

Peter Varner (1730-1791) P-310415
Private, Capt Fishburn's Company, 4th Pennsylvania Regt

Peter Varner was born about 1730 supposedly in Stuttgart (modern day Germany). He lived for a time in both Switzerland and France. Having survived the arduous Atlantic crossing aboard Captain William Tiffin's LYDIA, Peter Varner arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1734 with his uncle Jacob Verner (1705 - 1783) and 13 other passengers. He took an Oath of Allegiance to the United Colonies of America on 24 of September 1747.

Peter married 11 December 1766 in Philadelphia to Mary Eve Roth (Roadt). Before the outbreak of the war for independence, the family moved to western Pennsylvania settling in what later became Fayette County. The family remained there during Peter's service. He first enlisted as a private in the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment. In the winter of 1778, while with the 8th Pennsylvania regiment under Col. Daniel Brodhead, he helped to build Fort Laurens, the first military post of the new government erected in the territory of what is now Ohio.

In August of 1779 Peter was reassigned to the Corps of invalids where he served under Colonel Lewis Nicola until at least June of 1781. The Eighth Pennsylvania's Corps of Invalids was a separate branch of the Continental Army composed of Continental Army veterans who had become unfit for field duty but who could still usefully serve as guards for magazines, hospitals, and similar installations. The non-commissioned officers were also supposed to be proficient in mathematics because the corps was intended to serve as a military academy in addition to its other duties.

Following his military service, Peter moved his family first to Chester County, Virginia and finally in Augusta County, Virginia. This is where Peter died in 1791. Due to his faithful service, his family was later awarded a pension on his behalf. In 1838 his son Christian Milesagle Varner removed from Virginia with his family to Portsmouth in Ohio – the territory that his father had given so much to protect.

Submitted by Samuel Preston Adams III
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