

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Christian Peters S5898

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 Dec 2014.

State of Virginia }

Monroe County } S.S. On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Monroe now setting Christian Peters a resident of Peterstown in the County of Monroe and State of Virginia [sic: Peterstown, now in West Virginia] aged 71 years past who being duly sworn according to law doth on his 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 and served as herein stated that he was drafted in the County of Rockingham about the 1st of June 1779 to go to the West fork of the South Branch of the Potomac against the Indians that he marched about the 1st of June or early in June 1779 [probably 1780] under Capt Robert Cravans [sic: Robert Craven] to the place of their destination that some time after they were stationed there their captain received a commission to raise a company of men under a proclamation of the governor of South Carolina [John Rutledge] offering 1000 lbs Tobacco to each volunteer that Captain Cravens offered him the command of a Corporal if he would go with him to the South – which he accepted that four others of the company and himself returned with Captain Cravens to the County of Rockingham having been out about two months or perhaps a little less that Captain Cravens soon raised his company & that they started to the South he thinks on the 1st day of September 1779 [sic: 1780] or about that time from the County of Rockingham they marched directly to Hillsborough in North Carolina where they joined General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] and lay there about two weeks waiting the arrival of other Troops. from thence they marched to Salisbury in South [sic: North] Carolina & stayed there two or three days from thence they marched by Camden [SC] to the Cheraw Hills and arrived there on the 1st day of January 1780 [sic: 1781] and there joined General Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army from the Cheraw Hill a party of which I was one was sent down the Pe Dee [sic: Pee Dee] River to surprise a party of Tories which were collected at a place he thinks called the Black Swamp [see endnote] before this arrival the tories dispersed but they took 14 prisoners in the neighbourhood as well as he recollects part of their men were sent back with the prisoners and the ballance marched down the River to George Town [sic: Georgetown SC, 24-25 Jan 1781] where they took 25 British prisoners some Rum and some clothing and then another part of their men up the River to Greens head quarters with the prisoners the ballance of them marched on and joined Gen'l. [Daniel] Morgan who was flying before the British about 36 hours he thinks before the Battle at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] we march with Morgan the ballance of the day after we joined him & the next day the succeeding night the army moved in the night about half a mile from the place they were encamped the place selected for the Battle leaving some men to keep up the fires untill day light the British were then close on them and the Battle commenced the next morning about sun rise or a little after. I belonged to the Rifle men and was stationed on the right of the army and was in the 2nd company counting from the right [see endnote] they had the pleasure at that place of taking 600 prisoners they then moved on before the British to Salisbury where their company was detailed in part to convey the prisoners to Virginia after leaving Salisbury. by the time they had fairly crossed the Yadkin river [at Trading Ford several miles NE of Salisbury, 4-5 Feb 1781] the British advanced Guard were on the other bank but the river was raising fast and they could not cross at that place they lost their Baggage Waggon which they had taken with them from the County of Rockingham in Virginia from the Yadkin river they encountered no other difficulties untill they arrived at Pitsylvania [sic: Pittsylvania] Court House Virginia where they delivered the prisoners to the militia of that County from there they marched on to the County of Rockingham where they were discharged some time in the month of April his Bounty he sold in part pay for a Horse and gave up his certificate and discharge to the man to whom he sold his Bounty In the month of June afterwards he volunteered as a Sergeant and marched with the militia from the County of Rockingham in Virginia under Captain Jeremiah Beasley

and march to the eastern part of Virginia and was attached to the Regiment commanded by General [William] Campbell Col. Jack Willis [John Willis] and Maj'r Rucker [Elliot Rucker, S46408]. during this trip they were in the Battle at Hot water [or Spencer's Ordinary, 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 Jun 1781] and James Town [Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781]. At Hot water the Battle lasted two Hours & ten minutes and they were unsuccessful and retreated under the shelter of Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne fourteen of the men in their company were wounded and one killed At the Battle of James Town he was on the right where there was but little danger but Gen'l. Waynes regular Troops suffered very much. he served this time three months after joining the army, but it was about four months from the time the company left home untill they were marched back and discharged. he does not recollect that he received any discharge for this service making in all of service performed by him about two months the tour against the Indians about seven months as a corporal to the South altho' six months was the time for which he volunteered and about four months in Virginia as a Sergeant altho' three months was the time for which he volunteered and served after joining the Army in all of which service he carried his own Rifle Tomahawk & Butcher knife. he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Christian Peters

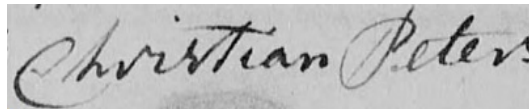
I John Peters [S5897] of the County of Giles and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was we acquainted with Christian Peters who has who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration during the revolutionary war. that I know of my own knowledge that he enlisted under Capt Robt Cravens and marched to the South and served I believe six months and that he afterward volunteered and marched with the militia of Rockingham under Capt. Beasley and served I believe three months Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 17th day of September 1832 John Peters

I John Dunn [R3144] of the County of Monroe and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I served one tour in the revolutionary war in the year 1781 with Christian Peters of Peterstown in this County we marched from the County of Rockingham together I think we started the 1st day of June and we served I think some little more than three months we were in the same company and were both in the Battles at Hotwater and James Town and I do further certify that from the report of the neighbourhood & the conversation I had with the said Christian Peters when we were in the army together I think I can safely say that there is no doubt but that the said Christian Peters had served in the Southern army before we served together as above stated and I believe that he served as a Sergeant
Given under my hand this 30th day of August 1832 John hisXmark Dunn
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of September 1832/ Conrad Peters J.P.

Virginia Monroe County .S.S

Personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County of Monroe aforesaid Christian Peters who being duly sworn deposed and saith that he did on the 17th day of September 1832 before the justices of the County Court of Monroe make a declaration for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 which declaration is herewith annexed and in addition to the facts therein stated makes the following statements that by reason of Old Age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service in the Revolutionary War but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades I served one month as a private in the Militia of Virginia I served six months as a Corporal in the Southern Army and afterwards I served three months as a Sergeant in the Militia of Virginia and for such services I claim a pension and I do further state that according to a Mem'd written in an old Bible which belonged to my father I will be 73 years of age on the 16th day of October next the Memorandum was written in the German language and in my fathers own hand writing I have not seen the Bible for several years but I have a distinct recollection of the Memorandum and I think the Bible is at this time in the possession of a sister of mine and I further state

that I know of no other testimony (except such as has been produced) by which I can prove my Revolutionary services given under my hand this 16th day of April 1833



[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many pension applicants from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix in the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

Christian Peters – (served 10 mo Va. Militia

I the undersigned Christian Peters make the following re-Declaration of my services as a Soldier in the war of the Revo. to Wit. I was born October 16 1760. am a native of Rockingham county Va. [formed from Augusta County in 1778] & lived in that county during the war. I moved to Union County in 1789.

In May or June 1780 I was drafted for 3 mo. marched from Rockingham Co. in Capt Robert Cravens company to Taggars Vally [sic: Tygart Valley]. – there was 3 forts in the valley. Our company was seperated and a part sent to each Fort. Capt Cravens with myself & others went to the upper Woods fort remained there not less than one month – when Capt Cravens and some of his company including my self returned to Rockingham – immediately upon our return Capt Cravens beat up for volunteers for a Southern Campaign. I joined his company volunteered for 6 mo. and was appointed a corporal. William Smith was Lieut. & — Nelson Ensign. Same day in September we set out from Rockingham & marched to Hillsborough N.C & then joined Genl. Stephens army. (Joined Genl. Stephens on the 16th Octo my birth day) Genl Stephens marched his army to Saulsbury & thence to Cheraw Hills. we then joined Genl Greens army. – Some small part of the army includeing myself, under (I think) Major Anderson was sent down to Georgetown on the Pede had a small brush with the enemy and took some prisssoners. We marched on and joined Genl. Morgan near the Cowpens a short time before the Battle. I was in the Battle of the Cowpens in which Genl Morgan took about 600 prissoners. after the Battle we made good our retreat before the British army across the adkin. a sudden rise of that river enabled us to make safe our retreat. My company was detailed with other companies to guard the Prissoners to Pittsylvania Court House at that place the Prissoners were delivered over to the Militia. our company then marched in a body to Rockingham and was there discharged. I was at least 6 months in actual service.

In May 1781 there was a draft in Rockingham for 3 months men. John Hammer[?] was among the drafted and he was orderly Sergeant of the Company. from some cause or other he was unwilling to go into the service. Capt Jeremiah Beesley offered me the Sergants place If I would substitute in Hammers place. I accepted the offer. – our company marched to West Ham [sic: Westham] near Richmond. there joined our Regt. & marched to Hot Water where we had a small [illegible word] with enemy. Col Willis commanded. was afterward at the Battle of James town in which Genl. Wayne commanded. I served out the 3 months & thus ended my services. My brother John proved my services. J Dunlop wrote my Declaration & charged me nothing. Septer 6, 1835 Christian Peters
Witness/ J W Kelly. A Copy W. G Singleton

[The file contains a table summarizing Peter's service written by an unknown person evidently after 1863. Beneath the table are the following annotations.]

Battles engaged in Hot Water; Jamestown, Yorktown [siege, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]

Residence of soldier at time of enlistment: Rockingham Co., Va.

Residence of soldier at time of application for pension, Peterstown, (Union), Monroe County, Va., now W. Va. date; Sept. 17, 1832 [Union is Countyseat of Monroe).

Age of applicant at time pension was asked for: 71 past.

{Soldier carried own rifle, tomahawk and butcher-knife, throughout Revolution}.

Note: It was an honor to serve under Willis – if you can put this on my statement, please do so.

See: Lee "Memoirs" p. 415. – "Lafayette selected seven hundred and fifty of his best militia marksmen, and dividing them into three corps of light infantry, placed them respectively under the command of three regular officers, of whom Major Willis was one." [Quotation marks in original. See endnote.]

NOTE:

The engagement that Peters thought was at Black Swamp is reminiscent of a skirmish at Wiggan's Plantation on 23-24 Jan 1781 30 mi from Black Swamp, but that location is about 150 miles from Pee Dee River. John C. Parker, Jr. suggests that this action occurred at Black Creek near present Florence SC. See <http://screwwarguide.com/screwwarguide-2nd-ed.htm>.

From Peters's account of his position at the Battle of Cowpens, and from information in Patrick O'Kelley's *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vol 3, it appears that Peters was attached to James Tate's company of the Augusta County Militia.

The quotation from Henry Lee's *Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States* actually reads as follows: "La Fayette selected seven hundred and fifty of his best militia marksmen, and dividing them into three corps of light infantry, of two hundred and fifty each, he place them respectively under the orders of Majors Call, Willis, and Dick, regular officers. This arrangement was judicious, and during the campaign its beneficial effect was often felt."

Additional materials relating to Christian Peters, S5898

Transcribed by Emer Gunter

We, Samuel Clark, Henry Alexander, and James Dunlap residing in the County of Monroe and State of Virginia (no clergyman residing in the neighborhood of Christian Peters) hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Christian Peters who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe to be 71 years of age that he is reported and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier in the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

James A. Dunlap

Sam Clark

Henry Alexander

I, John Peters, of the County of Giles and the State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Christian Peters who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration during the revolutionary war that I know of my own knowledge that he enlisted under Capt. Robt Cravens and marched to the south and served I believe six months and that he afterwards volunteered and marched with the militia of Rockingham under Capt. Beasley and served I believe three months sworn to and subscribed to in open court this 14th day of September 1832.

John Peters

(Note – John Peters was the brother of Christian Peters)

I, John Dunn, of the County of Monroe and the State of Virginia do hereby certify that I served one tour of the revolutionary war in the year 1781 with Christian Peters of Peterstown in this county. We marched from the county of Rockingham together. I think we started the 1st day of June and we served I think some little more than three months we were in the same company and were both in the Battles of Hotwater and James Town and I do further certify that from the report of the neighborhood and the conversation that I had with the said Christian Peters when we were in the army together I think I can safely say that there is no doubt but that the said Christian Peters had served in the Southern Army before we served together as above stated and that I believe he served as a sergent given under my hand this 30th day of August 1832. John his X mark Dunn (note – John Dunn was the brother in law of Christian Peters, husband of his sister Mary) Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of September. Conrad Peters J.P.

(Note – Conrad Peters was the son of Christian Peters)

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and 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 Samuel Clark, Henry Alexander and James A. Dunlap who have signed one of the preceding certificates and residents of the county of Monroe and state of Virginia that John Peters who has signed another is a resident of Giles County and state aforesaid that John Dunn who was unable to appear in court made the preceding affidavit before Conrad Peters Esq a magistrate whose attestation is genuine, is a resident of the county of Giles of state aforesaid and is a credible person, and that when several statements are entitled to credit I, John Hutchison Jr, Clerk of the Court of Monroe County do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the court in the matter of the application of Christian Peters for a pension. In testimony where of I have here unto set my hand and seal of office at union this 24th September 1832 this 57th year of the Commonwealth. John Hutchison, Jr