

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Fox S2219

f25SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/17/09 rev'd 6/14/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 16]

Pennsylvania Berks County

On the 8th day of February A.D. 1819 Before me James Dismers [?] Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Berks aforesaid, personally appeared John Fox of the Township of Alsace County aforesaid aged upwards of 52 years, who being by me sworn according to law doth depose & say that he enlisted in the borough of Reading County aforesaid in the year 1781 in a Company commanded by Capt. Joiner, that he marched from the said borough of Reading to this City of Philadelphia and there was put on board the ship called *South Carolina*<sup>1</sup> that the ship & crew was taken prisoner by the British in sight of New York Light House, that he was placed with the rest of the prisoners on Board a prison ship called the old *Jersey*, that he was kept and treated as a prisoner of war until the end of the war, that from the time of his enlistment until released was upwards of one year, that during his imprisonment he suffered very much, And that he has not received any pension under the laws of the United States but by his reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance from his Country for support that he is in indigent Circumstances.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Fox, X his mark

S/ Jas. Dismers

John Fox the Claimant above named personally appeared before me the subscriber One of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas who upon his oath doth depose & say that the Corps Capt. Joyner was attached [to] was [commanded by] Commodore Gillon.

Sworn & subscribed

February 1819

S/ John Fox, X his mark

[Henry Lotz<sup>2</sup> and George Merkel<sup>3</sup> of Berks County gave testimony that Fox is the same man

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

<sup>2</sup> [Henry Lotz S40950](#)

<sup>3</sup> Someone by this name claiming [FPA S9407] "that he Entered duly Enlisted a gunner in the Naval Service of the United States in Philadelphia Penn. AD 1781 in about the 2nd day of September on board the American Ship called the *Holkar*[sic, probably the privateer *Holker*] Commanded by Captain Keane [Roger Keane] Mounting 16 Guns set sail from Philadelphia in pursuit of the Enemy and in the Month of February year aforesaid we meet the British Cutter called the *Hypocrite* & Mounting 18 Guns met said Cutter outside the Capes we commenced the attack and opened a good broadside against the Enemy, the Cutter and after a short action the Enemy Struck and of her Crew

who served on the *South Carolina* and that he is in reduced circumstances.]

On the 19th day of February A.D. 1819 personally appeared Michael Spatz of the borough of Reading a credible Witness, who upon his solemn oath doth depose & Say that John Fox the within named claimant served on the Ship *South Carolina* Capt. Joiner, who was attached under the Command of Commodore Gillon and that this deponent served on the same Ship. Sworn & subscribed the year aforesaid

S/ Michael Spatz, X his mark

[p 7 printed form with fill ins in blue]

District of Pennsylvania

On the 9th day of August A.D. 1820, personally appeared in open Court of common Pleas, holden in the borough of Redding, County of Berks, being a court of record, proceeding according to the course of the common law, with a Jurisdiction, unlimited in point of amount and keeping a record of its proceedings John Fox aged 54 years, resident in the County of Berks, in said District, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision, made by the Acts of Congress, of 18 March, 1818 and the first day of May, 1820. That he served in the revolutionary War, in the company, commanded by Capt. Joiner in the Regiment commanded by Col. \_\_\_ in the line of the State of Pennsylvania [sic], and has obtained a pension, under the act of the 18th day of March, 1818, is Certificate being numbered 7305 And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or other wise disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in Open Court

S/ Jno Addams, Proth<sup>y</sup>

S/ John Fox, X his mark

I have besides the necessary clothing and bedding One Iron Pot 3 Chairs one old kitchen dresser  
Cups & Saucers two Hogs One tub one old Chest the above property value at \$20

I am indebted as follows to wit

John Hepler	\$50.00
Henry Sailor about	4.00
John Havlman about	6.00

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four men were killed & seven wounded severely and among the killed was the Captain, and we of the Ship *Holkar* had 3 killed & one wounded and during the time in which I served on board the *Holkar* we sailed to Martinique & took on board a cargo of Lead and Delivered same to Philadelphia for the use of the United States Army I continued Gunner on board the *Holkar* from the 2nd day of September 1781 to the 3rd day of March 1782 which was 6 full months service on board the *Holkar*; and that he again Entered a Gunner on Board the American Ship called the *Hyder Ally* commanded by Capt. Barney [Joshua Barney] Enlisted for 3 months entered 1782 in the Month of May about the 7th set sail for Baltimore Maryland we mounted 16 guns we made for the Capes we there fell in with the Enemy's the English Sloop of War called *General Monk* & mounting 14 guns we came into and immediately closed action and the *Monk* struck after a short but closed action In this last service I continued from the 7th of May as near as I can recollect to the 7th day of October 1782 in this service I served 3 months..."

Daniel D. B. Keim about	25.00
Daniel <del>Keim</del> Hill	<u>2.00</u>
	\$87.00

I am by Occupation a Laborer at under the present distressing times I am not able to support myself and family I have a Wife named Elizabeth aged 54 years and one daughter I am not able to support myself except by public or private charity  
 Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in Open Court  
 S/ Jno Addams, Proth<sup>y</sup>

S/ John Fox, X his mark

[p 10]

To the Honorable the Committee on Pensions of the United States in Congress Assembled  
 The Petition of John Fox a Resident Citizen of the County of Berks and State of Pennsylvania

Respectfully sheweth

That your petitioner was by the Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 placed on the Pension List Roll at the rate of Eight Dollars per month as will appear by his Certificate herewith presented and that his Name has since been stricken from the Pension List Roll and therefore humbly States such things as are positive facts in his case and will fully appear by the Testimony, that your Petitioner was fully determined to take an active part in achieving the Liberties and privileges which we now enjoy and That as near as he can recollect that in the Month of June A.D. 1780 your petitioner and a comrade named Michael Spatz were determined to Enlist in and Infantry Corps which at that time was Enlisting man for the Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War in Reading Berks County Pennsylvania when on our way to a public House were the [sic, where they] were Enlisting man for said Infantry Corps we met with a certain officer who asked us boys which way we then answered him that we were going to Enlist to an Infantry Corps, he then said that his name was Scull that he was Enlisting man in the Service of the United States on the Continental establishment as Marines and that we should Enlist to him that our case would be easier to enter with him and prevailed on us to comply we there agreed and we were brought before a Certain Mr. Reefer than a Justice of the Peace in and for Berks County who administered the usual Oath and we received the bounty money [line missing?] the bounty money in the Name of the United States for and during the War -- we then Remained in Reading and there was about 70 men who belonged to us as Marines we were Marched to Wilmington where we entered on board a Ship the [there] called the *Carolina* [*South Carolina*] unfortunately were [sic, where] on a certain day Outside the Capes we were captured by the British Frigates. The British made us prisoners of War conveyed us to New York and confined us on Board the *Jersey* Prison Ship then lying at North River -- a Strong Hessian & British Guard was our doom in this Situation as Prisoners of War we remained at least 11 months treated by the Hessians & British with Savage brutality many many Died of Starvation others of the Extreme cold and Ill Treatment on some days 14 of the man Died out of our 70 men only 7 returned to their Homes of the surviving I am one and Michael Spatz<sup>4</sup> of Redding and Jacob Fleisher [sic, Jacob Fleisher]<sup>5</sup> of Berks County are as far as I can learn the only 3 who yet survive. I now humbly state to my Country pure facts as they really occurred and desire a fair and Impartial investigation of our Enlistment which we have solemnly sworn to confiding in Your Honorable

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<sup>4</sup> [Michael Spatz S3957](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Jacob Fleisher S2214](#)

bodies that the Voice of Pity may grant us Relief in the full decline of Life being now far advanced in Age, poor and Afflicted and further that our Intentions were good even we did Enlist we Enlisted for Liberty and equality we therefore humbly state that as our intentions were good we firmly pray that after a careful investigation of this our Situation I humbly ask that an act be passed for my Relief authorizing the Secretary of War to restore my name to the Pension Roll in duty bound your petitioner prays

S/ John Fox, X his mark

Pennsylvania Berks County

On this 27th day of November A.D. 1829 before made the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of Berks personally appeared John Fox and Michael Spatz surviving Marines who being severally sworn in due form of law do each of them on their solemn oaths depose say and declare that the matters set forth in this Petition are true to their best knowledge and belief and further deponents on their oaths deposes & says that Scull gave the deponents the bounty money in the name of the United States Service on the Continental Establishment to serve during the War against the Common Enemy further deponents said is not

S/ John Fox, X his mark

S/ Michael Spatz, X his mark

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me

S/ Christopher Sherrer

Pennsylvania Berks County

On this 27th day of November 1829 before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of Berks personally appeared Jacob Fleisher one of the surviving Marines who being sworn in due form of law doth depose and say that John Fox was one of the surviving Marines & that he was Enlisted for and during the War and that his Enlistment was in the name of the United States for the Continental Establishment in the Revolutionary War and that the Officers of their Ship was Gillion [sic, Alexander Gillon], Scull [looks more like "Scule" in this document] & John Joiner and deponent further States that not one person who served on board said *South Carolina* has never received any pay as monthly wages.

Sworn & subscribed before me the day & year aforesaid

S/ Christopher Sherrer

S/ Jacob Fleisher

[p 4]

State of Pennsylvania Berks County

Be it known that on this 30th day of March A.D. 1833 before made the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County of Berks personally appeared John Fox a Resident Citizen of the same County and State aforesaid a pensioner of the United States who being first duly sworn in due form of law who on his oath declares that he is the same Identical John Fox who served in the company of Marines commanded by Capt. John Joiner in the war of the Revolution on Board the Ship *South Carolina* and that his name was placed on the Pension Roll of the Pennsylvania Agency at Philadelphia State aforesaid and says that he will remove from Berks County Pennsylvania on the first day of May next ensuing to the County of Hancock in the State of Ohio 10 miles distant from Fort Hindely [sic, probably Fort Findley which was located on the Blanchard River in Hancock County, Ohio] where he intends to remain, and wishes his pension to be there payable in future, at the nearest Agency possible to his Residence in Ohio

aforesaid and that the reasons for removing to the County of Hancock as he states in Ohio is as follows that his Brother Jacob Fox will give him 80 acres of good land in the same place aforesaid as a present & give him a good title free from any pavement, and this induces him to leave here and that he made this early application for the transfer of the pavement of his pension owing to the situation in which he is placed this In the State of Ohio he could have not obtained the [indecipherable word] Testimony of Identity therefore has now applied having here persons who know that he is the Identical same person who was pensioned under the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

Sworn and subscribed on this 30th day of March A.D. 1833 before me

S/ Frederick Heller

S/ John Fox, X his mark

[p 8: On March 5, 1834 in Hancock County Ohio, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit from the Pennsylvania agency to the Ohio agency stating that he has moved to Ohio with the intent of remaining there because he was unable to support himself in Pennsylvania by reason of old age and he got 80 acres of land given to him by his brother named Jacob Fox. He signed this document with his mark. Jacob Fox gave testimony identifying the applicant.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 for service as a Marine in the South Carolina Sea Service.]