

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jacob Fleisher S2214

f26PA/SCSea

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/18/09 rev'd 2/17/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

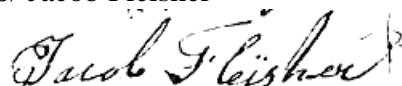
Pennsylvania Berks County

On this 13th day of June A.D. 1818 Before me James Diemer Esquire One of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County personally appeared Jacob Fleisher of Bern Township County aforesaid aged fifty-seven years, who upon his solemn oath doth depose and say that he enlisted as a private soldier in the service of the United States in the year 1782 in the Borough of Reading County aforesaid by Lieut. Scull in a company Commanded by Capt. Joiner on the ship *Carolina* [*South Carolina*]¹ that the ship and Crew were taken prisoners by the British in sight of the New York Light house that he together with the rest of the said company was put on board the Prison ship called "*Old Jersey*" and there kept a prisoner until after [the] War that from the time of his enlistment until his discharge was upwards of one year when he was released from Prison. And that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Jas. Diemer

S/ Jacob Fleisher



Berks County On the 13th day of June A.D. 1818 Before me, James Diemer Esq. One of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County personally appeared Michael Spats² of the Borough of Reading County aforesaid who upon his solemn Oath according to law doth depose and say that he is well acquainted with Samuel Fleisher named in the above Affidavit, that he is the same Samuel Fleisher, who enlisted and served in the revolutionary War on board the Ship *Carolina*, and that this deponent also enlisted and served on Board the aforesaid Ship and that he is in reduced circumstances & Stands in need of the assistance of his country for Support.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jas. Diemer

S/ Michael Spats, X his mark

¹ James A. Lewis, *Neptune's Militia: The Frigate South Carolina during the American Revolution*, Kent, Ohio: The Kent State University Press, 1999

² Sic, [Michael Spatz S3957](#)

[p 5]

Berks County

On this 25th day of January A.D. 1819 Before me James Diemer Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County personally appeared John Fox³ of the County of Burks who upon his solemn oath according to law, doth depose & say that he is well acquainted with Samuel Fleisher the claimant in the within application named, that he is the same Jacob Fleisher who enlisted and served in the Revolutionary War on Board the Ship *Carolina*, and that this deponent also enlisted and served on the aforesaid Ship, that the ship and crew were taken prisoner and remained prisoners at War until the close of the War, and that this Deponent and the claimant enlisted in the Borough of Reading Berks County in the year A.D. 1782 And that the said claimant is in indigent Circumstances and stands in need of his Country for support.

Sworn & subscribed.

S/ John Fox, X his mark

[p 8]

State of Pennsylvania Berks County

Be it known that on the 9th day of April 1832 before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County of Berks personally appeared John Tobias of said County who made Oath in due form of law doth depose and say that he is personally acquainted with Jacob Fleisher named in a Petition to the Congress of the United States and declares that the said Jacob Fleisher is very poor and far advanced in Age and is afflicted with the shaking palsy and is entirely disabled of performing Labor and that the following are all the property which said Fleisher possesses one tin plate stove, one table, one Lot crockery, a small lot chairs, several iron pots, a small lot of kitchen furniture, 2 beds & 2 beds stands and that said Fleisher has no Real Estate of any description whatever, and that said Fleisher was by profession a German School Master but by reason of bodily infirmities he was unable to pursue that occupation and that he has on the above date valued and appraised all the above mentioned items at the sum of \$22.87 and a half cents and that said Fleisher's children cannot contribute to his Support

Sworn and Subscribed before me the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Sherrer, JP

S/ Jonathan Tobias

[p 19]

To the Honorable the Committee on Pensions of the United States in Congress Assembled

The Petition of Jacob Fleisher a Resident Citizen of the County of Berks and State of Pennsylvania respectfully sheweth

That he was by the Act of Congress on the 18th of March 1818 and placed on the Pension List Roll at the rate of \$8 per month as will fully appear by his pension Certificate herewith presented and that his Name has since been stricken from said Pension List Roll he now humbly comes before his Country for a fair and impartial investigation of his Enlistment as a Marine in the Revolutionary War, viz. that he was fully determined to take an active part in achieving the Liberties and privileges which we now enjoy and on a certain day in the month of June of the year 1780 your petitioner met with an Officer in a public House in Reading County & State aforesaid who asked your petitioner if he would Enlist to him and said Officer said his name was Scull that he was Enlisting man for the service of the United States as Marines to fight against the Common Enemy I then said I was ready and we both appeared before a certain Mr. Reeser

³ [John Fox S2219](#)

then a Justice of the Peace in and for Berks County who administered to your petitioner the usual Oath and I received the bounty Money in the Name of the United States after remaining in Reading some time we Enlisted about 70 men we were then taken to Wilmington where we went on board a Frigate called the *South Carolina* and were on our duty as Marines outside the Capes we were taken by 3 British Frigates who made us all Prisoners of War conveyed us to New York and confined us closely in the *Jersey* Prison Ship then lying in North River where we had a brutal Hessian & British Guard who treated us with savage brutality in this deplorable situation we remained about 11 months prisoners of War during this period many died of Starvation and Cold some with frozen limbs the number of Prisoners amounted to about 1400 on the Prison Ship out of the 70 man which was of our crew only 7 returned home and only 3 thereof do yet survive myself Michael Spatz and John Fox. I have now stated the facts as they really are and humbly desire that the case may be heard by your honorable bodies: I am now advanced to nearly 70 years of age and have not been able during 30 years time turned by manual labor a single cent poor and infirm together with a weakness of my back and entirely incapable of doing any work in order to obtain a living under these circumstances should your honorable bodies consider my claim just he then Humbly prays that an act to be passed for his relief authorizing the Secretary of War to restore his name to the Pension List in duty bound your petitioner prays &c.

S/ Jacob Fleisher

[p 21]

Pennsylvania Berks County

On this 27th day of November A.D. 1829 before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for Berks County personally appeared John Fox and Michael Spatz who being severally sworn in due form of law who on their solemn oaths deposes and says that Jacob Fleisher and the deponent's Michael Spatz & John Fox had each and every one had duly Enlisted for the purpose of entering into the service of the United States on the Continental Establishment in the Revolutionary War against the Common Enemy and that the said Scull had Declared that he enlisted man to serve the United States as Marines on the Continental Establishment against the Common Enemy for and during the War and that Jacob Fleisher aforesaid and the deponents John Fox and Michael Spatz were each and every of them confined on the *Jersey* Prison Ship for the term of 11 months & that the said ship was then lying in North River in the State of New York and that the officers of the Ship called *South Carolina* was commanded by a Capt. Gillon and Scull and John Joiner and that the matters set forth in the Petition of Jacob Fletcher are true to the best of their knowledge and belief. Sworn and subscribed

S/ Michael Spatz, X his mark

S/ John Fox, X his mark

[p 16]

To the Hon.
Chairman of the Committee
on Revolutionary Pensions

Washington April 3, 1832

Sir

I yesterday offered a resolution in the House instructing the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions to inquire into the expediency of restoring the names of John Fox, Jacob Fleisher, Michael Spatz and Adam Gramling to the pension roll. I take the liberty of handing you some papers relating to the three first mention cases and of submitting a few remarks.

The petitions handed are from Fox & Fleisher only, but by referring to them and the annexed depositions, it will immediately be perceived that the cases stand upon the same footing & are exactly similar. Spatz was on the Pension List of 1818 as well as Fox & Fleisher.

I have known these three men personally about 25 years. They are admitted by all who know them to be honest & worthy men, of the strictest veracity, whose apertion [sic] would be admitted without an oath. It is a matter of notoriety among the old people of the place where they reside that their statements as to services & Sufferings are correct. Fox and Fleisher are in very reduced circumstances, poverty-stricken, as well as aged & infirm. The latter particularly has been contracted in his limbs by Rheumatism & confined to his bed & room for many years, in consequence, it is supposed, of the hardships he endured on the *Jersey* Prison ship. He is maintained by poor relatives. Spatz has a house and lot which may be worth about \$500 in which he resides. He gets along with great difficulty, principally through the assistance of his wife, who is such by a second marriage, & being somewhat younger than himself, is his chief support at this time but may not be so much longer. All three were in the service more than one year & never received one cent of pay. The State of South Carolina, to whom the Frigate of that name on which they served as marines, belonged, entrusted their pay after the close of the war to Commodore Gillon [Alexander Gillon], he however retained the money & never paid his men. Since then frauds were committed by forged papers in some instances & the State in consequence refused making payments for some time, without however denying the justice of the claims when properly substantiated. Several attempts to get their pay have proved fruitless & been evaded under some pretext or other. Upon lately reviewing the claim in behalf of these unfortunate men I am told by the Comptroller of the State that "the Bill – Book of that Ship has been lost, having been entrusted to a Committee of the Legislature who did not return it & that this difficulty has suspended all proceedings in cases of this kind, that there are however hopes of recovering it" – If I am correctly informed these men were struck from the pension roll because they were considered as not belonging to the Continental Establishment, but as State Troops – the equipping &c of the *South Carolina* being however recommended & approved of by Congress.

The case of Gramling is a particularly hard one. He was stricken from the pension-role because he did not file a schedule of his property: He owns a small mountain farm worth perhaps at the utmost \$500, a single feel of which say 10 or 12 acres, can be cultivated & which yields very little. The remainder is woodland & unproductive being too far from the market for a sale with any advantage. He is near 80 years of age & his wife not much younger. He has 2 children, a son who is deaf & dumb, & a daughter who is paralytic & entirely helpless. He is really poor, unfortunate & deserving of assistance. Being exclusive of what is called his property entitled to a pension I'll will hope that it may no longer be withheld.

I have stated what I know to be facts from my own personal knowledge, respecting all the men above mentioned & I earnestly join in their prayer that speedy justice may be done them as they are tottering on the verge of the grave & must soon go hence & trouble no more. There papers are on file in the Pension Office. If others should be required I shall endeavor to procure them with the least possible delay.

I am

very respectfully
your obedient servant
Henry Augustus Philip Muhlenberg⁴

⁴ MUHLENBERG, Henry Augustus Philip, (father of Henry Augustus Muhlenberg and nephew of John Peter

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service for one year in the Continental Navy.]

Gabriel Muhlenberg and of Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg), a Representative from Pennsylvania; born in Lancaster, Pa., May 13, 1782; pursued classical studies; studied theology and was ordained to the Lutheran ministry by the ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1802; pastor of Trinity Church, Reading, Pa., from April 1803 to June 1829; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-first Congress; reelected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-second through Twenty-fourth Congresses and reelected as a Democrat to the Twenty-fifth Congress and served from March 4, 1829, until his resignation February 9, 1838; chairman, Committee on Revolutionary Claims (Twenty-second through Twenty-fifth Congresses); unsuccessful Democratic candidate for Governor in 1835 and 1837; Minister to Austria from February 8, 1838, to September 18, 1840; was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1844, but died in Reading, Pa., August 11, 1844, before the election; interment in Charles Evans Cemetery. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=M001065>