

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Nicholas Madeira R21708

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Sep 2015.

State of Virginia ss
county of Monongalia

On this 22^d day of October in the year 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the County court of Monongalia now sitting Nicholas Madera, a resident of Morgantown in said county aged sixty nine 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 passed 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States, at the age of about fifteen years, in the year 1777 as a musician (drummer) at Reading Pennsylvania, under a captain whose name he cannot recollect in a regiment of Pennsylvania militia, under the command of Col [blank] and Major Linley – that we marched to Chester, where we joined the main army. Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne commanding the Pennsylvania line. Gen'l. Washington was at Chester he believes when they arrived there – from Chester we marched to Brandywine, in which battle he was in [11 Sep 1777], from that battle, we marched back to Chester, from thence he marched with the army towards Germantown, on the road to which he was discharged, having served out two months, the term of his engagement, in the militia of Pennsylvania.

That he again entered the service of the United States, for seven months, as a substitute for [blank] in a company of militia commanded by Capt Kennedy, attached to the seventh Pennsylvania regiment, commanded by Major or Col Chambers being called seven-months men, at Reading in the year 1780 – that from Reading we marched to Philadelphia, and he with others were sworn in, before Nicholson mayor of that city – from Philadelphia to Trenton we went in a sloop – from Trenton we marched to the neighbourhood of Morristown and joined the regiment – that Gen'l. Wayne was commander of the first Division, and Gen'l. [Arthur] St. Clair the second of the troops then there – that we immediately marched towards the North river, and crossed the river he believes at a ferry called King's ferry, when we soon met the enemy, and had to retreat across the ferry – we then went down the river to Stoney point [sic: Stony Point], where we remained eight or ten days during which time Gen'l. Arnold, deserted to the enemy, going on board of a ship at Stoney point [sic: at West Point, 25 Sep 1780]. on his way from West Point to New York – that whilst at Stoney point the Commissary refused to furnish us flour, for five or six days fearing the flour was poisoned, as treason had appeared in the camp during which the troops lived on meat and apples – from Stoney point the Pennsylvania and Delaware troops under Gen'l Wayne, marched to Bargain point [sic: Bergen Point in NJ], where we remained over a Saturday night, and slept with our knapsacks on, expecting an engagement – from Bargain point we went directly to Morristown and built our huts for winter quarters – that he thinks it must have been toward spring, that the Pennsylvania line revolted in consequence of some misunderstanding about those who enlisted for three years and during the war – that he recollects he was on Gen'l. Wayne's guard the night of the revolt [1 Jan 1781] – that the Pennsylvania line moved off to Trenton, where they were met by the Board of War (as they were called) and a number of the enlisted troops discharged, and those that had enlisted for during the war returned to duty – that at Trenton, he was discharged, after having served the said seven months, which discharge he has long since lost –

That he again entered the service of the United States, in the spring of 1781, by enlisted with Capt. Fasick at Reading Pennsylvania for one year, to join the French Artillery – from Reading Capt. Fasick, with sixteen or eighteen enlisted men, marched to Morristown, where we joined the French troops consisting of three regiments, besides the horse and one German regiment all under the command of Rochambeau, – from Morristown, we marched by Trenton, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] and Yorktown, where we was at the time of Gen'l Cornwallis's surrender [19 Oct 1781], being engaged in the whole siege – that the French troops were ordered to remain in Virginia during the winter, and he with them wintered at Williamsburgh – that in the

spring of 1782, he march with the French troops to the North, and about the latter part of summer he was discharged at a place called Crompen [sic: Crompond] in the state of New York after having served sixteen or seventeen months, although he had enlisted but for one year – that his discharge was signed by a Mr. Owet, a French artillery officer, and he believes a Major, which he has long since lost – That he beleives it was in the summer of the year 1778 or 1779 he marched as a drummer, to a company of militia, commanded as well as he can recollect by Capt. Miller from Reading in an expedition against the Indians & Tories near Menasing [sic: Minisink], on the Deleware river, that Major John Cunies or Konies, was along, a small man with a hump-back, also adjutant Lighthizer, that they marched through Alenstown [sic: Allentown], Bethlehem Eastown [sic: Easton] and thence to the village of Menasing – that we had no engagement with the indians or tories, that after remaining two months at that village we returned to Reading, and was discharged by a general discharge – that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services, except that part of thos services can he beleives be proven by his brother Michael [Michael Madeira, pension application R6825], who lives near Reading Pennsylvania – that he was born in Reading, on the 26th of December 1763, that his father kept a record of his age in a large bible which he supposes is in the possession of some of his family, that he supposes his birth is entered in the Presbyterian church at Reading, or the time of his baptism. that in 1789 he removed to Frederick town Maryland, and lived there about six years, and from thence to this county, where he has ever since resided, that he was acquainted with Col. Stuart, commander of the 2^d or 9th Penn'a. regiment, two Butlers Cols. of Pennsylvania line, Major Sigler, Major Doyle, Capt. Bush, and other regular officers, belonging to the Pennsylvania line besides those already named, but he has forgotten their names – that he cannot recollect the names of any other militia officers than those already named. that he has for many years been personally acquainted with Col. Sam'l Hannay, Col Dudley Evans, Rev'd Joseph A Shackelford, Matthew Fay esq'r. Capt. John Evans, and many other respectable citizens of this county, who he beleives can testify as his character for veracity, and the general beleif as to his services He hereby relinquishes evry claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



Nicholas B Madera esq. post master at Morgantown in said county, aged fifty fours, after being duly sworn before the said court, doth depose and say. That he recollects frequently hearing his uncle Nicholas Madera, who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration, more than twenty years ago and since, describing some of the scenes that occurred at the surrender of Cornwallis, that he has no doubt the said Nicholas served in the army of the Revolution, as he has stated

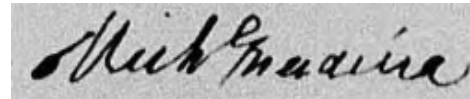
Sworn to and subscribed, on the day and year aforesaid [signed] N B Madera

State of Pennsylvania

Berks County Ss

Be it known that On this 15th day of April AD one Thousand eight hundred and thirty three before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County of Berks personally appeared Michael Madera a Resident citizen of the County of Berks and State aforesaid who being duly swon according to Law doth on his Oath depose and say that Nicholas Madera formerly of Reading County and State aforesaid and now a Resident citizen of Morgantown County of Monongahala in the State of Virginia was a Soldier in the service of the United in the war of the Revolution and this deponent declares on his solemn Oath that said Nicholas Madera served in the said war as follows entered at the age of fifteen years a Drumer musician in the spring of the year AD 1776 into Captain Harris Copa [Company?] Regular Troop Infantry entered in the Borough of Reading and to the best of this deponents knowlege Colonel Chambers [possibly James Chambers] commanded the Regt and that the said Nicholas did continue this service untill the year AD 1777 and knows that a full year had elapsed in said service, at his said Nicholas Maderas returning home, from the Armeey and this deponent says that

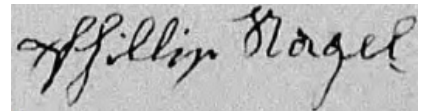
Nicholas Madera aforesaid again entered in Reading County & State aforesaid AD 1778 the latter part of August in Captain Millers Copay of Militia from here Nicholas Madera Marched up the Delaware To a certain place called Menasing in Penn continued this service until the Latter end of the Month of October which service was Two full Months. Major John Cunius acted in the Regt. and this deponent says that Nicholas Madera also enlisted again for seven Months County & State aforesaid with others: and that he did not return home untill seven Months had fully elapsed deponent can not recollect the year & Month which he entered nor the officers – and that the said Nicholas entered County & State aforesaid again in the spring of the year AD 1781 duly Enlisted into Captain John Fesig Company of Artillery Enlisted for the Term of one year in the service of which he was attached to the French Artilleries then in the service of the United States that this deponent knows that Nicholas Madera served faithfull in this service haveing then in his power a written discharge for 12 Months service and that said discharge was signed by a certain French officer and that this deponent had received said discharge for safe keeping for the said Nicholas Madera aforesaid and that said discharge lay many years in this deponents Desk and has since been lost or mislaid and that said Nicholas Madera served first engagment a Drumer and the other services was in the Musquetry & the last sevice Artilerist and that said Nicholas served in no other Capacity than that of a Soldier as aforesaid and that said Nicholas Madera is now of seventy one years of Age and that their is no church Record that contains his Age
[signed: Mich'l Madeira]



State of Pennsylvania

Berks County Ss

Be it known that On this 15th day of April AD one Thousand eight hundred and thirty three before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Berks personally appeared Philip Nagle [Phillip Nagel, pension application S41912] a Soldier of the Revolutionary war a Citizen of the Borough of Reading County and State aforesaid who being first duly swor according to Law doth on his solemn Oath depose and say, that he knows to his certain knowledge that Nicholas Madira aforesaid served in the war of the Revolution a Drumer in Captain Sebastian Millers company Militia Musquetry, and entered into said Company at Reading Penn in the Latter end of August of the year 1778 and that said Nicholas Madira was at a certain place called Menasing & continued this service two Months untill the Latter end of the Month of October when he was Honourably discharged from his said service
[signed partly in German, Phillip Nagel]



War Off Depart't/ Pen. Off/ May 27 1833

Sir [Thomas P. Ray] The claim of Nicholas Medeira has been carefully reexamined and also the testimony of Michael Madera in support of his claim.

By comparing the declaration of Nicholas, with the affidavit of Michael, I find them so variant as to render the claim inadmissible

The claimant says he served in 1777 two months, and in 1780, seven months, and that he enlisted in 1781 for 12 months, but actually served 16 or 17 and received a discharge.

The affiant Michael testifies with apparent confidence that Nicholas entered the service in 1776, and that he knows that he was in service one full year. That in the year 1778 his brother again entered the same for 2 months, and that he also enlisted again for 7 months – and that in the spring of 1781 he again enlisted for, and served during twelve months in a company of Artillery, and that he (Michael had seen and kept in his possession his said discharge, for 12 months for some time.

The name of Nicholas Medera should appear upon the Muster rolls, as they are very [undeciphered word], and as it does not so appear, evidence has been deemed necessary – But the witness

having proved so much more than the applicant declares for, it has tended very much to raise doubts in my mind as to his competency as a witness.

The papers are placed upon our files. [signed illegibly]

Morgantown 11th June 1833

James L Edwards esq'r [Commissioner of Pensions] Sir,

I have read to Nicholas Madera your letter of the 27th ult he says it is strange his name cannot be found on the rolls – that he enlisted under Capt. John Fasick a german who lived at Reading Penn. that Fasick joined (he believes) the Saxony regiment under Count Rochambeau, that at Williamsburg Va. Fasick was dismissed, cashiered or resigned, and he was discharged by an artillery officer. Madera says that at the seige of Yorktown 24 men & himself attended to two feild peices, that he cannot recollect who his captain was after Fasick. He says that Count Rochambeau had four regt's. & a Core of Huzzars [sic: Corps of Hussars], as he marched to Yorktown

The first	was called	Berbonny [sic: Bourbonnois]	– white coats and black facings. French
2 ^d		Roeldepone [sic: Royal Deux Ponts]	– Light blue coats & yellow facings.. German
3 ^d		Sarsonny [sic: Soissonois]	– White coats & red facings. French
4 th		Sendash [sic: Saintonge]	– white coats & red facings. French

each had 4 field peices.

The Hazzars – Blue roundabouts & yellow edging.

Madera is of german descent and it is difficult for me to understand his pronunciation of names.

I know nothing about the character of Michael Madera, the witness, but I have no doubt he is mistaken.

Nicholas is confident his declaration is correct except he omitted two months service at Minnising.

There is no man living in this county, who has a better reputation for being in the Revolution, and I assure you that his character for veracity is indisputable. I hope from this memorandum his name may be found, and if you will permit Mr French S Evans to see this letter I have no doubt he will interest himself to a careful examination of the Rolls. I am respt'y Yr. obt. st Thos. P. Ray

[The following petition dated 11 Dec 1833 was not successful.]

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

Your petitioner Nicholas Madera, a citizen of the county of Monongalia, in the state of Virginia, respectfully represents. That he was born in Berks county Pennsylvania, on the 26yh of December 1763 that about the middle of July in the year 1777 as well as he can now recollect, he went out as a substitute for a man who was drafted for two months – that he was then employed by his captain whose name he has forgotten as a drummer – that he marched with the company from Reading Pennsylvania, to Chester, where we joined the main army Gen'l. Wayne commanding the Pennsylvania line – that he was in the battle of Brandy wine from which he retreated to Chester, where he now beleives he was discharged, after having served the said two months – that he cannot recollect the name of the Colonel of his regiment, but the Majors name was Finley.

That in the summer he believes of the year 1778 he again entered the service as a substitute, and was employed by Capt. Sebastin Miller as a drummer, that he marched from Reading against the Indians and Tories, – upon the arrival of our company at Allentown, we were joined by another company, and the two were commanded by Major Cuneous of Reading – that he had three brothers in the same company, Michael, Casper, and Christian [Michael Madeira, Casper Madera W7406, Christian Madera S38180] – that from Allen town, we marched to Bethlehem, thence to Eastown thence up the Delaware to a settlement called Mennesing where we remained about a month, from thence we returned, and was discharged at Reading after having served two months.

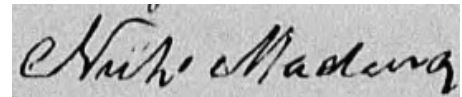
That in the month of May 1780, he again entered the services, with the seven-months troops, as a substitute, in a company raised at Reading Pennsylvania, and command by Capt. Kennedy attached to the seventh Pennsylvania regiment commanded as well as he can recollect by Major or Col. Chambers – from Reading we marched to Philadelphia, and was sworn in before Nicholson, Mayor of that city – from

Philadelphia we went to Trenton in a sloop from Trenton to the neighbourhood of Morristown and joined the regiment – that Gen'l Wayne was commander of the first division and Gen'l St Clair the second. The seven months men were attached to these troops, because of the loss of the Pennsylvania line at Peoli [sic: Paoli, 21 Sep 1777] – that we immediately marched towards the North river, and crossed the river he believes at Kings ferry, where we soon met the enemy and had to retreat across the ferry – we then went down the river to stoney point, where we remained eight or ten days during which time Gen'l. Arnold deserted to the enemy – that whilst at stoney point for five or six days the commissary refused to furnish us flour, fearing that poison had been mixed with it, as treason had appeared in camp, during which we lived on meat and apples – from Stoney point the Pennsylvania and Delaware troops under Gen'l Wayne marched to Bargain point where we remained over a Saturday night and slept with our napsacks on expecting an engagement – from Bargain point, we went directly to Morristown and built our huts for winter quarters – that during the winter, the Pennsylvania line revolted and he recollects he was on Gen'l. Wayne's guard the night of the revolt – that immediately after the revolt, Capt Kennedy's company was discharged at Trenton, that his discharge was given at the same place after he had served more than seven months which discharge he has long since lost.

That he entered the service of the United States, in the spring of 1781 by enlisting under Capt. Fasig or Fasick for one year at Reading Pennsylvania – that upon Fasick enlisting sixteen or eighteen men, he was ordered to march them to Morristown, where he was attached to the French troops, then on their march to York town Virginia, under Count Rochambeau – from Morristown we marched by Trenton, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Fredericksburgh and Williamsburgh to Yorktown, where he was at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and during the whole siege – that he remained with the French troops during the whole winter – that Fasick was cashiered, whilst at York town – that in the spring of 1782 he marched with the French troops to the north and in the latter part of the summer he was discharged at Crown point in New York after he had served a period of not less than sixteen months – that his discharge was signed by a Mr. Owet a French artillery officer; and he believes a major, which he has long since lost.

Your petitioner further states, that he made a declaration of his services before the court of said county (but at the time omitted to state his services in the expedition to Mennasing) in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress of June 1832, but the officer at the head of the Pension office rejected his application for the reasons contained in the accompanying letter.

He therefore prays that an act may be passed placing his name on the Pension Roll of the United States.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicholas Madewell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.