

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Catlett R1809
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Susan Catlett VA

[Some of the documents in the federal pension file appear to be copies from the [rejected-claim file in the Library of Virginia](#):]

These May certify that I have seen and read Major Peter Catlett comition a lieutenant in the army of the U.S. in the virginia line sign'd. by his excelleny George Washington [sic: see endnote] given under my hand this 20th day of apriel 1829
Caleb White

These are to certify that I was acquainted with Peter Catlett when he was a lieutennaent in the US army and in the Virgina line and I was in the army with him and did duty with lutennant Catlet I was in the militia Mr Catlett the regular army and in Collo Gibsons [probably John Gibson's] redgment given under my hand this 20th day of apriel 1829
Jacob White [possibly pension application W833]

These may certify that I was a soldier of the revolution during the war and acquainted with Lieutenant Peter Catlett and was informed of his being wounded in the battle at James Town [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] under the command of General Anthony Wayne but did not see the wound untill he was nearly recovered. I do not at this advanced period and this my declining time of life recollect the year of the battle above alluded to I may suffice to say that my name may be found on the pension list
George Gwinnup [pension application W7919; see endnote]

The above was signed and acknowledged before me at my office in hamilton County and State of Ohio
29th apriel 1830
Jacob White J.P.

[The following is among the [rejected-claim files of the Library of Virginia](#):]

Upon the application of Mj'r Peter Catlett of " [?] who informs me he has lost his commission as a Lieutenant in the Virginia line in the Revolutionary War and thereby is under the necessity of seeking evidence to satisfy the proper department authorized by an act of Congress to receive and determine upon less evidence than the Commission itself the [illegible word] of Applications for pay allowed by an act of Congress passed in 1822[?] providing for Officers and Soldiers who were wounded or disabled whilst in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War. In obedience to his Maj'r. Catlett's application I do hereby certify that he was a Lieut. in the army of the United States, and that I have been on duty with him, he belonging to the Virginia line, and I was a Militia Captain from the State of Pennsylvania. at the time I knew Major Peter Catlett as a Lieutenant in the United States Army he was attached to Colonel Gibsons Regiment and it is with much pleasure I have an oportunity saying that he was considered an active & meritorious officer in the Army of my Country engaged in achieving the independence of the United States

Given from under my hand this 11th day of May in the year of our Lord 1829. [signed] Jacob White

Newport Ky/ 31st August 1829.

I certify that I have carefully examined Major Peter Catlett, who alledges that he received a wound at the battle of James Town of Virginia, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety one [sic], which wound was occasioned by a Rifle, or Musket Ball, which penetrated the thigh just above the pattella – thereby disabling him from performing manual labour.

Given under my hand the day and date above written.

[John] Bennett/ Acting Surgeon US Army

The deposition of Zeally Moss [pension application W24164] of Switzerland County Indiana who is now at Burlington Boone County Kentucky on a visit he having formerly resided in said County of Boone. The said Moss being now about eighty four years of age & first duly sworn, deposes and saith, that in the time of the American Revolution he resided in Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County Virginia & was himself engaged in the service of the United States in the Quarter Master department & he then was acquainted with Peter Catlett who died a few years ago in Campbell County Kentucky, & whose widow Susan Catlett is now about to make application to the Government of the United States for such pay as may coming to said Peter who was an officer in the Revolution this deponent well recollects that said Peter was an Officer in the Continental army, in time of the American Revolution he was a Lieutenant and acted as such until the close of the Revolution in the Virginia line & he this deponent thinks he was either in Col. Gibson's or Col. Spencer's Reg't.

This deponent recollects to have seen said Catlett in the service at several different times, & places, & his recollection of him & his services is much strengthened by his having seen and conversed with said Catlett in Kentucky after the close of the Revolution and further this deponent saith not & hereto subscribes his name this 25th of March 1834 Zeally Moss

The deposition of George H Berry of Boone County Kentucky who is aged seventy four years next June taken before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for said County of Boone the said Berry being first duly sworn deposes and saith, that in time of the American Revolution he the said Berry lived in the State of Virginia & was in the service of the United & while in the service he recollects to have seen Peter Catlett who died some two or three years ago in Covington Campbell county Ky & whose widow Susan Catlett is now about making an application to the Gov't for pay for the services of s'd Peter Catlett as an officer in the Revolution. this deponent well recollects that said Peter Catlett was an officer in time of the American revolution in the Virginia line & on the Continental establishment. This deponent recollects to have seen & known the s'd Peter as an officer in the Regular service in Gen'l Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army, & he knows said Peter Catlett was at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781; see endnote]. He also well recollects that said Catlett was sent out by the Superior Officers as commander of several scouting parties at different times & places. he being an active sprightly officer. this deponent would not presume to state positively what grade the said Peter held as officer but he is confident was not under that of a Lieutenant and from this deponents recollection of said Catlett he was in the service & at the Siege of York when Cornwallis was take & surrendered [19 Oct 1781] and that he continued in the service of the United States as an officer as afr'd until the the close of the American revolution.

This deponent would farther state that his recollection of said Peter Catlett & his services in the revolution is strengthened & made more fresh in his mind from the circumstance of having frequently seen & conversed with said Peter Catlett in Kentucky within the last twenty years. In testimony whereof the said Geo H Berry doth hereto set his hand & seal this 28th of March 1834 G. H. Berry

His ex'l. Littleton W. Tazewell/ Gov. of Va. [31 Mar 1834 - 30 Apr 1836]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an act entitled an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved on the 15th of May 1828. I Peter Catlett of Covington in the County of Campbell and State of Kentucky do hereby declare that I was an officer in the Continental line of the army of the Revolution, and served as such to the end of the war, at which period I was a Lieutenant in the 7th Regiment of the Virginia line commanded by Colo'l Elias Edmunds [see endnote]. And I also declare that I afterwards received a certificate commonly called a commutation certificate for a sum equal to the amount of five years full pay, which sum was offered by the resolves of Congress of the 22^d of March 1783 instead of half pay for life to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of October 1780.

And I further declare that I have received of the United States as a pensioner since the 3 day of march 1826 no money. [Certified 30 Jul 1835] [signed] P. Catlett

[The following is among the [rejected-claim files of the Library of Virginia](#):]

I John Casey [pension application S30308] of Scott County Kentucky was a regular soldier and belong to Col William Washington light Dragoons and was well acquainted with the Late Peter Catlett before he ever entered into the Services and well know that He was an officer on the Virgin Continental Line During 1778 and 9 and some time thereafter but at this tim I can not say how long he served before or after the above name date and what offices Held but do well know that he was an officer on the virginea Continetial lin and that he commanded as such som Considerable tim Given from under my hand and seal this 29 day Augst 1836

[Capitalization partly corrected.]

County of Boone }

State of Kentucky }

On this day Personally appeared before me the undersign a Justices of the Peice in and for the County Aforesaid Susan Catlett a resident of the County of Boone state of Kentucky Aged Sixty five years who being first duly Sworn according to Law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made by the act of Congress Passed July 7th 1838 entitle an act granting half Pay and Pension to Cirtain Widows That she is the widow of the late Major Peter Catlett who was a Lieutenant on the virginea lin during the war of the Revolution and she well knows that she saw his commission as Lieutenant of the Revolution and other old revolutionary papers which she distroyed herself with many other old papers which she considered of no value. She is unable at this time to state by whom the commission was signed but well recollect that it was a commission as lieutenant during war of the [illegible word] She has been informed by her late husband the said Maj Peter Catlett and others and believe it to be the truth that he served at least five years as a Lieutenant on the virginea lin during the war of the Revolution and that he served as such untill the close of the said war and was honorable discharged She refers to his Declaration and the evidence on file for further evidece of his services he having during his life applied for a pension land bounty and other Pay for his services during the war of the Revolution all of which will appear by reference to records or evidece on file at Richmond Virgia and Washington City Destrict of Columbia

That she was married to the said Peter Catlett in the City of New York in the State of New York on the nineteenth day of November seventeen hundred and eighty nine and she refers to the records of the First baptist Church in the said city and presents the copy of the record as made out by the presant paster the Elder William Parkerson which is the best evidence in her power to produce and her husband the aforesaid Peter Catlett died on the eighteenth day of May eighteen hundred and thirty one and she has remained a widow ever since his death That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the services but the marriage took place prior to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninty four viz at the time above stated Given from under my hand this 10th day of Febrey 1839

[signed] Susan Catlett

NOTES:

Letters in the federal and state rejected-claims files state that no record could be found of Peter Catlett in the 7th Virginia Continental Regiment of Virginia, which was commanded by Col. John Gibson 12 Feb 1781- 1 Jan 1783. Col. Elias Edmunds commanded the Virginia State Artillery Regiment Jun 1778 - Feb 1782. Neither of these officers nor the 7th Virginia Regiment was at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. George Gwinnup was in the New Jersey militia. In his own pension application (W7919) he stated that he was in one battle, not named, but it is unlikely that New Jersey troops were at the Battle of Green Springs

Plantation or would have known a Virginia officer there.

Chattin Pollard, pension application W4, referred to a Lt. Peter Catlett in the Frederick County Militia at the Siege of Yorktown.

On 27 Aug 1826 Richard S. Wheatley of Port William KY stated that Peter Catlett, then living in Newport in Campbell County KY, was keeping a tavern in Washington in Mason County KY in 1808, when he had seen Catlett's commission as a Lieutenant on parchment with a large seal. Wheatley also stated that he had seen the commission again after moving to Boone County KY in 1820 while acting as Catlett's lawyer in many suits.

On 5 May 1829 Caleb White of Ohio certified that as an "inmate in the home of Major Catlett in the state of Kentucky in the year [illegible] and in the removal of the Major to Virginia Mistress Catlett" asked him to help file his papers, and he "came across his continental commission as a Lieutenant in the Virginia line...." He recollected that the commission was signed by John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress (May 1775 - Oct 1777), and was not deemed worth saving. Officers in the Continental Army were commissioned by the Continental Congress, not by Gen. George Washington.

The federal pension file contains the following dated 21 Nov 1839: "This is to certify, That, (agreeably to the Records of Marriage kept in the First Baptist church, in the city of New York,) on November the nineteenth in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and eighty nine, the rites of matrimony, according to law, were celebrated, in the said city, between Mr. Peter Catalack (alias) Catlett, and Miss Susannah (alias) Susan Meeks, of New York by Dr. Benjamin Foster, then pastor of said church. Wm. Parkinson present pastor of The First Baptist church, in the City of New York." Susan Maria Burr stated that she had been a bridesmaid at the marriage of Peter Catlett and Susan Meeks, daughter of Edward Meeks.

On 27 March 1834 Susan Catlett stated that "within two or three years before the death of her said husband, they broke up house keeping where they had lived for many years & her said husband had to visit Virginia upon business that detained him a year or two & she this petitioner had to visit her relations in New York on business which also detained her, & in fact her said husband died in Covington Campbell county Kentucky in July 1831 at which time she this petitioner was in New York." She further stated that "she is now left a destitute & helpless, advanced in years being now over fifty five years of age & without a home & dependant as it were on strangers for a home, & for a support, being far distant from any earthly relation." The file contains the letter dated 20 May 1831 informing her of her husband's death and of his burial on 19 May 1831 "with Honors War." The letter stated that "He very nearly recovered his first indisposition a few days ago he rode over to Hugh Glen's, when It was quite rainy and disagreeable, and on the day after he returned was taken with the second attack..." and "died perfectly easy...."

The last will and testament of Peter Catlett, probated on 2 Aug 1831, gave his entire estate to his wife, Susan Catlett, including 1000 acres in Muhlenberg County KY and his farm in Boone County on the Ohio. These properties were to be sold and the money invested with the interest used for his wife's support. He also gave to his wife the household furniture and silver. The will states the following: "the slaves which I have are but two - Ned & Anderson - Ned has displeased me in his conduct. I think he had better be sold - this I will leave to my wife's own pleasure.... I wish Anderson at the age of Twenty one to have his freedom or at the death of my wife if he should turn out to be an honest fellow." The will also expresses the wish that his wife leave whatever remains at her death to "Caleb & Elizabeth White - formerly Elizabeth Catlett."

On 23 Dec 1836 Susan Catlett applied for bounty land. In a petition to Congress dated 5 Dec 1836 Susan Catlett stated that at Peter Catlett's death there were no surviving children.

On 24 May 1839 Thomas B. Catlett of Scott County KY, a relative of Peter Catlett, certified that Peter and Susan Catlett lived as man and wife.