said county do certify that the within named James Finley Esquire before whom the foregoing affidavit was made and certificate given was at the time of so doing and State is \_\_\_\_\_ Officiate Judge of the said court duly commenced(?) and qualified and ought to be given to \_\_ his official \_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ within courts of Justice as there \_\_\_\_\_. In testimony where of I have hereto set my hand and \_\_\_\_\_ the seal of said county the thirteenth day of June in the year of the Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen. /s/ John St. Clair, Prothonotary

**Page 7** - Letter from Samuel Smith dated June 29, 1819 from Union Town, Fayette Co., PA: Sir, inclosed[sic] is the Case of the Thomas Pearce a Revolutionary who it appears enlisted under Captain Peatt & Col. Ogden & Barber(?) Rgt. In the year 1777 and served to the close of the war his declaration stated 24 June 1819.

This man served in the same Rgt. that Lt. John Barnhart served in who you have placed on the pension list. The Certificate was sent to Judge Finley. Sir if an early examination on this case could be it would be thankfully \_\_\_\_\_. I am yours, Respectfully, able(?)  
Servant(?) /s/ Samuel Smith, Atty. The hand /s/ J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War

**Page 8** - Thomas Pearce, Fayette County, PA, 10 July, 1820; Col. Ogden's Reg'mt, New Jersey line from to and of revory[sic] War found on the rolls of Col. Ogden's regt. Under the name of Thomas Price or Pierce, and stated to have deserted in the month of Feb 1780. /s/ John St. Clair, Agent, Union Town, Penn. Rec'd 19 Augt. 1820.

Satisfactory proof is required, by the testimony, on oath, of two or more disinterested and credible persons, certified as such by the judge, identifying the applicant, and establishing his claim to the pension applied for. Commence the Pension on the day the former declaration was received in this office – that is 24 Aug 1819.

**Pages 9** – Fayette County in the State of Pennsylvania \_\_\_\_\_ Fourteenth Judicial District -- In the Court of Common Pleas, Fayette County, Pennsylvania on the tenth day of July 1820 personally approved in open Court being a court of record in said county Thomas Pierce aged sixty-two 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 Act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820 that he the said Thomas Pierce enlisted for the term of the war but did not recollect the day or year when he enlisted but respectfully refers the Honorable Secretary of War to the letter herewith of John Bray Esquire of the City of New Brunswick in N. J. that he enlisted in the State of New Jersey in the company of Captain William Peatt in the regiment commanded by Colonel Noah

Ogden in the line of the State of New Jersey first regiment on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said corps until the conclusion of the war, when he was discharged from the said service in Orange County about four miles from the town of Newburgh in the State of New York. That he was in the battles of Fort Lee(?), Springfield, Monmouth and York – That he has no other evidence now in his power of his said service except the letter of John Bray Esquire above aforesaid to – and in pursuance of the Act of the first May 1820. I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the eighteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen – 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 diminished 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 \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen: and that I have not now 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and by me subscribe. The declarant further states that his occupation is that of a farmer that he is able to do a little labor on the farm that the number and names of his family are as follows – a female aged thirty named Polly. Rachel aged twenty-eight; Anthony aged 27 years; Catherine aged twenty-five years; Elsie aged twenty-two years, but neither of them reside with him, nor do they in any manner contributed to his support. That he has also two other children who reside with him but do not labor on his account but for their own advantage.

**Page 10** -- The foregoing is a schedule of my property real personal and \_\_\_\_\_:  
 Two horses valued at about-----\$40.00  
 A cow and two small heifers-----20.00  
 Two ploughs-----4.00  
 A set of \_\_\_\_\_ for two horse-----3.00  
 Two kettles included at-----4.00  
 Kitchen furniture (ditto)-----3.00  
 -----Total \$74.00

Sworn to and declared in open court July 10, 1820;  
 /s/ John St. Clair, Prothonotary /s/ Thomas [X] Pierce

I John St. Clair, Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas in and for Fayette County Fourteenth Judicial District in the State of Pennsylvania do hereby certify that the foregoing oath and schedule thereto annexed an truly \_\_\_\_\_ from the record of the said court and I do further certify that it is the opinion of the said Court that the total amount in value of the property exhibited in the aforesaid schedule is seventy four dollars. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County the tenth day of July AD eighteen hundred and twenty. /s/ John St. Clair, Prothonotary of the Court of Com: Pleas: 14th Jud' Dist.

**Page 11** - Fayette County, Pennsylvania (Seal) Before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said county personally came Thomas G. Mitchell a credible &

disinterested witness who being duly appraised deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted Thomas Pearse the forgiving named applicant who now resides and has resided in Wharton Township, Fayette County, Penn. For about fifteen years past and also very poor and needy in his circumstance in life yet he has always sustained an unimpeachable character for truth & integrity. Affirmed, subscribed before me this 11th day of August A.D. 1820. /s/ Jonathan Rowland /s/ Thomas G. Mitchell

Fayette County in the State of Pennsylvania -- I John St. Clair, Prothontary of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county do hereby certify that the above named Jonathan Rowland Esquire before whom the above affidavit was made was at the time of so doing and then(?) is an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county duly commissioned and qualified and that as such full faith and audit on due and ought to be given to all his official acts. In testimony whereof I have hereto put my hand and affixed the seal of said county the fifteenth day of August A.D. 1820. /s/ John St. Clair, Prothontary

**Page 12** - Department of War, Section of Bounty lands, June 17, 1820. I hereby certify that it appears from the records in this office that a warrant No. 8652 was issued to John Bray assignee of Thomas Pierce of the Jersey line in the War of the Revolution for 100 acres of land July 16, 1789. /s/ Nat. Cutting

**Page 13** - Bounty Land Warrant Record Card (NARA, Div. Veterans' Admin. Archives), Thomas Pierce, Private, New Jersey Line, Warrant 8652, Acreage 100, Issued July 16, 1789 to John Bray, Assignee.

**Page 14** - Letter dated April 12, 1934 to Mrs. J. C. McNutt from A. D. Hiller in regard to Thomas Pierce – S40267 Pension application dated June 27, 1819 reciting data as follows:

- Thomas Pearce received a pension in 1840, Fayette Co., PA
- Thomas Pierce enlisted in Bergen Co., New Jersey, served as Private under Capt. William Piatt's Co., Col. Ogden's 1st New Jersey Regiment and was in battles of Fort Lee, Springfield, Monmouth, Elizabethtown, and at taking of Cornwallis.
- Length of service was for 5 years.
- In 1820, Thomas Pierce was 62 years old and stated that his family consisted of the following: Polly, Rachel, Anthony, Catherine and Elsie, aged respectively 30, 28, 27, 25, 22 and two other children whose names not stated, nor the name of his wife.

**Page 15** - title page

**Page 16** - War Department, Pension Office, June 26, 1820: Sir, The papers of Thomas Pierce an applicant for pension under the Law of the 18th of March 1818 are again enclosed to your care, with the certificate of Nat. Cutting, Esqr. Stating that a land warrant had been issued in favor of a man of the name of Thomas Pierce who belonged to the New Jersey line. I have to acquaint you that the former decision which was made on this case, cannot be altered at this time, as it appears from the Muster rolls in this Office that he deserted on the 15th of February 1780, and there being no evidence to shew that the person now claiming a pension is the same to whom the Land warrant was issued, as

stated in the certificate of Wm. Cutting alluded to above. I am respectfully your obed. servt. /s/ J. L. Edwards P.S. There do not appear to be any papers in this office relating to the case of Isaac Artis. Since received the certificate papers being found. /s/ S. Smith

**Page 17/18** - Mr. J. S. Edwards, the day after I recd. This letter in a conversation I had with you on this case you observed that Pearce should make a statement relative to his land. Since I saw Pearce and he gave the enclosed statement which I hope will be satisfactory. He, Pierce further stated to me that the way he became \_\_\_\_\_ deserted was he recd. a furlow and over stayed it and on his return to join his regt. he was told he was entered disserted[sic] and that the reason of his overstay was owing to sickness. I forgot to put it in his affidavit. Yours, /s/ Samuel Smith

**Page 19** - Inquiry letter.

**Page 20** - Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D.C.

Summary page of Thomas Pierce Pension Application S40267:

Date(s) Enlistment: June 1777

Length of Service: to June 1783

Officers Under Whom Service Rendered: Capt. Wm. Piatt; Col. Ogden

State: New Jersey

Battles: Fort Lee, Monmouth, Elizabethtown, Springfield, Siege of York.

**Residence of Solder at Enlistment: Bergen, N. J.**

Date of Application for Pension: June 27, 1819

**Residence at date of Application: Fayette Co., PA, Wharton Twp.**

Age at date of Application: 63

Remarks: Children in 1820: Polly age 30, Rachel age 28, Anthony age 27, Catherine age 25, Elsie age 22, & 2 others names not stated. Name of wife not stated.

**Page 21-23** - Inquiry letter.

**Page 24** - Inquiry stating widow's name Elizabeth New \_\_\_?; Col. Matthias Ogden rgmt.

**Page 25/28** - Inquiry

**Page 29** - County of Fayette, PA – Thomas Pearce being duly sworn deposed that he actuly[sic] enlisted for during the Revolution War and served to the close of it and that he was out five years and some months and received an honorable discharge signed by General Washington & Capt. Piatte and that he sold his land to a Mr. John Bray of Brunswick New Jersey and that said Bray \_\_\_ the land and swaped it with a man on South River and this deponent sayeth that he gave his land to satisfy a note which the deponent was surety for and that he was allowed five pounds for his land and he deposed that he never left the service but one time and then he sayeth that he had a furlow for eight days and that he was taken sick and did not return for ten days and that Col. Ogden gave him the furlow and that he the deponent gave back his furlow to Captain Piatte and that it was the summer before he received his discharge that he was furlowed. Sworn to and subscribed this 11 day of Sept. 1820 before me one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. /s/ James Finley /s/ Thomas [X] Pearce

**Page 30-32** - Letter from John Bray, New Brunswick, NJ, May 11, 1820 – Sir, Yours of the 18 Feb last was received by our court of May owing to the length of time that has elapsed since the occurrence you refer to took place it has in a great manner escaped my recollection but I find by referring to my Books that on the 10th Feb 1784 you gave me your discharge as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, I also find that I bought of you in the same year 2 Certificates, 1 for \$40 60/40 which was drawn in your favor by John Pierce Esgr. Commissioner dated Dec 20, 1783 with interest from the 4 Nov 1783 No. 24.51b the other for \$80 drawn & signed as before dated Janry 1 1784 bearing interest from 4 Nov 1783 No. 25.102, I also find that in Aug 1789 I bought of you a warrant for 100 acres land which warrant I obtained for you from the war officer & think the discharge was transmitted thither before the warrant issued which I \_\_\_\_\_ was required. I know you was a soldier in the Revolutionary War but how long you served I cannot tell but my impression is that continued to the end of it which I think your discharge stated; certain it is that then are public records of all Certificates & warrants that issued in favor of the soldiers so that by referring to them satisfactory proof can be obtained; **I regret that you have been so long deprived of what Congress by their Act intended should in the decline of life cherish the Hearts of such of the soldiers as have fought their battles and are reduced to a state of penury. You must & will succeed I wish I could believe that half the number that are now receiving the Government munificence were half as much entitled or deserving thereof as you are, as you request me to send my affidavit I have done so though I think it is needless after stating the within circumstances. I am Your Friend -- /s/ John Bray --** City of New Brunswick, NJ Notary Public, etc.

**Page 33** - Bounty Land Warrant Card (NARA, Div. Veterans' Admin. Archives) -- Thomas, Pierce, Private, Pennsylvania Line, Warrant 10220, Acreage 100, Issued July 27, 1789 to Richard Peatt, Assignee.