

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Peter Grass S8599

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The penmanship is poor, so the transcript should be read with more than usual caution.]

State of Virginia

Kanawha County To Wit.

On this 12th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of Kanawha county, now sitting Peter Grass, a resident of Mud River in the County of Kanawha and state of Virginia [now Lincoln County WV] , aged seventy 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1777, he resided in the town of Staunton, Augusta County Virginia, and was that year drafted as a private in a company of rifle men raised in said County of Augusta, commanded by Capt. Thomas Smith & Lieutenant Charles Baskins. This company was designed to unite with others formed in the different parts of West Virginia to protect the frontier and repel the hostile Indians. The said company marched from Augusta to Fort Union, now Lewisburg in the county of Greenbrier, where they remained about a week and was there joined by several companies from the Counties of Rockbridge, Augusta, Rockingham and Greenbrier, and were formed into one Regimt, commanded by Colns. Adam Dickinson and George Skillilen [sic: George Skillern], and Maj. Sam'l. McDowell [Samuel McDowell]. From Lewisburg the Regiment was marched through the mountainous regions lying between that place and the Ohio, then a perfect wilderness, to Point Pleasant, at the mouth of the Great Kanawha. The fort at Point Pleasant [Fort Randolph] was then commanded by Capt [Mathew] Arbuckle – Another division of the army under command of Gen. [Edward] Hand was to have descended the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, and to have united with the forces thus collected at Point Pleasant, with a view to a vigorous attack on the Indians on the Scioto [River] &c. Dickinsons men lay at the mouth of Kanawha some four or five weeks, when intelligence was brought that Hands army would not be able to form a union as contemplated, the season being far spent, and cold weather already set in – The division to which the applicant was allotted was then discharged at Point Pleasant and the soldiers made their way back to their homes – this applicant rec'd no written discharge from the service, nor does he believe that any of the soldiers did – He served in this tour full three months – he was in no engagement with the Indians during this trip – It was while he lay at Point Pleasant [Nov 1777] that Cornstalk, his son Enelipsico [sic: Ellinipsico] & Red Hawk, who were hostages in the fort, were killed by the enraged soldiers, who were prompted to this violence by the murder of some of their friends, across the Kanawha River, during a hunting excursion in the morning of that day –

In the spring of 1778 the applicant was again drafted from Augusta County into a company of Rifle men commanded by Capt William Anderson and was march to the fort at Clover Lick [at the head of Greenbrier River], the Indians being troublesome, and having again attacked some of the forts in Greenbrier – At this time he was in constant service for another period of three months – In 1779, in April, the indians annoying the north western portion of Virginia, the applicant was again drafted into a company in Augusta commanded by Capt William Kaincaid [sic: William Kinkead] and was marched to the West Fork of Monongahela [now West Fork River], where he and his company was on duty for upwards of three months – After his return from Monongahela, and in the same year, an alarm was given that the British forces designed an attack upon Richmond and other James River towns. The applicant was then again drafted into a company commanded by his former Captain Thomas Smith, and was marched to Richmond, where he remained, and in the neighbourhood, about a month and a half – The alarm

having passed over, the applicant and his company were discharged at Richmond, and returned home – he does not recollect who the field officers were during this last service – his company was attached to others rendezvoused at Richmond, and was under officers either resident at Richmond or from other quarters of the state, and not known to the applicant In the year 1780 in the spring of the year, the applicant was appointed by Col. Matthews [Sampson Mathews] of Augusta to guard the magazine in Staunton, in said County, which the said Mathews informed this applicant was equal to an actual tour of duty, and would be considered in lieu thereof – he served in this latter capacity three months and was then sent by Col Mathews as one of the guards to transport powder from the magazine at Staunton to Point of Forks on the James River [Point of Fork at the confluence of James and Rivanna rivers], below where the present town of Lynchburg is situated – After this service, he was again discharged. – this was the last duty he performed – he received no written discharge at the expiration of any of the several periods of his service – he has therefore no documentary evidence to prove any of said services nor does he know of any person by whom he could prove them. – He has lived in the County of Kanawha about eight years. – The applicant during each period of service above stated was a private soldier.

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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] Peter Grass