

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joseph Bertoulin: R802

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Louisiana. City of New Orleans

To the Honorable J. H. Eaton, Secretary of War

Sir: Pursuant to the Several acts of Congress, appeared April 16th 1816, March 18th 1818, April 16th 1818, together with the several amendments and president concerning Pension. The Representation of the undersigned Respectfully submits, That,

Circumstances beyond the control of Human Power, has ordained that at an advanced age I am obligated to apply to my country to aid me in passing the few remaining years, I am destined to exist in this world. That after making every exertion to exempt me from trying my country's benevolence and gratitude, I am compelled by necessity to apply for relief and support as a Pensioner. My history being short, shall be given as succinct and precise as possible.

I was born and raised to manhood in France, and understanding a Revolution had occurred for the Independence of the American Colonies, then subjects of Great Britain, I embarked in 1777 on board the French Ship Count de Soubrar, commanded by Captain Gasky and consigned to Mr. Stargest laden with munitions of War, armaments &c for the Americans, and bound to Charleston, then colony of South Carolina, where I remained sometime, carrying on the business of a Bakery. Savannah in Georgia being attacked by the British Forces and soldiers being much wanted I volunteered my services and marched to the aid of Savannah in the company commanded by Captain Bantalas and under the immediate command of the brave Polaskie [sic: Count Kazimierz Pulaski, Siege of Savannah, 24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779]. The enemy being successful, we were bound to retire to South Carolina, where in our action with the enemy I was taken prisoner and sent to Cape François [Haiti], being with others duly exchanged I sailed for Boston on an American Privateer (the name at present not recollected) and arrived safe to the place of destination; hearing a few weeks after of the landing of Count Rochambo in Rhode Island [sic: Gen. Jean, Comte de Rochambeau at Newport RI, 10 Jun 1780] with a considerable force, I immediately proceeded to that place and again volunteered my services in Captain Bonrequites company which was attached to the Regiment of Sousonnais commanded by Col. Saint Maine and being joined by the other troops in the neighbourhood under the immediate command of the Immortal Washington, we took up the line of march for the South passing through Philadelphia and arriving at Baltimore, where we embarked and landed in the vicinity of Williamsburg in the State of Virginia, from thence to the neighbourhood of Little York, where I remained in constant service until the surrender of Cornwallis to the American Army [19 Oct 1781].

At the termination of hostilities I domiciliated myself at Baltimore, married and raised my family consisting of three children, and in the year 1804 removed to New Orleans, where I have remained (after visiting my Native county and seeing my old friends and relatives) up to this date.

Pure necessity having compelled me to take this step, I hereby safely and candidly aver, that I have nothing of this world's goods whereby I can support myself and my advanced age (being in my 76th year) has rendered me incapable of Labour; I therefore anticipate that this my representation and application will be taken in early consideration and the allowances made to me as there are to others placed in like circumstances.

With all due respect, I have the honor to be Sir Yo. Obt. Servt.

(Signed) Joseph Bertoulin

Schedule

No Property

I Joseph Bertoulin 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 whatever 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 Revolutionary War," passed on the 18th 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.

(Signed) Joseph Bertoulin

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4 October 1830

[Printed]

L'AN 1777.

LE SIEUR JOSEPH BERTOULIN,

A figuré dans la Révolution de l'Amérique au Siège de Savannah, sous le Général Pulaski, et à Charleston sous le Général Moultrie at sous le Général Lincoln, et après sous le Général Washington, sous le Général Rochambeau et sous le Général Lafayette dans laquelle nous prîmes le Général Cornwallis à Yorktown en Virginia, dont cela fut la cause de l'Indépendance de l'Amérique; et ce fut le plus beau jour de ma vie, lorsque nous prîmes 7000 Anglais.

[Handwritten]

New Orleans Oct 23rd 1830

I Certify on Honor the above Card represents the proper situations in which I served during the War of the Revolution of the United States of America. I further certify that the preamble, scedule, & exposition annexed herewith is just & true [signed] Joseph Bertoulin

[Translation of card:]

THE YEAR 1777.

MISTER JOSEPH BERTOULIN

Figured in the American Revolution at the Siege of Savannah, under General Pulaski, and at Charleston under General Moultrie and under General Lincoln [William Moultrie and Benjamin Lincoln, spring 1780], and afterwards under General Washington, under General Rochambeau and under General Lafayette with whom we captured General Cornwallis at Yorktown in Virginia, which brought about the Independence of America; and that it was the most beautiful day of my life when we captured 7000 English.