

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

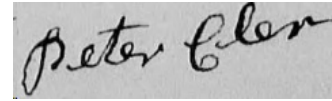
Pension Application of Peter Cleer (Cler) S35835

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Capitalization partly corrected]

Seventh District of Pennsylvania Ss

On this seventh day of April 1818 before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Seventh Judicial Districts of the State of Pennsylvania Personally appears Peter Cleer Aged sixty seven years Resident in the said District who being by me first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late 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 that he the said Peter Cleer Enlisted in the City of Paris in France in the year 1778 in Captain Esilays Company in Duke De Lozence [sic: Duc de Lauzun's] Regiment of Light horse for the American Service as a private and landed in the year 1780 at Newport Rodisland [sic: Rhode Island; 11 July] that he continued to serve in the said corps or in the service of the United United States untill the year 1783 when he was discharged from service in Wilmington in the state of Delaware that he was in the Battle at York when Cornwallace was captured [sic: Cornwallis at Siege of Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] and that he has remained a citizen ever since of the United States and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his services



Chester County, Ss.

Personally came before the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace, in and for the said County of Chester, James Danelson, signed to this deposition, who on his solemn affirmation doth say: That he is forty-nine years of age, that he served his apprenticeship to the blacksmith trade, in the borough of Wilmington, state of Delaware. That he was there at the time the French troops which aided the Americans against the British forces in the revolutionary war. That he knew Peter Clear, to belong to the French squadron of Light horse, that he was a tailor to trade, and got leave to work at one Starret's opposite his master's shop and there this deponent became acquainted with him the said Peter, and that he knows the said Peter to be the same person who now lives in Brandywine Township, county of Chester, Pennsylvania, that he is now poor, and infirm, and in his opinion has not the means of supporting himself. And further saith not. [signed] Jas Denelson

Affirmed before me the 29th day of Dec. 1817

United States of America

Baltimore County SS.

On this second day of January 1822, personally appeared in open court being a court of record, that is to say the Regular County Court, holden for the said County within the Sixth Judicial District of the State of Maryland Peter Cleer aged sixty eight years, resident in the City of Baltimore in said County and State who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows: That he served [page torn] private in a Corps or Troop commanded by Captain Eselie in the Legion commanded by the Duke De Lauzun, from the year 1780 to the close of the War in the year 1783, when he was honorably discharged by Captain Eselie at Wilmington in the State of Delaware. That while engaged in battle with the enemy at Little York in Virginia at the time Lord

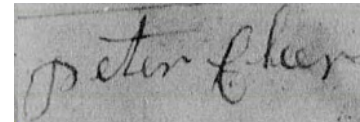
Cornwallis surrendered deponent received two bullet wounds, one of which was received in the fleshy part of his side the other also a flesh wound the ball passing through the knee and entered the body of his Horse, who falling & catching deponents leg under his body has rendered him a Cripple in the right foot and ankle, receiving a severe dislocation of the large joint of the Thumb still Crippled, 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 in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person 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.

Schedule referred to within

Property none of any description

Family none

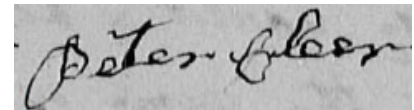
Is by trade a Tailor whereby managed to maintain himself until by advanced age infirmities and the want of eye sight he is rendered incapable of supporting himself except by public or private charity and is actually "in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support himself without the assistance of his Country"



For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the Act entitled: An act for the relief of certain surviving Officers & Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15th of May 1828 I Peter Cleer of the State of Maryland do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution for and during the War and continued in its service until its Termination, at which period I was a private in Captain Esole's Company of horse in the Legion commanded by the Duke of Lauzun – and I also declare that I was promised the same quantity of Land to which American Soldiers were entitled under a resolve of Congress passed the 15th of May 1778.

And I further declare that I was not, on the 15 day of may 1828 on the Pension List of the United States.

Witness my hand this 10th of June in the year 1828



See Journals of Congress of 1st May 1783. F.A.D.

[Peter Mills (pension application S36153) certified that he had seen Cleer at the Siege of Yorktown.]

Baltimore October 19th 1829

Peter Cleer the bearer of this an old Revolutionary Soldier who volunteered his services in Paris under the Proclamation of Doctor Franklin in 1780 came over with Lafayette and Count De Grasse served under Washington the remainder of the war; was wounded in the affair with Tarleton 46 years ago [sic: skirmish with Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion at Gloucester Point during Siege of Yorktown], beside the Battles of long Island, White Plains [sic: see endnote], honorably discharged in delaware state in 1783, he has never received any pension although he petitioned congress as early as 1806 since which time he repeatedly applied to congress, who in 1825 & 26 twice reported a bill in the lower house & passed, as the Journals will shew, as also certyfyed by the members for Baltimore City & County But when his claim was sent to the senate was rejected or not acted on, as the Comittee always put his claim with a list of doubtful claiments. when he & Major Poloresky are the only survivors known of his corps, he has lived in this country ever since is now 76 years old, having passed through much affliction form want, he wishes

to make a last effort by getting the signatures of those who know him, and asking assistance from those humane persons who will, give him any thing they may feel at liberty to give, to enable him to travel to those places in Pennsylvania Maryland & Delaware, where he has lived many years, & finally to enable him to live & prosecute his claim in Washington the next session of congress, which is to be hoped will not pass over without doing him justice one more session whoever has seen Doctor Franklin living or his likeness, will see in this old veteran a striking likeness of features – it is hoped this appeal to the humane will not be made in vain as he will shew his papers to any who will doubt the above statements of facts, it is a humiliating fact he has lived in penury & want for 46 years with the american government his Debtor “To do good and Communicate forget not, for with such sacrifice God is well Pleased.”
[Not signed or dated.]

NOTES:

The Battle of Long Island occurred on 27 Aug 1776, and the Battle of White Plains occurred on 28 Oct 1776, both before Cleer arrived in America.

The file includes additional petitions to Congress and the President that are not transcribed here. Also in the file is a petition on Peter Cleer’s behalf dated 2 Dec 1825, which states that “he has been afflicted for several years past with the disease denominated hernia, which renders him unable at his advanced period of life to earn a livelihood. He also exhibits several wounds which he states were received during the revolutionary war.”

A letter in the file states that Peter Cleer, a Revolutionary pensioner, died on 24 July 1836, and that his widow was very poor and wished to obtain the final pension payment up to the date of his death.