

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Kester S2683

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Pennsylvania }
Union County Ss }

On this twenty fourth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Union, now sitting. Peter Kester a resident of Centre Township, in the County of Union and State of Pennsylvania aged seventy years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his solemn oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

On the 28th of June 1778 I entered the service as an enlisted Soldier under — Brown a recruiting officer at Wornelsdorf town Berks County Pennsylvania, under whom I marched to Philadelphia and from there to white Plains, where I joined Capt [John] Nice's company of the 6th Pennsylvania Regiment commanded by Col. Harmer [sic: Josiah Harmar, pension application W3246], we marched to a number of places which I cannot recollect being then only about seventeen years of age – when the army went into winter Quarters I was sick and obtained a Furloe and went home. I got well again joined the army and in the Spring of 1779 we stormed & took Stony Point Fort [16 Jul 1779], then in possession of the British, (this Fort was on the North River about six miles below West Point), General Anthony Wayne was our commander – we remained some time, then left it & marched different places had no other engagements and returned to our Winter Quarters at Morristown. In the Spring of 1780 we left our winter quarters and marched diferent places no engagement in which I was concerned, we lay principally at West Point, and returned to our winter quarters at Morristown, during the winter I obtained a Furloe and went home, and in the Spring of 1781 joined the Regiment at Lebanon then commanded by Col. [Richard] Humpton – we marched to Lancaster, thence to Little York – thence to Frederick Town in Maryland, thence into Virginia, the names of the places I cannot recollect, we had an engagement with the British at Green Spring [Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], our army was commanded by Gen'l. Wayne. in the beginning of the battle we had to retreat, but being reinforced, we formed, and after a severe engagement we routed the British killed and wounded a number, and lost several of our men killed and taken prisoners. [See endnote] In a few days after this I would have been entitled to my discharge, but consented to go as one of the guard of Col Humpton Baggage Waggon to Lancaster where I obtained my discharge on the 1st of August 1781 signed by Col. Humpton a part of which is hereto annexed, the other part has been lost, and cannot now be found, the discharge was for three years service. I have no person who can prove my actual service, but presume my name will be found among the names of the enlisted Soldiers of the 6th Penna. Regment on the Rolls in the War Department at Washington.

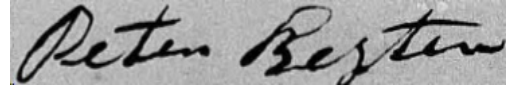
- 1 I was Born on the 13 March 1762 in Lancaster.
2. I have no record of my age, it was in my Fathers Bible which my Brother got, his house was burned, and the Bible with many other articles was consumed.
3. I was living in Berks County Penna. when I entered the service. since the revolutionary war I removed to Lebanon Dauphin County, where I resided about two years, then to Berks County were I remained about six years, and from there I removed about forty years ago to where I now live in Center Township in then Northumberland now Union County.

I never received any other discharge than the one mentioned in my declaration signed by Colon. Humpton part of which is hereto annexed.

George Murand Esq, Christopher Saebold, Frederick Sters[?] and many other respectable citizens of my neighbourhood can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a

Soldier of the revolution.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Bester".

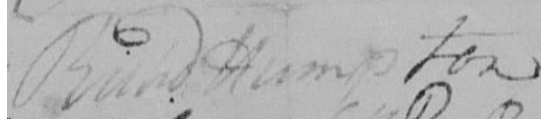
[Parts missing from the following discharge are indicated by *.]

1st Aug 1781

[*] the bearer a Soldier [*]a. Reg't. having [*]fully the term [*]stment He is [*]scharged from [*] Reg't.

Richd Humpton

Colonel 6th Pen. Reg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Humpton".

NOTES:

The Battle of Green Springs Plantation was in fact a British victory.

The file contains a letter dated 20 July 1858 by W. N. Keister of Beaver Springs PA stating that Peter Kester had resided near New Berlin (commonly called Longstown) and died on 27 July 1833 leaving a widow.