

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of **Peter Meissenheimer** (Meisenheimer, Misenheimer) #S32408
Transcribed by John Earl Ferguson Misenheimer, II 2/2/11

Jonesborough, Ill. Tuesday 16 October 1832

In the matter of Peter MEISSENHEIMER }

Upon application for a pension }

This day came into open court Peter MEISSENHEIMER a resident of Union County Illinois who made his declaration upon oath in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 and entitled an Act supplementary to the act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution whereupon and after investigation of the matters and after putting the interrogatories presented by the War department the court being of opinion that the said applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states in his said declaration and it further appearing that William ECHOLS who has certified upon oath to the reputation of the said applicant and to his own opinion of the revolutionary services of the said Peter MEISSENHEIMER is a clergyman residing in the county of Union and that ___ [blank] who has certified in like manner and to the like effects is also a resident of Union County and is a credible person ordered that be certified accordingly.¹

Wednesday October 17, 1832

On motion of Wm. H. RUMSEY attorney for Peter MEISSENHEIMER, leave is granted to withdraw the declaration of the said MEISSENHEIMER for pension.

State of Illinois } Declaration in order to obtain the benefit
Union County } of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

On this 20th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Hon. Thomas C. Browne, Judge of the circuit court of Union County State of Illinois now sitting, Peter MEISSENHEIMER, a resident of the county and state aforesaid, aged 77 years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

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

That he lived in McLinburgh [Mecklenburg] County, North Carolina, at the time of his entering the service, he thinks 1781 [in fact it was 1780]. That sometime in the first part of that year, the day and month he does not recollect, one Peter BLUER was drafted to stand a three months tour, but being (probably) rather of the Tory cast and not likely to go, this applicant voluntarily took his place and time and served it out. That one John STARNES or STEIRNS [sic, Starnes]² was his captain in this expedition, and one John WYATT [maybe White] commanded as Major, RUTHERFORD [Griffith Rutherford] being his general. That his company joined

¹ This declaration is also recorded in Union County, Illinois, Circuit Court Record, Book B, page 344.

² See Pension application of Michael Await (Awalt) W326. A history of Captain John Starnes revolutionary war service can be found in the book: "There be of Them, That Left A Name Behind – A History of the Starnes Family's First 125 Years and Beyond in America" by H. Gerald Starnes and Herman Starnes – Gateway Press, Inc. Baltimore 1983. Pages: 97, 114, 115, 134 and 166.

General RUTHERFORD at Lents Creek whence they were marched to Russell's [word is written over, could be Rugeley's] Creek, where they lay a few 'days. That then they marched to Gum Swamp [near Camden, S.C.], where they arrived in the night, .and on [August 16, 1780] the next morning had a battle [of Camden] with the British in which they were defeated, at which time GATES [Horatio Gates] was the regular general. That they met the enemy [August 15, 1780] in the night [under a full moon] and that there was some firing among the front guard, which soon ceased, only to be revived the following morning [August 16, 1780]. He further states that they were defeated and that he thinks that GATES was among the first that fled from the circumstance. That one of his neighbors, with whom he was well acquainted, was laying on the road crippled and saw him pass by or near him. Here, he thinks, General RUTHERFORD was taken prisoner.³ That after the defeat, the militia made their way homeward. Sometime after their return home from this defeat, he obtained a discharge, which has been long since lost or destroyed by the ruthless passage of time.

He further states, that as he thinks, in the fall [most likely December] of the same year [in fact 1780], or in the latter part of the winter following [that would be 1781], he was drafted and served another tour of three months, under one Captain BOTTIS [sic, Jonathan Potts]⁴, his given name not recollected, whose company belonged to the regimental command of Colonel Francis LOCK [sic, Francis Locke]. Under these officers, he was marched to Haw River⁵, where he met Major-General GREENE [Nathanael Greene]. He was thence marched to Buffaloe Creek, where the light infantry had a skirmish [either at the Battle of Clapp's Mill on March 2, 1781 or at the Battle of Weitzel's Mill on March 6, 1781] with the British. That they [his own company or unit] had no fighting while he was out this time. He marched about, from place to place, nothing memorable or worth nothing transpiring during the balance of his time, at the expiration of which, he was discharged and returned home to residence in McLinburg [Mecklenburg] County. He got no written discharge this time, as he was verbally discharged by his ___ [blank], under promise to get it at some further period, but his captain lived some [miles] distance from him (25 or 30), he never called on him for any, not thinking it of any use to him at any rate. Besides his inferior officers, he states he knew Colonel LOCK and Colonel WASHINGTON [William Washington]⁶ and Major-General GREEN of the regulars.

He further states that he volunteered, but whether before or after this tour of draft service he does not recollect [yet it best matches the July 1780 time frame of events and people], to repel and disperse the Tories, under Captain STEIRNS [John Starnes] and Colonel Henry BARRIER's [George Henry Barrier's] Regiment, and marched to meet the Tories at Rock [sic, Rocky] River⁷ [Bridge and the fork with the two rivers the Yadkin/Pee Dee River where Colonel William Lee Davidson was in the Battle of Colson's Mill on July 21, 1780]. That before they reached there, in [present day Stanly County formed out of] Montgomery County, North Carolina, the Tories [under the Loyalist commander Colonel Samuel Bryan] retreated so near the British [Army located at Hanging Rock in Lancaster County, South Carolina] that they thought fit and prudent not to follow them. He was after this marched home and dismissed, not recollecting any other particulars or even the period of his service, it having been so long since, that the operations of memory have become fleeting, childish, and weak.

Also, at another time, he thinks possibly before his drafted service, he volunteered under Captain Frederick BLITHER [sic, maybe Frederick Blair] and marched to Charlotte, the place of rendezvous where Major James WHITE⁸ assumed the command. He thinks their rendezvous at

Charlotte was a few days after BLEUFORD's defeat⁹ and saw several men who were wounded in that battle [May 29, 1780]. They expected that the British would come to Charlotte, but they not having done so, he was again discharged. He does not recollect how long he was out this time either.

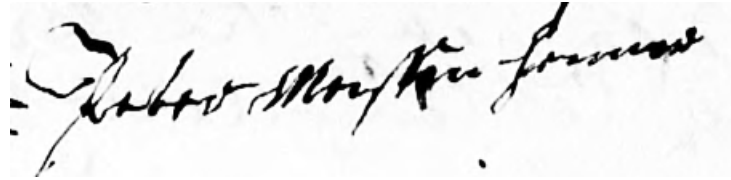
He further states that although he does not remember the dates of his service more particularly than he has above described, in the particular circumstances attending them, yet he rests under the honest consciousness of having served the length of time to which the different services above

enumerated would amount upon calculation. He does not positively know whether the companies to which he belonged to the Continental Line or not, but they must have been of the militia or state troops service. In 1818 or 1819 he removed from North Carolina to this county and state, [where] he now lives and has lived ever since. He has no documentary evidence of his service, and knows no persons whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed }

The day and year aforesaid }

/s/ Peter MEISSENHEIMER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Meissenheimer". The signature is written in a cursive style with some flourishes.

We, John WHITEAKER, a clergyman, residing in the County of Union and State of Illinois, and Daniel KARRACAR, residing in the same, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Peter MEISSENHEIMER who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 77 years of age, that he is reported and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.¹⁰

/s/ John WHITEAKER

/s/ Daniel KARRACAR

And the court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the court further certifies that it appears to them that William ECHOLS who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman residing in the county of Union and State of Illinois is a credible person and that his statement is entitled

³ See Pension application of Nathaniel Rogers W9263

⁴ See Pension application of Andrew Barry (Berry) R569A

⁵ See Pension applications of James Potts S3707 and Charles P. Coleman W25435

⁶ See Pension application of George Townsend W6306

⁷ See Pension applications of Abram Alexander S8013 and Robert Martin S2732

⁸ See Pension applications of Charles Blackwelder S6658 and Paul Walter S7821

⁹ Colonel Abraham Buford's 3rd Virginia Continentals; defeated at the Battle of the Waxhaws on 29 May 1780.

¹⁰ This affidavit is also recorded in Union County, Illinois, Circuit Court Record, Book B, page 362.

to credit.

Interrogatories supplementary to the declaration of Peter MEISSENHEIMER
in the matter of application for a pension

1. Where and in what year were you born? In Philadelphia County, State of Pennsylvania, in the year 1755.
2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it? I have; it is recorded in my Bible, as taken by myself from my father's entry in his Bible.
3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? In North Carolina, McLaneburg [Mecklenburg] County, thence I removed to the County of Union and State of Illinois, where I now live.
4. How were you called into service, did you volunteer, were you drafted, or were a substitute? And if a substitute, for whom? A substitute for Peter BLUER and the second time was drafted.
5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service. GATES and GREEN were the principle officers. The general circumstances of my service have already been stated in my declaration, to which is supplementary.
6. Did you ever receive discharge from the service, and if so, what has become of it? I did, but have lost them.
7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief as to your services as a soldier of the Revolution. John WHITEAKER and Daniel KARRACAR.

/s/ Peter MEISSENHEIMER

Sworn to and subscribed this 25th May 1833 before me, W. P. McCALL, J. P.

NOTE: Peter MEISSENHEIMER was issued pension certificate #832408 on 18 July 1833 and received a pension of \$21.11 per year. His DAR marker at St. Johns Cemetery, Union County, Illinois, states that he died in 1835 in Union County, Illinois.