

MARTIN PETRY

Revolutionary War Soldier - Mercer and Raleigh Counties Pioneer

Most everyone with this family name in Virginia and West Virginia can trace their family ancestry to a **Martin Petry**, born 19 January 1757, near Port Republic, in Orange County, Virginia, of German ancestry. This family name is spelled many different ways in different parts of West Virginia. Generally, the family name is spelled **Pettrey**, **Petrey** and **Petry** in Mercer and Summers Counties, **Petry** in the Marsh Fork District of Raleigh County, and **Petry** in Kanawaha and parts of Boone Counties. The Petrys (spl) of Kentucky and Ohio are directly related to the southern West Virginia Petrys.

I believe that Martin's ancestry came from Germany from the Nassau-Siegen principality of Westphalia. Here the Petrys spell their surname as different as their American cousins. A friend of mine who visited this region in Germany said the locals told him that the original Petrys (spl) came from the Northern rim of the Mediterranean Sea area, including Italy in 1400s. If so, then this may explain why a blood abnormality appears occasionally in the descendants of the Petry lineage. This blood disorder is somewhat common in Americans from descendants of the Mediterranean Sea area.

The family name is a common surname in most every country in the world. The name derives from **petr-**, **petri-**, **petro-**, which means "**stone or of stony hardness or rigidity**". The name is also associated with "**old**". The German interpretations of the surname are: **old stone or old estate**.

The Christian definition of the family name is that of Simon Peter. Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The German pronunciation and spelling of this family name in America, along with the close connection of the **Petro** family in the same area and time in Virginia, could (although I doubt it) be one in the same family. It appears that in some old Virginian records, the surname **Petry** and **Petro** are used indiscriminately. If this is true, the Petros of central and northern West Virginia are descendants of Martin's cousins and/or brothers. Martin's cousins or brothers and sisters names could be: John, Samuel, Benjamin, Leonard and Nancy.

I have seen documents that suggest that Martin is the son of Matthew and Jane Petry (**Peatross**). The name **Peatross** could have been shortened to **Petro**. This suggests there was a name change or mispronunciation and spelling. Also, I have seen where Matthew was the son of John Peatross and John was the son of Elizabeth Peatross. I also question this connection to the Peatross family. I have seen the Petry name closely written as Pettus or Pettis also.

Traditionally, the Petrys (spl) are of ruddy to clear complexion. Although of average height, their torsos are slightly longer with shorter legs. My mother often remarked, "You could tell a Petry a'coming as far as you could see him. With those short legs it looked like his ass would drag the ground." I have found in my research of the family, that there were very few preachers, no

politicians, and none wealthy, but generally law-abiding citizens. Education and hard work has never been a family virtue. Many years ago, TB was our families' fatal disease, but TB was also the most common fatal disease throughout the general population. Cancer, heart problems, ear infections and bronchitis seem to be the majority of our families' chronic health problems, but those who reach age 55 can overall expect to live to be 77 years. I have heard, on rare occasions, of a hereditary blood disease called THALASSEMIA affecting some Petrys (Spl). This blood disorder is also known as "Cooley's Anemia" or "Mediterranean Anemia". This anemia has entered some branches of the Petry (spl) family from allied families, especially from decedents of the Mediterranean and Asian areas. To know more about this blood disorder, check the web site: headquaters@thalassemia.org.

The Petrys (spl) seem to produce a large number of female offspring, and most all children could be described as "toe heads" (blonde to very light hair) that darkens as they mature. Of course, as generations proliferate, the Petrys of today come in all sizes and shapes. I have heard of two black Petry families. One family lives in Charleston, WV and the other family living in Texas.

In my research of our family, I have talked to a college president, doctors, lawyers, preachers, merchants, bastards, engineers, whores, coal miners, housewives, life-long recipients of welfare checks, and some Petrys (spl) that have been known to wear shoes. My father explained the different spellings of the family name by some of its members as an attempt to disclaim kin. When someone asked my father, "Are you kin to?", he would cut them off in mid-sentence by saying, "No", before they could ask who the person was.

Martin Petry married Elizabeth Ann Raines of Rockingham County, Virginia during the Revolutionary War. About 1792, they settled on Lick Creek at what is now Brown's Chapel in the Pipestem area of Summers and Mercer Counties, and they lived there for 8 or 10 years. Around 1802, Martin built a one-room log cabin on Little Marsh at what is now known as Packsville, WV in now Raleigh County, near the over-flowing well (artisan well) and he lived here part-time while also maintaining a home at Lick Creek. A few years after Martin had established his home site, Lemuel C. and Elizabeth (Farley) Jarrell from the Monroe County area, settled 1-1/4 miles from the mouth of Little Marsh Fork near the present Marfork over-flowing well. By about 1805, all of Martin's children, except James, Sally, St.Clair and Samuel, resettled in the Marsh Fork and Clear Fork Districts of Raleigh County. Martin lived here until his death some time after 1835 but before the 1840 census.

Jacob, Martin's son, received Martin's property on Little Marsh after Martin died. The property then went to his daughter Martha Jane (22 January 1821-29 March 1867) who married James C. Jarrell. James and Martha gave the property to their son George McClellan Jarrell (7 April 1865-9 May 1953) who married Mary Jane Farley (6 August 1867 Athens, VA.-abt 1973). Mary Jane, called "Mollie" and born at Pipestem near Athens, was the daughter of William C. and Polly Ann (Miller) Farley. Mollie was a granddaughter of Gideon Farley. Martin's original cabin was part of George's home. George's home, when built, incorporated the old log house as one of its bedrooms. I remember, as a child, being in the house and being shown the thick log walls of the cabin, which was one of the bedrooms. Being in the middle of the house, the bedroom did not have windows. You would enter the bedroom from the living room and had to step up one step. This house burned down in the 1970s. Everyone in Packsville called them Uncle George and Aunt

Mollie. Over the years, most of the property was sold off little by little. My brother, Charles, bought the home place in 1984 from Pete, a surviving child of Uncle George and Aunt Mollie. Charles sold the property to Harry Dickens, who sold it to the A.T. Massey Coal Company. In 1995, A.T. Massey Coal Company built an office building on the spot where Martin and Uncle George's home once stood.

Aunt Mollie lived to be 106 years old. I last saw her at age 99. She recognized me at about 75 feet away, and she had not seen me for 6 years.

Uncle George was born in this cabin. The night he was born, 7 April 1865, local Southern sympathizers had shanghaied a local Northern sympathizing neighbor Joseph Harper, and hung him in a tree across the creek from the cabin. They built a fire and drank throughout the night while their victim hung from the tree limb.

Martin Petry and his wife, Elizabeth Ann (Raines), are buried on a small knoll behind where his cabin stood (now behind the A.T. Massey Coal Company office building). Martin died after 1835, and Elizabeth died after 1840. Their graves are marked by small flat fieldstones, which I saw years ago. Uncle George and Aunt Mollie Jarrell told this information to me when I was very young. I also heard this information repeated when attending Pettus Grade School from Dewey Bone, who was Principal of the school and had collected historical information of the area for his Masters Degree. I have also heard this information many times from Lula Faya (Petry) Accord, who died in 1983, three months before her 100th birthday.

Packsville was named by Sylvester Pack, a school teacher turned carpenter who also gave his first name to Sylvester, a town about 4 miles west of Whitesville, WV.

Martin had visited this area of Coal River many times before he moved here. The first time he was in this area, he was with a rescue party of whites racing to an area on the Kanawaha River known as Burning Springs. Indians had attacked some settlers' homes in the Athens area and killed them. They had also captured some people and were taking them to their camp in Ohio. They believed that the Indians would stop at Burning Springs and gather salt before continuing on to Ohio. The rescue party camped at the mouth of Little March Fork, now known as Pettus, WV. The rescue party's route was from Athens to Beckley, to Glen Daniels (Marshes Of the Coal), to Bolt Mountain, to Cherry Pond Mountain, down Hazy Hollow to Edwight, down Coal River to mouth of Clear Fork, up Tom's Hollow and over the mountain to Cabin Creek, down Cabin Creek to its mouth on Kanawaha River. Of course, these were nameless places at that time.

For a few years, he maintained a cabin and farm on both Lick Creek and Little Marsh Fork. He had always lived on the edge of civilization in the wilderness. Little Marsh Fork provided him with all the land he could tend and provided him with the game he needed for food. Birch Hollow was full of turkeys and squirrels. Little Marsh Fork and nearby Marsh Fork River had plenty of fish. In the fall, migrating homing pigeons made the mouth of Little Marsh Fork a stopover point and were easily killed. All his children had married, and Jacob, John, Sarah, and Elizabeth were living within one half day's walking distance. James, who remained in the Pipestem area, was a full day's trip from John or Jacob's home.

Elizabeth Ann Raines, or “Betsy” as she was called, was the daughter of John Raines, and she died in the 1840s. Betsy was an indentured servant when Martin met her in Rockingham County, Virginia. Some researchers believe that Elizabeth was Martin’s first wife and Ann was his second wife. I am sure that he was only married once and his wife’s name was Elizabeth Ann Raines.

Known children of Martin and Betsy are:

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| 1 | James | married Mary Lacy, issue: 21. They remained in the Pipestem - Athens area, WV. |
| 2 | Sarah | married Martin Gibson Jarrell, issue: 9. They removed to Sycamore Creek near Colcord on Clear Fork in Raleigh County, WV. |
| 3 | Sally | married David Fudge. They removed to Lawrence County, Ohio. |
| 4 | John | married Mary May, issue: 18. They removed to Pond Fork (Peach Tree) in Raleigh County. |
| 5 | St.Clair | married Elizabeth Higgins. They removed to Lawrence County, Ohio. |
| 6 | Samuel | not much is known of him. Believe he removed to Kentucky and/or Ohio. |
| 7 | Jacob | married Celia Gore, issue 19. They removed to Oceana then to Edwight on Coal River, WV. |
| 8 | Elizabeth | married David Holstein, issue: 18. They removed to the mouth of Clear Fork at Jarrold's Valley in Raleigh County, WV. |

Martin served in the Militia during the American Revolution and "was marched to Yorktown and was at the taking of Cornwallis". During the early war years, Martin's service included "guarding against the depredations of the Indians in wilderness country that was entirely uninhabited by the whites".

Summers and Mercer County members of this family are descendants of Martin’s oldest son, **James** (abt. 1782-9 December 1865). James was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, and married Mary "Polly" Lacy on 17 August 1802 in Monroe County, and had 21 children. Mary (abt. 1786-20 April 1858) was the daughter of William and Martha (Blankenship) Lacy. Mary was orphaned and chose Christian Peters as her guardian. After Mary’s death, James at age 77 married Lydia Moss, age 44, a widowed daughter of Mary Carter on 8 April 1859, no issue. Known children of James and Mary included three sets of twins, and they are:

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| 1.1 | James | b.1804 died young |
| 1.2 | Sylvester | b.1806 married Sarah Abbott |
| 1.3 | Mary | b.1807 married Charles Miller |
| 1.4 | Anna | b.1808 married Cornelius Cook |

1.5	William L.	b.1810	married Mary Christian
1.6	Martin	b.1810	married Sarah Davis
1.7	Tomsey	b.1814	married Gordon Wiley
1.8	Mason Coffee	b.1816	married Malinda Farley
1.9	Ora	b.1817	married Andrew Williams
1.10	Elphirecy	b.1819	married Floyd Miller
1.11	Jacob	b.1819	married Elizabeth Thompson
1.12	Betsy and Salieb.	1821	twins, died while young
1.13	Nancy Avner	b.1823	married James C. Anderson
1.14	Celia	b.1825	married John Williams
1.15	Jane	b.1928	married George Pennington
1.16	Albertinna	b.1830	never married
1.17	Parthena		never married

James sold his farm to William Wiley on 25 March 1831. This farm was known locally as the “old Wiley Place” for many years and was located on Indian Ridge between Tom's Run and Lick Creek in the Pipestem area of Summers County, WV. When James visited Martin on Little Marsh, he would always bring salt and salt fish as gifts. Martin's visits to James often would last from 7 to 15 days. Martin's horse, upon returning to Little Marsh, would be laden with salt. After the sale of his farm, James moved to the crossroads town of Pettry in Mercer County. Pettry is located about two miles from Concord College at Athens (then known as Concord Church), WV. This area was named "Pettry" when the local merchant applied for a post office to be opened in his store. Because of James' many grandchildren living in the area, the merchant in his application requested the post office to be called "Pettrey", the local spelling of the surname. When the application was received in Charleston, and they being familiar with the spelling of the Marsh Fork Pettrys, believed the spelling to be wrong, corrected it to "Pettry" and gave the post office a permit to be opened.

Lydia never remarried. She spent a number of years in the Pipestem area after James' death before moving to Dry Creek, on Marsh Fork of Coal River. Here she stayed with James' children for about 8 years before returning to the Pipestem area where she died. James' children referred to her as Granny Lydia. It appears that Lydia was what we would describe today as a “free spirited” (full of energy) person and was liked by all. When Lydia was younger, she was hired by Mr. William Brown, II, of Anderson Ridge in the Pipestem District of Summers County, to clean a tobacco patch on a hot spring day. At the end of the day, Mr. Brown went to check on her progress. He found Lydia busy singing and cleaning the field in her petticoat. Lydia is listed in the 1880 Summers County census as age 60 and a boarder at the home of Albert G. Austin.

John married Mary May, the daughter of William and Elizabeth May. John and Mary moved from the Pipestem area of Summers and Mercer Counties to Pond Fork (Peach Tree) in Raleigh County. They moved to Raleigh County about the same time as Martin and his other brothers and sisters. Known children of John and Mary are:

4.1	St. Clair	married	#1 Rachel Vealey #2 Letha (Hutson) Bradshaw
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4.2	Jacob	married	Katharine Massey #2 Mary J. Crouch
4.3	William T.	married	Rena Pettry (7.2)
4.4	George Washington	married	#1 Mahala Dickens #2 Manerva Perdue #3 Clarinda Jackson
4.5	Andrew Jackson	married	Julia Ann _____
4.6	James	married	Lydia Higginbotton
4.7	Mary	married	Green St. Clair
4.8	Celia	married	James Veely
4.9	Mahala	married	Charles Higginbotton
4.10	Elizabeth Ann	married	Greenville Clay
4.11	Beldam	married	_____

Mary died 5 May 1872 at 85 years old while living with her son, James, at Shumate's Branch, located between Edwight and Sundial, WV, near where the A.T. Massey Coal Company's coal loading tipple is located on Coal River (2000).

St.Clair/Sinclair married Elizabeth Higgins. St.Clair (abt 1794-1860s) settled in Mason Township, Lawrence County, Ohio, where he married Elizabeth Higgins on 11 June 1818. Not much is known of St.Clair's descendants, but his known children are:

5.1	John	married	Mary Roach
5.2	Martin	married	Mary Jane Stewart
5.3	Nancy	married	John H. Daily
5.4	Anna		
5.5	Rozilla	b. 1832	
5.6	James	married	Lucy _____
5.7	Elizabeth	married	Moses Nance
5.8	Celia		
5.9	Jacob		
5.10	Katherine		
5.11	Thomas	married	Mahala _____

Jacob married Celia Gore, the daughter of Joseph and Martha (Pine) Gore. Jacob lived for a while at the McGinnis farm on Soak Creek near Oceana, but lived most of the time at Edwight on the Marsh Fork of Coal River. Jacob bought the Rev. James Ellison, Jr. and Daniel Shumate's farms at the mouth of Hazy Creek, now Edwight. Ellison and Shumate built their log homes within 20 feet of each other. After Jacob bought their property, he joined the two cabins into one large home to house his 19 children. I have a photo of Jacob and Celia standing in front of this home. At one time, Jacob was the largest resident landholder in Raleigh County. Jacob lived to be 92 years old. Known children of Jacob and Celia are:

7.1	Martha	married	James A. Jarrell
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7.2	Arena	married#1 Leftridge Bailey #2 William T. Pettry (4.3)
7.3	James A.	marriedMary Jane Raines
7.4	Mahala	marriedWilliam Hunter
7.5	Mary	married#1 William Hendricks #2 Ephrain Dickens
7.6	Judith	marriedPeter Davis
7.7	Nancy A.	marriedJames Andrew Toney
7.8	Jula Ann	married#1 John Poindexter Jarrell #2 Thomas Foster
7.9	Louisa	married#1 Byrd Coon #2 James Morris
7.10	Absalom Pine	married#1 Elouse Jarrell #2 Elizabeth Pruitt
7.11	Jacob	married#1 Jane C. Morris #2 Victory Jarrell
7.12	Burwell	marriedNancy A. Jarrell
7.13	Minerva	married#1 Joseph Surratt #2 T. Foster
7.14	Anna	marriedJohn Jarrell
7.15	Harvey	married_____

Jacob received Martin's property on Little Marsh after Martin died. The property then went to his daughter Martha who married James C. Jarrell. James and Martha gave the property to their son George M. Jarrell, who married Mary Jane Farley. The property then went their son Peter, from whom my brother bought after Peter died.

Martin could not read or write. This fact makes it very hard to trace his ancestry. Martin always lived on the frontier where very little was recorded. Most of what is known about him has been taken from two affidavits that he dictated while applying for a Revolutionary War pension. The first affidavit was written on 15 September 1834 and was returned for lack of content. It does appear to have a number of mistakes in it. The second affidavit was written on 21 July 1835.

The following affidavits were copied as written with a question mark (?) inserted when it was impossible to read the word. The superscripts are inserted by me to help explain the affidavit with historical facts and my own reflections.

Martin Petry's First Affidavit

Virginia

Fayette County Towit

On this 15th day of September 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Fayette County⁽¹⁾ now setting Martin Petry a resident of Said County and State of Virginia⁽¹⁾ Age Seventy Seven years old 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 June the 7th 1832⁽²⁾

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That he was drafted & called out under the Command of Captain James Head in Orange County⁽³⁾ & State of Virginia In which county he then resided for the term of two months he was marched to Fauquier County & aided in Guarding Burgoin & the prisoners⁽⁴⁾ taken with him to Albemarle barracks⁽⁵⁾ & Guarding them after were delivered them to Colonel Taylor after the Expiration of said two months Service he was discharged & returned home to his fathers house in Orange County & State of Virginia which he thinks was in the year 1777 he remained there till sometime in the year 1778 he then went out to Rockingham County State of Virginia & some time in that year he entered the Service under Command of Captain William Nolle for the term of three months & was marched to a place called Andrew Warwicks Fort⁽⁶⁾ which was in daily expectation of an attack by the Indians⁽⁷⁾ he was stationed at said Fort during this time of Service guarding it against the depredations of the Indians he was then marched back to Augustia County and discharged at Col Smiths during this term of service he fought no battles he then returned back to Rockingham County where he resided and remained there a short time during which time he was again drafted and called out under the Command of Captain Robert Cravens for the term of three months this he thinks was in the year 1779 and marched to a place called Tygart Valley⁽⁸⁾ against the Indians & to guard John Warwicks Fort⁽⁹⁾ on arriving at this Fort the Command of the Fort was assigned to Captain Cravens there he was station there during the three months service which is proven by the affidavit of John Rains⁽¹⁰⁾ Christian Peters⁽¹¹⁾ & hereto attached he was discharged at the expiration of said three months but was then there perfwere and retained for the term of one month more and put under the Command of Lieutenant Joseph Henkel as a spy⁽¹²⁾ to traverse the country from Tygart Valley to the Monongaela River⁽¹³⁾ a country that was entirely uninhabited by the whites after the expiration of this months service he was marched back to Augustia County and discharged at Col Smiths he then returned to Rockingham County where he had formerly resided and remained there till some time in the year 1781 & was then drafted under the Command of Captain Jermeah Beasley for the term of two month which term of service he was personally engaged in ??? in selecting Beef Cattle for the support of the army which term of service is proven by the affidavit of John Rains & hereto attached after serving out the two months he was dismissed from there he went to Albermarl County where he was again drafted under the Command of Captain John Miller for the term of one month & marched to Richmond Virginia there attached to General Greens Army but was in no memorable battle during this months services at the expiration of this months service he was discharged & returned home to his fathers house in Orange County & State of Virginia where he had left his wife⁽¹⁴⁾ & in the same year was drafted in under the command of Captain George Waugh for two months he was marched to Williamsburg and then join General Mathews Regiment from thence he was marched to a place called the Mobbinhill from thence to a place called the Hickory Neck Church⁽¹⁵⁾ a part of this two months he was attached to a scouting party under the Command of Colonel Caul to reconnaissence the country between our out ports⁽¹⁶⁾ & the British he again joined his own company and was marched to Yorktown and was ????? on the oposite side of the River⁽¹⁷⁾ when Cornwallis was taken⁽¹⁸⁾ after which time he was discharged & marched home to Orange county Virginia. He was in the service of the United States one year and two months he served different discharges but time & misfortune has completely obliterated them he has no futher documentary evidence to prove his service by and he does not certainly know of any person living that he could prove futher his services by

He was born on the 19th day of January 1757 in Orange County & State of Virginia according to the register kept by his father in his family Bible but he knows not where that register

now is and knows of no other in the year 1785 he moved from Orange County to Rockingham County Virginia and resided there 7 or 8 years he then moved to Montgomery County Virginia⁽¹⁹⁾ & resided there eight or ten years from thence he moved to Giles County Virginia now Fayette County⁽²⁰⁾ where he has been living about thirty years He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever for a pension or annuity except the forsaid and declared that his name is not on the pension role of the army of any state he received no commission in the army. He is known to Gipson Jarrell⁽²¹⁾ Joseph Harper Esqr. L. Stover Esqr. and William Blake Esq. persons residing in his neighbourhood who can testify to his character for vetacity & of the general belief his having been a soldier of the Revolution ????? & Sworn to the day and year aforsaid.

his
Martin X Petry
mark

We Gipson Jarrell Joseph Harper Lewis Stover and Tom Blake members of the County of Fayette aforsaid hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Martin Petry who had sworn & subscribed to the above Delaration that we believe him to be seventy seven years old that he is reputed & belived in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Solder of the Revolutionary that we concur in that opinion & that he is a man of veracity and can be believed Sworn and Subscribed to the day & year shown written

Gibson Jarrell
Joseph Harper
William Blake

and the said court hereby declares their opinion after the investigation of the matter & the putting of the interrogations prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Solder in the Revolutionary and served as he states and we future certify that it appears to us that there is no Clergyman residing in the neighborhood of said applicants and that Gipson Jarrell Joseph Harper and Wm Blake who have signed the above certificate are residents of the County of Fayette and are creditable persons & their statements are entitled to credit

National Archives, Washington, D. C.

Affidavits from other people, including his son James, who knew Martin that accompany his affidavit are copied as following:

I Hiram Hill clerk of the County court of Fayette County do hereby certify that Joseph Harper and Oliver L. Waite Esq who have signed their names to the foregoing certificate are justics of the peace in said County and that all their acts and deeds as such are entitled to credit

In testimony where I have here to let my hand afficed the seal of my office this 21th day of September 1834 and of our Independence the 59th year

Hiram Hill clk

Giles County Towit

this day James Petry of the afore said County personally appeared before me Wm Keaton a Justice of the peace and made oath that he has heard Martin Petry senior of the county of Fayette often speaking of his being in the Revolutionary war and that longe before the pention law was a law given

under my hand this 17th day of April 1835
William Keaton

Giles cty towit

this is to certify that I have been acquaint with James Petry and his general character when on oath for some years past and it is such that can be depended on on oath given under my hand this 17th day of April 1835

William Keaton

Affidavid of
James Petry
April 17th 1835

I Rufus A. French clerk of the County of Giles County do certify that William Keaton is a justic of the peace for said county as written statement said that the written signature perporing to be his are guine_? duly commissioned and that ???? fath and Credit should be given to all his official acts In testemony where I have here onto sat my hand and seal of office at Giles Court House this 18th day of April 1835 and the 39th year of the Commonwealth

Rufus A. French Clk

Giles County to Wit

This day Jacob Meadows Ser. of the afore sd county personally appeared before me Wm Smith a justic of the peace for sd county and maid oath that he has been acquainted with Martin Petrey Ser. of Fayet county from his earlys days and he all ways under stud that the sd Petrey served in the Revolutionary War but how long he never under stud given under my hand this 18th of April 1835

Wm Smith

I William Smith a justic of the peace for the County of Giles have been acquainted with the above named Petrey fifty years and has all ways under stud that he served in the Revolutionary war but how long I never under stud

Wm Smith

I Rufus A. French clerk of the County Court of Giles County do certify that William Smith whose signature appears to the ????? is an acting justic of the peace for said County duly commisioned as such that due faith & credit should be given to all his official acts and that the written signature preported to be his are genuine

In testemony where of I have set my hand act of official Giles court house this 18th of April 1835 an in the 39th year of the commonwealth

Rufus A. French clk

I Rufus A. French clerk of the County Giles County do certify that William Keaton is a justic of the peace for said county as ????? stated and that the written signurate perporing to be his are genuine duly???? and that ?????? and credit should be given to all his official acts.

In testemony where of I have ?? set my hand and seal of office at Giles court house this 18th day of April 1835 and in the 39th year of the commonwealth

Rufus A. French clk

The following letter was written to reject Martin's claim of the first affidavit by the War Department:

War Department
Pension Office
October 15th 1834

Sir,

The papers in the case of Martin Petry have been examined and they are herewith returned. His statement does not in every respect agree with the facts as they occureed during the revolutionary war. There were no drafts for two months ????? The time occupied in collecting beef cannot therefore be allowed. Genl. Green did not march with his army to Richmond as stated. It should be shown to the satisfaction of the Department why he did not make an earlier application for a pension. The enclosed papers should be returned to this office.

I am, Respectfully
Yours Obt Servant
J L Edwards

Hiram Hill Esq
Clk Fayette Co.
Gauleys Bridge P.O. Va.

Martin Petry's Second Affidavit

Martin's second affidavit almost recaps the first, but is written in reflection and appears to be more correct as to names, places and details. The second affidavit was written on 21 July 1835. The following appeared in the "History of Fayette County" by Peters and Carden as part of the Court records of Fayette County.

July Term 1835. -- Court held at the home of Abraham Vandal on Thursday, the 21st day of July.

Present : William Morris, James Skaggs, Edward D. Vandal, G.P. Huddleston, Samual Henry, William Blake, Sr., O. L. Waite and Seth Huse, Gentlemen Justices.

Martin Petry, a resident of the County of Fayette, age 77 years, appeared in open court and duly sworn and interogated according to direction of the War Department, and the Court being of the opinion that the said Declaration was true, ordered that the same be Certified according to law, to enable him to procure a pension.

History of Fayette Co., W. Va. (Peters and Carden)

The following was copied from Martin's second affidavit.

State of Virginia SS

Fayette County Va. on this 21st day of July A. D. 1835 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Fayette County now setting Martin Petry a resident of Fayette County and State of Virginia age 77 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 June 7th 1832 that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as followeth. He was drafted and called out under the command of Capt James Head in Orange County Virginia where he then resided for the term of two months he was marched to Fauquier County and aided in guarding Burgoins Army to Albemarle barracks and guarding them after they were delivered to Col Taylor; after the expiration of said two months service he was discharged and returned to his Fathers in Orange County Virginia which he thinks was in the year 1777 he remained there until sometime in the next year he then went to Rockingham County Virginia and some time in that year entered the service under Capt William Nolle for the term of three months and was marched to a place called Jacob Warwicks Fort⁽²²⁾ which was in daily expectation of an attack by the Indians he was stationed at said Fort during this time of service guarding it against the degredations of the Indians he was then marched back to Augustia County and discharged at a certian Col Smiths and then returned to Rochingham County where he had formerly resided he was in one engagement during this time of service he remained in Rockingham but a short time until he again entered the service under Command of Capt Robert Cravens for the term of three months this he thinks was in the year 1779 and marched to a place called Tygart Valley against the Indians to guard John Warwicks Fort on arriving at this Fort the Command of the Fort was, assigned to Capt Cravens there he was station for the remainder of this term of service which turn of service was proven by the affidavit of Christian Peters and attached to the declaration that he made on the 15th September 1834 which declaration was returned being defective and has been lost or mislaid together with the certificate of C Peters and he cannot at moment obtain another he was discharged at the expiration of this term of three months and was preparing to return home but was then and there pressed and detained for the term of one month the more and put under the command of Lt Jos Henkel as a spy to traverse the Wilderness from Tygart Valley to the Monongaela River a country that was entirely uninhabited by the whites after the expiration of this months service he was marched back to Augustia County Virginia and discharged as at a former time at Col Smiths he then returned to Rockingham was moved and moved to Albermarle County where he remained but a little time before he was drafted and called out under the command of Capt John Miller for the term of one month and was marched through Richmond to

Mathews barracks⁽²³⁾ and joined General Greens first Virginia regiment but was in no battle during this months services at the expiration of this one months service he returned to his fathers in Orange County where his wife had staid during his absence he then returned with his wife to her fathers in Rockingham County but a few weeks when he thinks was in the year 1781 he was in Rockingham County but a few weeks when he was drafted and put under the command of Capt Jeremiah Beasley for the term of two months during this term of service he was engaged with his horse which was pressed at the same time in collecting beef cattle through the county of Augustia principally for the support of the American armies and driving the same to the care of Capt Price in Rockingham County Virginia which term of service is proven by the affidavit of John Raines and hereto attached after serving the two months he was discharged and returned to his fathers in Orange County Virginia after remaining there some time he was drafted and put under the command of Capt George Waugh for two months this he thinks was about the last of August 1781 he was marched to Williamsburg there attached to Gen Mathews 3rd Virginia Regiment from thence he was marched to a place called the Mobbinhill⁽²⁴⁾ from thence to a place called the Hickory Neck Church here he was attached to a scouting party under the command of Col Caul to scout the country between the out ports and the British he again joined the regiment on the Chickahomany swamp ⁽²⁵⁾ and was marched to Yorktown and was at the taking of Cornwallis after which time he was discharged and returned home to Orange county Virginia. He was in the service of the United States one year and two months he received different discharges but time and misfortune has entirely obliterated them he has no futher documentary evidence to prove his service by he doesnot certainly know of any person living that he could prove futher his services by he is now old and being an illiterate man⁽²⁶⁾ he cannot state the particulars as they occured⁽²⁷⁾ but he knows that he served the different tours here instated.

He states that the reason why he did not make for a pension was these 1. at that he is an illiterate man residing in an obscure part of the world⁽²⁸⁾ and not having any opportunity of hearing the news read it was a considerable time after Congress had enacted the law of 7th June 1830 before he knew of it being extended any farther than the regular solders 2nd that it was then a long time after having learned that there was a probability of his being included amongst the person in before he could get any person to make of his declaration without he would give them half that he might draw the first time of drawing and 3rd the reason why he has not made application since the return of his former declaration is that he has been daily expecting that W. Singleton the agent for examining the claimants for previous would be in our County and that he would have an opportunity of giving him a statement of his service. He was born on the 19th day of January 1757 in Orange County Virginia according to the registure kept by his father in his family Bible but he knows not where that reguster now is and knows not of any other in the year 1785 moved from Orange County to Rockingham County Virginia and resided there 7 or 8 years he then moved to Montgomery County Virginia and resided there 8 or 10 years from thence he moved to Giles County Virginia now Fayette County where he now. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever that pension or annuity except the present and declared that his name is not on the pension role of the agency of any state he received no commission in the army. He is known to Gipson Jarrell Joseph Harper Esqr. L. Stover Esqr. and John Clay Esqr. persons residing in his neighbourhood who can testify to his character for vetacity and of the general belief that he did serve as a solder in the Revolutionary War. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

his
Martin X Petry
mark

Gipson Jarrell Joseph Harper Lewis Stover and John T. Clay residing in the County of Fayette do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Martin Petry who had sworn and subscribed to the above Declaration that we believe him to be seventyseven years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolutionary War that we concur in that opinion and that he is a man of veracity and can be believed Sworn and Subscribed to the day and year first above written

Gibson Jarrell
Joseph Harper
Lewis Stover
John T. Clay

and the court hereby declares their opinion after the investigation of the matter and the putting of the interrogations prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Soldier in the Revolutionary and served as he states and we further certify that it appears to us that there is no Clergyman residing in the neighborhood of said applicants and that Gipson Jarrell Joseph Harper Lewis Stover and John T. Clay who have signed the above certificate are residents of the County of Fayette and are creditable persons and their statements are entitled to credit

National Archives, Washington, D. C.

The following affidavit appears to have accompany Martin's second affidavit for a pension as there must have been others:

Fayette Courthouse 21st August 1835

Dr Sir

I Request a Bouns which is now before me request that the form declaration of Martin Petry might be returned to the department Enclosed you will find a copy of the Declaration mention a which I retained when that was forward in order that should no differently as ?? by a misforeage of the our ??? as he stated in his last Declaration that the ?????? ?????? was lost or misplaid ?????? as the affidate of Christean Peters proving a three months term of service in Tigarts Vally at John Warwicks fort he cannot convenarily obtain another at this time but if it is necessary he will get another & forward it I will recollect that there was such a affidavet from Monro County with the proper certifiacte & County Seal attached then to on making out his last declaration he has made some alteration upon mature reflection he thinks that the first was not given???? in the manner that he served he is quite old & ?????? exhart to be remember for his service. From his advance age & being an untelligent man???? He may not recollect property how & in what manner he served this he has many acquaintancy in this County & many of them old all un????? ?????? in the opinion that he is truly entitled to a pension & all which that he should ??????

Yours Very Respectfully

Hiarm Hill

The following superscripts to Martin's affidavits may help explain them further:

***(1) FAYETTE COUNTY AND STATE OF VIRGINIA**

Fayette County, Virginia, named after Marquis de Lafayette (General Lafayette), was created in 1831 from portions of Logan, Greenbrier, Nicholas and Kanawaha counties. The area formally was Giles County. On 23 January 1850 Raleigh County was formed from the southern portion of Fayette County and named in honor of Sir Walter Raleigh. West Virginia became a state on 20 June 1863.

***(2) ACT OF CONGRESS, JUNE 7th 1832**

Congress by this act provided "That each of the surviving officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, soldiers, and Indian spies, who shall have served in the Continental Line, or State Line, volunteers, or militia, at one or more terms, a period of two years, during the War of the Revolution, and who are not entitled to any benefit under the act for the relief of certain survivors and soldiers of the Revolution, passed May 15, 1828, be authorized to receive a pension proportional to length of time served, but no pension should be granted to any one having served less than six months."

***(3) ORANGE, COUNTY**

Orange County, Virginia, was formed from Spotsylvania County in 1734 and is named so because of the color of its clay soil (some recorders state it is named after the Earl of Orange). Martin, born in 1757 of German ancestry, was a descendant of a group of immigrants who were of the German Reform Church. They were natives of the principality of Nassau-Siegen, now a part of Westphalia, Germany. The English had already settled the lands close to the waters of the Eastern Shore, thereby having good transportation to the European market. To encourage settlers (1715/1730) to this area as a buffer against the Indians, the English enacted a law that would free the settlers of public and county levies for seven years. At one time, everyone in this area spoke German. This area is called Germanna today.

***(4) BURGOIN & THE PRISONERS**

General John Burgoyne surrendered to General Horatie Gates at Saratoga, New York, on 17 October 1777. This surrender was termed a Convention (not Capitulation) that permitted the British, many of them Hessians, to march to the nearest port and board ships for England. This surrender of Burgoyne's army encouraged Americans and influenced France's joining in the war

against the British. The terms of surrender were to prevent the troops from returning to North America. Congress feared they would be exchanged for other troops that could return and fight.

Upon reflection, Congress changed its mind and let General Burgoyne return to England and his troops were marched south to Albemarle, Virginia (now Charlottesville, VA) in the months of January and February of 1778. The Hessians melted away during the march, which was what the Americans wanted. On the route south local militia guarded them through their area turning them over to the next local militia until they reached Albemarle barracks. Martin helped to guard the "Convention or Burgoyne's troops" as they were called, from Fauquier County, through Orange County, to Albemarle Virginia.

* (5) ALBERMARLE BARRACKS

Albemarle barracks was located just west of now the City of Charlottesville, Virginia. At that time only a few cabins were located in the area. The British prisoners had to build their own cabins and provide for their own food. The first months they suffered of cold and hunger. With spring, they cleared land and grew their own food. Many of the prisoners brought their families with them. This area was known as Albemarle and wherever troops camped was referred to as a barracks, therefore it was called "Albermarle barracks". Albemarle County was formed in 1744 from Goochland County and named after the Earl of Albemarle, titular governor of Virginia 1734-1754.

* (6) ANDREW WARWICK'S FORT

Andrew Warwick's fort is mistakenly identified. This mistake was corrected in the second affidavit to John Warwick's fort. John Warwick's fort is described in superscript *(9).

* (7) INDIANS

Before the Revolutionary War, the whites were beginning to settle the Shenandoah Valley. Indians from the south (Cherokees) and north (Delawares) still used the Valley as a warrior and trading path to travel and raid each other. Few historical records note of raids on whites by the Indians at that time. The few hearty whites that lived in the Shenandoah Valley considered the Indians as a pest. Many Indians traveling the paths would stop and camp at settler's cabins. Indians would eat everything in the cabin. The Indians did not understand ownership of land or animals. They felt any animal was free for the killing, even the settler's cows, pigs and chickens.

West Virginia was a hunting area with no permanent Indian tribes living there. Other than the Cherokees living in the North Carolina's mountains and the Catawbans of the Carolinas, the Indians lived in Ohio, Kentucky and farther west. The white man's diseases and influenza had always preceded him for hundreds of miles into the frontier and cleared the area of Indians. After the Indian's defeat at Point Pleasant in 1774 and the wanton murder in 1777 of Chief Keigh-tugh-qua (Chief Cornstalk) and his son, Ellinipisco, and Red Hawk, Chief of the Delaware Nation, the British and white renegades urged them to harass the weak settlements along the Allegheny frontier. A

large force of men was used to protect the frontier from Indian raids and thus was not available to fight the British.

***(8) TYGRAT VALLEY**

Tygrat Valley and the Tygrat River are named after David Tygrat who settled along the river at now Daily, West Virginia in 1754. Indians killed his wife and children.

***(9) JOHN WARWICK'S FORT**

This fort was the home of Lt. John Warwick. He had been in the British service and settled in the Tygart Valley area. Not much is known of him and his family except for his son Jacob Warwick, who was a well-known frontiersman. John Warwick returned to England before the Revolution and it is believed he died in a shipwreck going to England or returning to the colonies.

***(10) JOHN RAINS**

This John Raines may have been the brother of Betsy. John Raines' written statement in support of Martin's affidavit for a pension is copied as following:

I John Rains of the County of Fayette & State of Virginia Do here by Certify that I was will acquainted with Martin Pettery of the County & State of fore said in the year 1771. I believe him to be 75 year and Served under Captain Jermiah Beasley from Rochingham County for the term of two month which term I served with him & I have every reason to believe that the said Pettery Served different other times In the Army of the Revolution afterwards as I afterwards heard that he served at other times & at other Places I being attached to the regular army after Serving the militia an this under Capt Beasely with him I do futher Certify I have been acquainted with the Said Martin Pettery Since the close of the Revolution And that I do believe that his statement on oath are Entitled to Credit In every respect Given under My hand this 23rd day of August 1834

John Rains

Fayette County SS

This day John Raines personally appeared before Joseph Harper & Oliver L. Waite Justius of the peace In and for the County of Fayette and made oath in due form of Law that the Statement in the foregoing Certifficate are true and do also Certify that the Said John Rains is a respectable man & that His statement on oath are entitled to credit Given in under our hands & seal this 23 day of August 1834

***(11) CHRISTIAN PETERS**

Christian Peters' (1761-1837) statement in support of Martin's affidavit has not been found. After the Revolutionary War, Christian and his brothers, like most war veterans, moved west in 1782 to the now Monroe County area. Peterstown in Monroe County, West Virginia, is named after Christian. Christian married Katharine Belcher, who spoke German. Christian was also at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. The first sentence in Christian's affidavit for a pension is enough to support part of Martin's claim. Christian's affidavit begins with:

Monroe, Sept. 17, 1832. Born 1761. Drafted in Rockingham about June 1, 1779 to go to North Fork of South Branch of the Potomac against the Indians, marching under Capt. Robert Craven

Christian Peters was the guardian of Mary "Polly" Lacy, the wife of Martin's oldest son, James.

*(12) SPY

During the troubled times with the Indians, especially during the summer months, scouts watched the paths by which Indians would be likely to travel on raiding parties. The scouts would warn settlers who would gather at forts for protection. The scouts were called spies. Martin's brother Leonard (I believe) was captured by the Indians while acting as a spy on Little Kanawaha River. After his capture, the Indians marked him for death by painting his body black with campfire charcoal. They then took him to Ohio and probably burned him at the stake.

*(13) MONONGAHEHA RIVER

The Monongahela River flows north and joins the Ohio River at Pittsburgh, PA. The Cheat, Buckhannon, Tygart and West Fork Rivers feed it. Troops traveling north would enter Tygart Valley follow it to the Monongahela and on to Forts Duquesne and Pitt. This was also the route traveled to get to the Great Lakes by western Virginians.

*(14) WIFE

Martin's wife was Elizabeth Ann Raines, who was called "Betsy". Martin had left his father's home in Orange County and moved to the neighboring frontier County of Rockingham where he and his brothers were homesteading property near Port Republic. Here he met Betsy, the daughter of John Raines. An old family story states that Martin stole Betsy, an indentured servant, from a cornfield where she was hoeing corn and married her.

Like most old family stories, time and romance colors the facts to make it last from generation to generation. The use of the word "stole" is hard to explain. As the affidavit for a Revolutionary pension states that Martin time after time returned to Rockingham County after duty with the militia. If Betsy were truly stolen, returning and living in Rockingham County would have been impossible. The "indentured servant" part, suggested Betsy was an orphan or had at least one

parent dead. During these times, orphans or children of families who were unable to care for them were cared for by more affluent families and were referred to as "indentured servant". Orphans were expected to work to provide for their own livelihood.

Note: Since writing the above I have heard from another source that Martin and Betsy were sweethearts and were seeing each other, waiting until her "indentured servant" term was over. But not wishing to wait, Betsy went with Martin to one of his brother's house, where they stayed for sometime. Betsy stayed here while Martin served at different times in the Virginia Militia during the Revolution War.

*(15) HICKORY NECK CHURCH

Hickory Neck Church (Episcopal) is located on US Route 60 about 4 miles west of the Pottery Factory at Williamsburg, VA. The old church was built about 1740 and has been restored and is open to the public. A Virginia highway historical marker at the church reads:

HICKORY NECK CHURCH

Hickory Neck Church was built about 1740. Militia opposing the British camped here on April 21, 1781. A few miles north, is the foundation of an ancient stone house, dated possible from 1650.

*(16) OUT PORTS

Before and during the siege of the British at Yorktown, it was believed that the British would send troops in support of Cornwallis.

Members of the militia were posted at points (out ports) around Yorktown to detect any reinforcements that might be sent. After it became obvious that no reinforcements were coming, these troops joined in the battle at Yorktown. It is estimated that there were 5,700 regular troops, 3,000 militia and 7,000 French troops under Washington's command during the battle of Yorktown.

*(17) OPOSITE SIDE OF THE RIVER

Cornwallis had stationed a large group of men across the York River and built fortifications and gun emplacements. This was done to help defend Yorktown and it also provided a base for foraging in the collecting of food and provisionings from the countryside while providing an escape route if one was needed. Some of the gun emplacements can be seen today from your car on the Gloucester side of the Yorktown Bridge.

To check the presence of the British, Washington detached a large force to encircle them. This force consisted of about 1,500 militiamen under General Weedon and was reinforced by the Duke de Lauzun's Legion of 600 men and 800 marines from the French fleet. Brigadier-General M. de Choisy commanded the lot. The militia grenadiers were mostly old soldiers, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel John Mercer. The only battle of note between the British and Washington's forces happened by accident. On a grand forage, just after the British had gleaned the countryside

for provisions, potatoes, Indian corn, etc., the colonial troops came upon them on their way back to their encampment. A battle ensued. "No regular corps could have maintained its ground more firmly than did this battalian of our infantry," wrote Richard Henry Lee when describing the action of the militiamen in that battle. A Virginia highway historical marker at Gloucester on state route 17 reads:

TARLETON'S LAST FIGHT

Here, at the Hook, Tarleton, commanding the cavalry of Cornwallis' army, fought an action with Choisy's French force and Virginia militia, October 3, 1781. The Duke de Lauzun's cavalry charged Tarleton, who retired to Gloucester Point. There he was blockaded by the French and by Virginia militia.

*(18) WHEN CORNWALLIS WAS TAKEN

The siege of Yorktown started on 28 September 1781. There were some skirmishes during the following days, and on 9 October, the artillery began the attack. By 17 October, the outcome was clear to Cornwallis, and the surrender was signed on 19 October 1781. Although Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown was not the end of the Revolutionary War, it was the beginning of the end.

In all, 7,247 British officers and soldiers and 840 seamen were surrendered at Yorktown. The British losses were 156 killed and 326 wounded, the French had 52 killed and 134 wounded, and the Americans had 20 killed and 56 wounded.

*(19) MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Montgomery County, Virginia was formed 7 December 1776 out of Fincastle, Botetourt, Pulaski Counties.

*(20) GILES COUNTY, Va. now FAYETTE COUNTY

Giles County was formed out of Montgomery, Monroe, Tazewell, Craig and Mercer Counties on 16 June 1806. Martin lived in this portion of Giles County that later became Fayette and still later became Raleigh County, WV.

*(21) GIBSON JARRELL

Martin Gibson Jarrell, (1773-1862), son of Daniel and Mary (Terry) Jarrell married Sarah Petry (1780-1861), the daughter of Martin and Elizabeth Ann (Raines) Petry. Gibson was a large person, well over six feet tall. After leaving Monroe County, he lived for a while at Cumberland Gap before moving to Clear Fork. Gibson lived at the mouth of Sycamore Hollow near Colcord on Clear

Fork in now Raleigh County. Known children of Gibson and Sarah are:

2.1	Madison	married	#1 Susan Toney #2 Celia Kelly
2.2	John Gibson	married	Margaret Toney
2.3	Anderson	married	Jane Carrow
2.4	Harrison	married	#1 Nancy Pettry #2 Flora Pettry
2.5	Amanda	married	Jesse Pettry
2.6	Frances Peachynever	married, but had children	
2.7	Emily	married	Meredith Wills
2.8	Alethia	married	Chapman Thompson
2.9	Albert	married	Ann Rutherford

To visit Martin, Gibson would travel up Sycamore Hollow, across Clear Fork Mountain at Low Gap Branch, follow Low Gap down to now Marfork, then down Little Marsh to Martin's one-room cabin at now Packsville. On one such trip, Gibson killed a woods buffalo cow in the area where the old Marfork Company store stood. Martin had killed a buffalo calf a few days earlier at the mouth of Little Marsh Fork, this in about 1810 when it was believed all buffaloes in the area had been killed.

*(22) JACOB WARWICK'S FORT

This fort was the home of Jacob Warwick, son of John Warwick, and it was located at the fork of Deer Creek, just south of Green Bank, WV, on the old Deer Creek road to Cass. The date of its construction is not known, but Jacob was in the area in 1773 and was still fighting off Indian attacks in the 1780s. He moved to and built another fort at Clover Lick in early 1780. Clover Lick Fort was destroyed in 1786, and the family moved into a second building at that location. It was garrisoned during the Revolutionary War and served as a stopover for troops traveling north and west through the Tygrat Valley and Greenbrier River country.

*(23) MATTHEWS BARRACKS

Cornwallis had been ordered to take a position on the coast so that he might be within supporting distance of General Clinton, the British commander-in-chief, at New York. Wintering his troops on the coast would also provide mutual protection for the wintering British fleet. Cornwallis sent scouts out along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay to locate a suitable site for his troops with a harbor for the fleet. The Mathews County, Virginia, area with its bays, Gwynn's Island and river inlets made it a potential candidate. To counter this possibility, militiamen were sent to Mathews County. Here Fort Nonsense was built by Continental forces anticipating an attack by the British, which never occurred. Cornwallis chose instead to winter his troops at Yorktown. Any place soldiers set up camp was referred to as a barracks.

*(24) Mobbinhill

Mobbinhill is mistakenly named in both affidavits. This should be Malvern Hill. Malvern Hill was a strategic site just south of Richmond, Va. Malvern Hill was used by Albemarle's militia as a military stores and staging area.

*(25) CHICKAHOMANY SWAMP

Chickahominy swamp is a vast area of uninhabited swampland north of Williamsburg, Va where the Chickahominy River flows into the James River.

*(26) ILLITERATE MAN

Martin could not read or write. Both affidavits for a pension are signed with his "X" mark. This is one of the reasons why it is hard to trace the family tree beyond Martin.

*(27) HE CANNOT STATE THE PARTICULARS AS THEY OCCURRED

The Revolutionary War was fought between 19 April 1775 with the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord and 3 September 1783 when Great Britain signed the Treaty of Paris. Martin was 24 years old when Cornwallis surrendered on 19 October 1781. Martin had a remarkable memory to dictate and recall names and events for the affidavit at 77 years old, 48 years after the surrender at Yorktown. Martin's second affidavit was approved and he received some pension money. His first pension number is # S17010, but his second pension number, #30141, was certified and issued on 1 September 1835 and shows he was to receive \$26.66 annually to begin on 4 March 1831. He received a lump sum of back payment of \$106.64 and another semi-annual payment of \$13.33 in September 1835 when all payments were stopped. It is assumed he died a short time after receiving this payment and the 1840 census does not list him. Martin's wife tried to obtain widow's payments under an act of Congress approved 4 July 1836. This act stated:

"That if any person who service in the War of the Revolution, in the manner specified in the act passed June 7, 1832, haven died, leaving a widow whose marriage, took place before the expiration of the last period of his service, such widow shall be entitled to receive, during the time she may remained unmarried, the annuity or pension which might have been allowed to her husband, by virtue of the act aforesaid, if living at the time it was passed."

In her attempt to obtain the benefits under this act, the following letter was written:

Ho of Reps July 29, 1841

J L Edwards Esq

Sir

I beg leave to trouble you with the request contained in the enclosed letter -- If you can furnish me with a form listed to the application of Mrs. Petry, the widow of Martin Petry, a revolutionary soldier please do so that I may forward it to Mr. Waite.

Very Respectifull

Yours

Geo W. Summers

It is unknown if Betsy received any payments, but it is doubtful. Summers County, WV is named after George W. Summers.

*(28) AN OBSCURE PART OF THE WORLD

As stated in the affidavit, Martin moved to the Pipestem area (then Montgomery Co., later Giles Co., VA) now Mercer Co., WV in about 1792. He then moved to Giles Co., VA (later Fayette Co., VA and now Raleigh Co., WV) in about 1802 to what is now known as the town of Packsville.

Martin was one of the first pioneers of Raleigh County. As stated in the affidavits, even in 1835, this area was considered an obscure part of the world and he had already lived here for 33 years when he applied for his Revolutionary War pension.

* ----- *

This sketch of Martin Petry's life is incomplete. The author invites corrections, additions, and variations to this bit of Virginia and southern West Virginia history.

If you believe you are a descendant of Martin Petry, please write to me and I will be happy to check my research files and let you know what I find. I have been researching my family for over 20 years.

Mr. D.L. Petry, 405 South Henry St., Alexandria, VA 22314, has written and published his book (**Petry, Pettry, Petrey, Pettrey and Allied Families**) of 869 pages on this family. This is the only book written on this family and it sells for \$35.00. Mr. D.L. Petry has researched this family's genealogy for over 30+ years before writing this book and is continuing his research.

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