

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Evans W14695

Ann Evans

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 Nov 2019.

State of Kentucky }
And County of Clarke [sic: Clark] }

Be it known that on this 24th day of October 1842 personally appeared before the County Court of Clarke in the state of Kentucky Belain P. Evans the Administrator of Ann Evans deceased who was born in Prince William County and State of Virginia On the 25 day of September 1778 aged 64 who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July the 4 1836 for the Heirs of his mother as administrator of the said Ann Evans aged eighty five years. That at the time of her death she was resident of Clarke County and resided with her son Paul J. Evans and was the surviving widow of the late Capn Peter Evans. I have often heard him say that He enlisted in the regular service of these United States as a private soldier in the Virginia Line in the Light Horse Troop of Cap Henry Lee and Col Theodorick Bland [VAS1859] who then commanded the Light Horse or Legion of Virginia line the first of February 1776 and served from that time in the Light horse troop as He often informed me. General Washington Quartered the army for the winter at Morris Town and Middle Brooke [Morristown and Middlebrook NJ] as may be seen by Gen Henry Lee's certificate with the exception of naming the place of winter Quarters which is also dated by the Register of the war department. Mr. Powell on the bottom of General Lee's Certificate states to have been discharged at that time July the 7th 1777

2^d It appears from reference to James Garretts deposition that He served a tour of duty of three months which was commanded by Captain Valentine Payton [sic: Valentine Peyton BLWt2241-300] and Peter Evans himself as first Lieutenant and marched from Prince William County Virginia and joined General Washingtons Army near Philadelphia and after serving a Tour of duty or three months The were all marched to Darby Town in the state of Pennsylvania and there dismissed about the 1st of December 1779 It also appears from the foregoing deposition that my father Capt Peter Evans has served a Tour of duty as Captain of the Virginia Militia for Twenty days with reference to his Commission as Captain of militia dated May 1780. He also some short time after his return home after serving the above named tour He went into the Regular service as may be seen from the afforsaid deposition. I have often heard him say that He commanded a company of regulars at the seige of York was there until after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis on the 19 day of October 1781.

3^d By reference to Lawrence Vanarsdalls [Lawrence Vanarsdall W6359] deposition may be seen that He served as Captain in the Continental Army of these United States and commanded a company of Light Horse Troop under the command of Co. Bland and Lee who commanded the Light horse troop from Virginia which was call'd Lee's Legion and belonged to the Virginia line. I think I have seen his Commission bearing the Grade of captain and other papers relative to his services in the Revolutionary war. And they were sent on to the War department by Mr. William Peak in Order to obtain Land and money And the said Peak died and his Commission and other papers cannot now be found. Furthermore I have often heard my father Peter Evans state that there was both Land and money due him for his services in the war of the Revolution as a private and officer of the Virginia Line And from the enclosed affidavit and commission on file as well as the record and evidence (except some short time that He served as an officer in Virginia malitia. If his recollection serves him He has heard his farther say that He served in the war of the Revolution between five and six years. Farthermore the said Belain P. Evans has been informed that his farther Captain Peter Evan and his mother formerly Ann Newman was married in Prince William County and state of Virginia on the 11 day of December seventeen hundred and seventy seven and that the said Belain P. Evans son of the said Captain Peter and Ann Evans was born in Prince Willliam County and state of Virginia on the 23 day of September 1778 as will appear from the family record. And he the said Belain P. Evans further sayeth that his farther the said Captain Peter Evans died on the twelfth day of

February Eighteen hundred and fourteen and his mother Ann Evans died on the Eighth day of July 1836 as he was informed by his bro. Paul J. Evans and his sister Amelia Evans and that she remained a widow after the death of the said Captain Peter Evans until her death as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed

Belain P. Evans Adm'tr of Ann Evans deceas'd

NB. And He the said Belain P. Evans further states that He has heard his father Capt Peter Evans state or say That he was in many a hard fought battle in the Revolutionary War. That he was at the Battle of Princeton on the 2^d of January 1777 [sic: 3 Jan 1777] and was also at the Proscension of Light horse Troop who attended the burial of General Mercer who found his death fighting Gloriously for the liberties of his Country And this was only A few days after the brave Mercer fell [Hugh Mercer, died 12 Jan 1777 of wounds received at Battle of Princeton]. He my father Captain Peter Evans in an unfortunate skirmish and defeat at Morristown in the State of New Jersey on the 3^d day of April 1777 – General Weeden [sic: George Weedon] being the commander on that fatal day And many other hard fought Battles not now particularly recollected by me and served under the command at different times of Generals Washington [Anthony] Wayne, [John] Sullivan, [Charles] Scott, Weeden, Mercer, Cols. Bland, Lee, Garrard, and Marshall as may be seen in part by the affidavits on file

Belain P. Evans Adm of Ann Evans dec'd

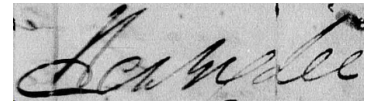
I do hereby certify that Peter Evans late of Prince William county in this Commonwealth was enlisted in the first regt. cavalry then commanded by Col. Bland for the war & that he was afterwards discharged because of a deafness with which he was afflicted when enlisted & which became in the course of a year much encreased.

Given under my hand this 16th day of Sept'r. 1786

Henry Lee

Late Lt. Colo com.[?] Legion

the said Evans was enlisted in the last of 76 or early in 77 & now lives in Kentucky. H.L

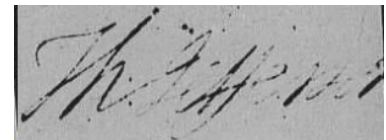


The COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA.

TO Peter Evans Gent. GREETINGS:

KNOW you, that from the special Trust and Confidence which is reposed in your Patriotism, Fidelity, Courage, and good Conduct, your are by these Presents, constituted and appointed you a first Lieutenant in Capt. Charles Lee[?] company of Militia in the County of Prince William. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of a first Lieutenant of the Militia, by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging; and you are to pay a ready Obedience to Orders and Instructions which from Time to Time you may receive from the Governour, or executive Power of this State, for the Time being, or any of your superiour Officers, agreeable to the Rules and Regulations of the Convention or General Assembly. All Officers and Soldiers under your Command are hereby strictly charged and required to be obedient to your Orders, and to aid you in the Execution of this Commission, according to the Intent and Purport thereof.

Witness Thomas Jefferson, Esquire, Governour or Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth aforesaid, at Williamsburg, this third Day of August in the fourth Year of the Commonwealth, Annoq. Dom. 1779



THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA to Peter Evans Gentleman, greeting: KNOW YOU that our GOVERNOUR, on Recommendation from the Court of the County of Prince William, hath constituted and appointed you Captain of Militia in the said County. IN TESTIMONY whereof these our Letters are made patent.

Witness THOMAS JEFFERSON, Esquire, our said Governour at Richmond the first Day of May in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty



[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Kentucky } Sct
Mercer County } The deposition of Lawrence Vanasdaull who deposeth and saith on oath that he was born agreeable to his Fathers Family Register in the State of New Jersey SummerSett [sic: Somerset] County in October 1748 and now a Residentor of Mercer County Kentucky aged Eighty five years, that he enlisted at Valey Forge [sic: Valley Forge] in the State Pennsylvania under Captain Long who was at that time under the command of Genaral [sic] Henry Lee, who was commander of the Light Horse from the State of Virginia and belonged to the Virginia line That he the aforesaid Vanausdaull Enlisted under the above named Capt Long in November 1776 [see endnote] and then and there became acquainted with Captain Peter Evans of the Continental army of the United States who belonged to General Henry Lees's Brigade or Core of Light horse, that said Captain Peter Evans commanded at that time a Company of Light Horse and discharged his duty faithfully and obeyed as such. Said Captain Peter Evans belonged to the Virginia line of Regular Officers and served faithfully as Captain in different Battles and Stations of the Army with me dureing the War of the Revolution March 5th 1834

Lawrence hisXmark Vanasdal

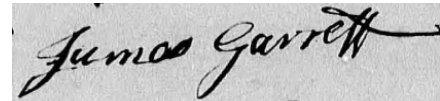
State of Kentucky } sct [2 Sep 1837]
Clarke County } The deposition of James Garrett of Montgomery County, who being duly sworn, according to law deposeth and saith, he was born according to his Fathers family Register, in Price William County and state of Virginia on the 11th day of January 1759. That he enlisted in the month of September 1779 as a soldier under Captain John Hedges and marched in company with Captain Valintine Peytons company which was commanded by said captain Peyton & Lieutenant Peter Evans. we were all marched from Prince William County state of Virginia through the state of Maryland to the state of Pennsylvania and joined the main army near Philidelphia a few days after the battle of Jerman Town [sic: Germantown, 4 Oct 1777; see endnote]. And I served a tower of duty of three months in the same rigement with the aforesaid lieutenant Peter Evans which rigement was commanded by Col Jesse Ewell & Majr James Ewell both from Prince William county and state of Virginia and brigadier General Charles Scott and all of us were commanded by General Washington and when our tour of three months were out we were all marched to Darby Town in Pennsylvania and there discharged. after my return home and staying there that winter, in the latter part of May or the first of June 1780 I was called on to serve a tour of duty against the British and turned out a Voluntier under Captain Peter Evans a militia officer in the county of Prince William & state of Virginia and marched from thence under the command of of said Captain Peter Evans through Stafford County to Hunters Forge on the Rappahannac river [sic: Rappahannock River], who had received orders to join the rigment then stationed there under the command of General Weadon; Col. James Garrett and (Maj'r Armstead who was to have commanded but did not serve); after I served a tour of twenty days we were all marched home to Dumfries in Prince William County we were then discharged by said Captain Peter Evans and from that time (about the 20th of June) I never saw said Captain Peter Evans any more until the war was over in November 1782. I believe he had gone as a Captain into the regular service of the united states army. Said Captain Peter Evans was a brave & intrepid officer in his country's cause and served faithfully & obeyed as such This deponant further states that he often saw the aforesaid Captain Peter Evans after he removed to Kentucky at his residence in Clarke County near Red River Iron works previous to his death

which was on the 12th day of February 1814 and further saith not



State of Kentucky } Sgt.
Clarke County }

The deposition of Jas Garrett of Montgomery County and state aforesaid said Garrett who being duly sworn accordingly deposed and saith agreeable to his fathers family register in Prince William County and State of Virginia was born on the 11 of January 1759 and sayeth also that he knew Captain Peter Evans and his wife Ann Newman before they were married. They both being of Prince William County and state afors'd sayeth farthermore that he served two Tours of duty under the aforesaid Captain Peter Evans in the Revolutionary war as may be seen by reference to his deposition Given in the same case on the 2d day of September 1837 and that he was a married man at the time that he the s'd Garrett served the above named Tours which time of servitude was in September 1779 and in June 1780 and that he never saw him after he served his last Tour until the close of the Revolutionary war. The above James Garrett further states he was well acquainted with Mrs Ann Evans both before and after her marriage with or to Captain Peter Evans and that she was a daughter of Captain John Newman of Prince William County and state of Virginia who remained a widow of the said Captain Peter Evans after his death which was on the 12th day of February 1814 and who lived at her son Paul J. Evans in Clarke County until her death which took place on the 8th day of July 1836.



[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Know all men by these presents that I Peter Evans of the County of Madison & State of Kentucky do by these presents constitute & appoint The Honble Thomas Sandford Member of Congress from the State aforesaid to be my true & Lawful attorney for the purpose of asking & receiving from The Honble Henry Dearborn esqr Secretary of War for the time being & his successors a Warrant for one hundred acres of land due me as a Soldier in the first Regt of Light Horse under the command of Colo. Theodorick Bland in the army of the United States to the end of the late War with great Britain having enlisted during the War but was discharged after I became disabled by deafness agreeable to act of Congress and on receipt of said warrant to give the proper & necessary acquittances for the same Hereby ratifying & confirming whatever my said attorney shall or may do in the premises

In Witness where I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 9th day of October 1804.

Signed & acknowledged/ Nathan Hobb/ Mary Tevis

Peter Evans

[An index card indicates that this file includes the original discharge signed by Col. Theodorick Bland, but in the online image only the year 1777 is legible. The following is from what appears to be a copy in the file.]

The bearer hereof Peter Evans of Prince William County in the Commonwealth of Virginia Having Served as a Soldier in the first Regiment of Light horse in the Service of the united States which said regt. is now under my Command & having Contracted a deafness which renders him unfit for the Duty of a Soldier is hereby discharged from his s'd Service having served faithfully upwards of one year. Given under my hand this 6th day of July 1777.

Middle Brook
New Jersey

Theo'k. Bland Col. 1^s Reg't of lite Horse
A Copy Test Will Irvine C.M.C. [Clerk of Madison County]

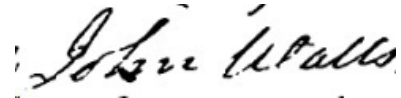
[The following is on the back of the original discharge.]

I was a Captain in Blands regt, know his hand writing well, & certify that this paper was written by him
Henry Lee



I do hereby Certify that Peter Evans served as a soldier in the first Regiment of Light Dragoons and believe he was discharged for the cause mentioned by Colo Theodorick Bland, whose signature I am perfectly well acquainted with. given under my hand this [illegible] of August 1807

John Walls, late a Capt in the 1st Regt L Dragoons

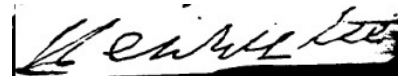


The above is correct, Evans was a dragoon in my troop & a faithful soldier
27th aug 07 Henry Lee then a captain in Bland's regt



No warrant appears to have issued for the Services of Peter Evans a private of the Cont'l. line
Wm. Price R [Register of the Land Office]

I never enlisted a soldier but for three years, or for the war – Evans certainly was entitled for one or the other terms – I believe for three years
31st aug. 07 Henry Lee



[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Evan, Peter.]

To the Honble the Executive of Virginia

The Petition of Peter Evans respectfully sheweth, that it will be seen by the Authenticated copy of a discharge of Col Theodorick Bland of the 1st Reg't of light Horse in the United State Army, that he was discharged in consequence of a disability contracted in the service of my Country Inlisted for during the war as will be seen by my affidavit annexed to the power of attorney & the other evidence there in given some years ago to the Hon Tho.Sandford to draw a warrant from the U. States but under the provisions of the law of the U. States I am debarred[?]. I have drawn a Warrant for one hundred acres from va but consider my self entitled to another hundred acres under the laws of Virg'a. It was my misfortune & that of my County that I became disabled from exposure, so as to be unfit for service. I therefore hope that I shall not be debarred[?] by my misfortune from receiving the reward held out by my Native State at the time of my enlistment to all those who would engage in the cause of our beloved Country to end of our glorious struggle & happy should I have considered my self if I could have continued to the end.

& your Petioner &c.

The Petitioner by his atty.

1831 Mar[?] 27 Rejected

Land office Octr 26th 1830

I certify that a Land Warrt N 5246 for 100 acres issued to Peter Evans Sept 10th 1807.

W Selden

NOTES:

In Lawrence Vanarsdall's declaration for his own pension application he stated that he enlisted in Lee's Dragoons for six months in the spring of 1778.

On 29 Dec 1842 B.P. Evans wrote that "James Garrett was mistaken about the Battle of Brandywine or German Town and was Actually in an Action on the lines between New Jersey & Pennsylvania, in, November, 1779." Elsewhere in the file it is said that James Garrett did not apply for a pension for himself because "he fought for the libety of his Country and not for a Pension."

A document in the federal file dated 7 Oct 1833 states that the surviving children of Peter and Ann Evans were Belain Posey Evans, Peter Evans, Catharine Amelia Augusta Evans, Richard Evans, John N. Evans, Silas Evans, and Paul Jones Evans, and that all lived in Clark County except Belain Posey Evans of Jessamine County. It was also stated that another child, Becky Evans, died under age, 18 or 19 years before.

On 3 Jan 1843 Paul J. Evans stated that he made a record of his mother's death, which reads as follows: "Ann Evans wife of P Evans Sr departed this life in the year of our Lord July the [?]th 1836." He stated that he was born on 1 Oct 1791. On 23 Sep 1851 Paul J. Evans assigned power of attorney to obtain an increase in pension.

Part of another family record gives the following dates of birth and death:

Peter Evans Sen'r	October 25 1758	February 12 1814
Ann Evans his wife	April 6 th 1755	July 8 th 1836

Correspondence in the file indicates that in 1842 the Pension Office received a book entitled *Sherlock on Judgment* with a family record written in the margins as follows:

Silas Evans born Ap'l 1789

B. P. Evans born Sep 25 1788

Peter Evans born Oct 25 1758

Paul Jones Evans born Oct 18 1791

Silas Evans, son of Peter and Ann Evans, stated that he was born on 8 April 1788. Paul Jones Evans, youngest son of Peter and Ann Evans, stated that he was born in Madison County KY on 18 Oct 1791, that his father died in Clark County near the Red River Iron works in Estill County, and that his mother died at the same place while living with him.

The file includes a copy of the will of Peter Evans, Sr. dated 12 Feb 1814 leaving to his wife "the plantation where I now Live Supposed to contain 100 acres Stock and household furniture also one negro woman named Cate and her increase during her Life and when the old woman Deceases the stock and household furniture to be divided between Emelia and Beckey Evans except one bed apiece for Jno and Paul Evans and one horse and cow to Paul Evans and one cow to Jno Evans and Silas Evans to have credit on Wm Smiths Books for 11 Dollars also Leave the Land that I hold in Clay County Lying on Goose creek to Belance Evans Peter Evans Jno Evans Richard Evans and Silas Evans...."

Doctor Peter Evans stated that he was born on 27 Oct 1808, and he made a statement part of which reads as follows: "he was called on to attend his Grand Mother [Ann Evans] before her Death in July laboring under Intus Suseptio [intussusception] of the bowels which disease yielded to the lancet and comp'd baths or purgative medicine and on July the seventh I was called on to visit her at nine or ten o'clock in the morning and reached there the distance of twenty five or thirty miles at four oclock in the eavning found her labouring under a new form of disease, which was Ovarian Dropsy gave medicine on the arival and during the night but to no effect left the next morning the morning on which she died which was the eighth and for Medical Services rendered to his Grand Mother from the 20 of March eighteen hundred and Thirty and ending the eighth of July eighteen hundred and Thirty six the eighth, including all Items to be ninty dollars as they are copyed from his day Book... There has since the death of Mrs Ann Evans widow of the late Capt Peter Evans deceased three of the legal heirs have died - namely Richard Evans John N Evans and Peter Evans Jr son of Capt Peters [sic]. Richard Evans died in Fayette County Kentucky the latter end of Nov eighteen hundred and Thirty six at his residence and left five surviving heirs namely Peter Evans Elizabeth Evans, now the wife of Rob't Marshall, Joseph Evans

Silas Evans all living in Fayette County and Ann Evans now the wife of Roger Quisenberry living in Clarke County Ky John N Evans died in July 1838 and was buried at Paul J Evan's residence in Clarke County he had never married and left no heirs Peter Evans Jr died in Clarke County Kentucky four miles east of Winchester at his family residence on Sunday Oct 30 eighteen hundred and forty two leaving seven heirs namely John S Evans Marquis C Evans Peter Evans Silas Evans Susan Ann Evans, now Susan Ann Kavanaugh the wife of Barbour W. Kavanaugh who is a Methodist preacher and a Stationed Missionary for the Methodist Episcopal church in the Territory of the Wisconsin There are yet living four of the legal heirs namely Belain P Evans in Jessamine County Ky Catharine Amelia Augusta Evans Silas Evans and Paul Jones Evans which three reside in Clarke County and State of Kentucky – and also in the seventh and eight lines from the Bottom Fielding A Evans and Oliver P Evans Sons of the late Peter Evans deceased Omitted are now here inserted.”

A letter in the federal file refers to a grandson of Peter and Ann Evans named Hickman L. Evans.