

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Hammer W5699 Sarah Rice PA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 Jan 2015.

To his excellency General Andrew Jackson/ President of the Unighted States of America Honorable Sir,/ With sentiments of the highest Respect, we your memorialists, citizens of the Unighted States, congratulate your excellency on your elevation to the Presidential Seat, with our best wishes, that these may as usual find your health good, your honour excellent, your wisdom perfect & your influence in that elevated post great. Shewing an example to the people of the East and the world, that noble Spirits are to be found in the West, worthy to Superintend and protect the rights and liberties of a free and great people.

We your memorialists, do herein wish to represent to your excellency the hard case of some of the Soldiers of the revolution, who fought for what we now enjoy, we the more especially make free to speak of the hard case of a Soldier to your excellency, because we know you are well acquainted with what a Poor Soldier is doomed in actual sevice to undergo.

we would instance that Peter Hammer, a Soldier of the revolution now residing in Monongalia [sic: Monongalia] County in the State of Virginia, who is said to have been married to wife by whom he had twelve Children which wife dying, he married a second wife now living, with four children the youngest of which children by his last wife, is only four years old whose only means of support, is, from the labour of said Peter Hammer, who is a Blacksmith, but from his great age, now upwards of seventy years, he is able to provide but a precarious support, for such a family.

he has applied for a pension [see endnote], as other Soldiers of the revolution has done, but without success, his papers has been sent to the department, where applications are made by pensioner, and your excellency can by having them examined see whether he has had justice done him which thing we hope your Excellency will cause to be done. he has proved that he had a discharge but has lost it. he has been sworn himself to the services by him done, in that Memorable War, which we believe ought to have been taken as sufficient evidence, the more Especially, when we consider the almost and in some cases the quite impossibility of proving it in any other way.

we have taken the liberty to represent the said Peter Hammers Case to your excellency, to shew you one of those hard cases which is endured by that Class of men who spent their prime in a prime Cause, and which government has been pleased to reward in some, but has left others in so hard a case that altho their services done are equal yet they can never get at it,

We would represent, that we believe that the oath, of a Soldier of the revolution, who has not rendered himself incredible, by having notoriously taken a false oath, ought to be all the evidence required by law at this distance of time.

we would represent, that the said Peter Hammer, is and has been, during our acquaintance, a uniform Republican, and friend to his Country, to whose fidelity we know of no exceptions, and to whom we do believe on oath full credit ought to be given. [several dozen signatures follow]

if any communication is given in answer to the request of this memorial, let the same be directed to Smithfield Post office, Monongalia County Virginia,

we wish to represent, that we know, that to examine the case spoken of in this memorial, is a drudgery, that does not belong to your excellency, in your Elevated Situation, but we having witnessed the difficulties that hath been opposed to his application, as a pensioner, we could not look to any more proper source for redress, and we hope that if nothing can be done in the present situation of things, that a more easy road may be opened for the purpose

Virginia Monongalia County SC

Samuel Swearingin of full age this day personally appeared before me T. S. Haymond one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace for said County and made oath that some years since say 1811 or

12 he lived in the same house with Peter Hammer that in looking over some of the papers of Peter Hammer he recollect seeing a regular discharge signed by some officer of the Revolution discharging the said Hammer from the service of the United States that said discharge set forth that Hammers was a Soldier of the Pennsylvania line he also recollects that in the discharge there was a written furlough rapt carefully up and further this deponent sayeth not

Given under my hand this 26th day of October 1825 T. S. Haymond JP

State of Virginia } ss.
county of Monongalia }

On this 28th day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared before the County court of Monongalia, Peter Hammer, a resident of said county aged seventy five 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. That on the 14th of February in the year 1775, he enlisted for one year in the army of the United States with capt. Michael Dowdell of the Rifle corps of the first Pennsylvania regiment he beleives – that being under age and an apprentice, his mother with the assent of his captain, hired a substitute in his place, this was about three months after his enlistment – this enlistment was at Little York, Pennsylvania.

That about the middle of June 1776 there was a battalion marched from York county, Pennsylvania, under the command of Col. Doleson, that he was attached to a company of Light Infantry, commanded by Capt. Bailey – from York we marched to Lancaster. from thence to Philadelphia where we remained in the barracks three weeks, from thence we went up the Deleware [sic: Delaware River] in sloops to Trenton, where we remained about two weeks, during which he assissted to make horse shoe nails in the shop of — Howell, to shoe the horses belonging to the army – from Trenton we marched to Princeton, thence to Brunswick, and from thence to Woodbridge near Amboy – from thence to Elizabeth town, where we remained in the barricks about a month, whilst here some of our battalion, were determined to return, but Gen'l. [Israel] Putnam stood up on a barrel of whiskey in an orchard before the door of the barricks and made a speech, which had the effect of determining all to march on – some of our militia were disatisfied because the Col. Donelson had resigned and returned home – from Elizabeth town we marched to Newark which he thinks must have been in August 1776. from Newark we marched to the North river below Kings bridge, to prevent the enemy landing from their ships, which we done – from thence we returned to the Hackensack and Pasaiac [sic: Passaic] rivers, and next day went to Bargaen-point [sic: Bergen Point NJ], where we remained untill some time in September – here the Flying camp was formed, in which he volunteered to serve, under Capt. Christian Stake, Capt. Bayley being promoted to the rank of Major –

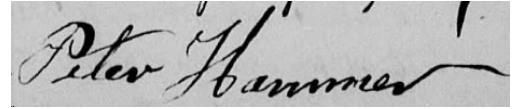
That soon after joining these troops we were marched up the North river to near Fort Washington, that whilst there by some of the militia returning home to York county, he was persuaded to return home, and finish learning his trade – that he hired a substitute by the name of Simmons, and returned home he thinks about the month of October 1776.

That in the month of March 1780, at Gettes' tavern [sic: Gettys's Tavern at present Gettysburg] in York now Adams county Pennsylvania, he enlisted as a private soldier with Capt James Mackey, for one year – that he recollects the names of John White, Jonathan Neely, James McElhaney and Robert McCorkle were enlisted in the same company – that he cannot recollect the name of the regiment – that this company and other companies were engaged in taking refugies and tories – that about the first of July we marched to Lancaster, thence to Philadelphia, thence to Trenton, thence crossed the Rariton [sic: Raritan River] at Millstone, from thence we went to the North river near Kings bridge thence down the river to Powles hook [sic: Paulus Hook], and soon after joined the rigiment commanded by Col. Thompson, as well as he can recollect – that he thinks it must have been in December 1780 we crossed the north river, some in boats and some over Kings bridge – that the troops went into winter quarters at a small village, on the road that led out towards Ticonderoga, not more than twenty miles from the north river – that whilst here he was very ill and about six weeks before the expiration of his enlistment he was

discharged by Capt. Mackey, who gave him a written discharge, which he lost or mislaid in the year 1811.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



On this 25th day of February, in the year 1833, Peter Hammer, the same person named in the foregoing declaration, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following additional declaration, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot positively swear as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades:

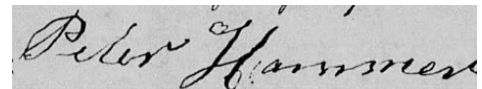
For three months, as a private in Capt. Dowdells company of Riflemen of [blank] Pennsylvania regiment – he is positive it was not less than three months, because he recollects it must have been last of May or first of June 1775 he was discharged.

For four months, as a private in Capt. Bayley & Capt. Stakes' companies as stated in his former declaration – he recollects that it was last of October 1776 when he reached home and he could not have been more than ten days going home.

For ten months, as a private in Capt. Mackey company, as stated in his former declaration, he is confident that it was more than ten months.

That he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services, that he was born in Bucks county Pennsylvania, at the age of six he was removed to New Jersey, and after three years residence in that state removed to York county Pennsylvania, where he resided until he was twenty seven [latter number unclear], from York he removed to Frederick county Maryland, and remained there four years, from thence to Fayette county Pennsylvania, where he resided eight years, from thence to Allegany county where he resided five years, thence returned into Fayette county, where he lived until the year 1810 and then removed into this county, where he has ever since remained – that he has the bible in which his birth is recorded, and it is recorded in Lutheran church in Bucks county Pennsylvania

That he recollect Col. Henry Miller, from Little York, who was a regular officer – also Col. [Daniel] Morgan from Virginia, – Gen'l. Washington, [Anthony] Wayne & Putnam he has frequently seen – also Capt. Lucas or Lucans from Little York, Capt. Joshua Mincher, and a great many other whose names have escaped his recollection – that he has a long time been personally acquainted with the Rev'd. Joseph A Shackelford, Thomas S. Haymond esq'r. James G Watson, Ralph Berkshire and many other respectable persons of this county, who he believes can testify as to his veracity and belief of his services – that the discharge alluded to in the deposition of Samuel Swearingen, was signed by Capt. James Mackey, which was lost in the year 1811, that he recollects Col. Thomas Hartley was a lawyer of Little York, and a colonel in the Regular service. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



LANCASTER: Printed by FRANCIS BAILEY.

York County in the State of Pennsylvania

I DO hereby certify, that Peter Hammer hath voluntarily taken and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity, as directed by an Act of General Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed the fifth Day of December; 1778. Witness my Hand and Seal, the Eleventh Day of October Anno Domini 1779

No 103 [signed] Fred'k. Eichelberger (L.S.)

[The following report is by Washington G. Singleton, a US District Attorney who investigated hundreds of pension applicants in present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote "Entitled" on the report.]

Peter Hammer – draws \$50

I the undersigned Peter Hammer at the requisition of the Secretary of War, give the following statement of my age and services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution to Wit – I was born on the 19th day of August 1757.

In February 1775. I enlisted under Capt. Dowdal at York Town Pennsylvania for one year. Just before the company marched (to wit in Summer of the same year) my Mother having learned for the first time that I had enlisted "Made a to do" about it and would not let me go. She advanced \$14. I raised the balance of the money & Hired a man to take my place who marched to Boston & there died some short time before his time expired.

In June 1776 I was drafted & marched from York Town under Capt. William Baley to Bargin Point New Jersey, a Regt. marched from Pennsylvania at same time under Colonel [Michael] Swope. Served out the term of two months at that station.

in the next succeeding August I volunteered in the flying camp under Capt Starke for nine months, was stationed up & Down the North River guarding that region of country & preventing the British from landing. I remained in this service until the latter end of October at which time I hired a substitute to take the balance of my time. I was in service 3 months – in this service I was under Col Swope.

In March 1780 I volunteered in York city Pen under Capt James Macky for one year – marched to New Jersey then on the North River above New York near Kings bridge & then down to Hackinsack; in the bargin settlement – we then joined Col Thompson's Regt "which was kept as a sort of guard" taking refugees and Tories several of whom were taken and some of them shot – the Regt. was removed from the last mentioned station across the river into the state of New York to a little town the name of which I cant now recollect. I was discharged about two months before my time was out. I took sick and applied for a furlough – my Captain replied that my letter[?] being nearly out he could give me a discharge – which he did do.

in the fall of 1782 I was two months guarding British Prisoners at York town [surrendered on 19 Oct 1781] under Capt Jno. OBlannis [?: John OBlannis]

Thos. P Ray [Thomas P. Ray, Clerk of Monongalia County Court] wrote my Declaration – told him same in substance I now tell.

In testimony that this statement contains the truth I hereto subscribe my name.

Peter Hammer

A Copy/ W. G Singleton/ Nov. 28, 1834

NOTES:

Peter Hammer may have applied unsuccessfully under the pension act of 1818, but no such application is in the file.

On 2 Aug 1852 Sarah Rice, 60, of Marion County VA, applied for a pension stating that she married Peter Hammer some time after 1800, and he died on 18 April 1838. She then married Isaac Rice of Marion County, who died on 19 Aug 1851. The file includes a copy of a record of the marriage by Rev. Joseph A. Shackleford between Peter Hammer and Sarah Pearce on 17 Sep 1812.

A letter dated 20 May 1853 inquires on behalf of Sarah Rice whether any pension was still owed in the name of "Peter or John P. Hammer."