

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

Pension Application of Thomas Peterson S5899 NJ
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } Ss.

County of Brooke } On this twenty eighth day of January 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of the county court of Brooke, in the State of Virginia, now sitting, Thomas Peterson, a resident in the same county and state, aged seventy six years past, who being first 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 under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That he was born in the month of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty six, in the county of Somerset, in the then colony, now State of New Jersey.

That in the month of February, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five, declarant volunteered to serve a tour of six months duty, as a private militia man, in the service of the United States, and did serve the full term of said six months duty under the command of Captain Conrod Tunick [possibly Coenradt Ten Eyck of NY Militia], the colonel's name not remembered. At the time Declarant volunteered the said service, he resided in the county of Somerset aforesaid, and the principal part of the service was performed on Staten Island, in quelling and subduing the Tories. That all the troops to which declarant belonged, were militia, there being no regular officers or soldiers present, during the said six months service. [see endnote]

That in the month of July 1776 Declarant was drafted as a Militia man, to serve one month, and did serve the same, a part of the time in the city of New York, and the remainder at Bergin [sic: Bergen], opposite New York. This service was performed under the command of Captain Joseph Coshun and Col. Abraham Quick. The Troops were all militia.

That in the month of August, in the same year 1776, Declarant was again drafted to serve one month, as a militia man, and did serve the same, under the command of Captain Joseph Babcock, Colonels name not remembered. This service was performed at Amboy and Spantown [now Rahway]. The Troops were all militia.

That in the month of October, in the same year 1776, declarant was again drafted and did serve one month as a Militia man, under the command of Captain Richard Compton, and Colonel Peter Vrome [sic: Peter Dumont Vroom]. This service was performed at Springfield and in defending the inhabitants from Tory and British depredations. The Troops were all militia.

Declarant served one other month as a drafted Militia man, and as well as he can recollect, it was in the months of November and December in the same year 1776, at Bergin, in protecting the inhabitants from the Tories and British. This service was performed under the command of Captain Stotts [probably Ryneer Staats], and Colonel Abraham Quick. Troops all Militia.

Declarant served one other tour of Militia duty, being drafted for Three months; this service commenced in the month of January 1777 and about the time the British troops lay at Brunswick. The principal station of the troops to which declarant belonged was at Somerset Court House, but were at times ordered to other places; this Three months service was performed in Captain Stott's company, Major Baird commanded the Regiment (colonel Quick being then under arrest, for cowardice, as declarant understood) and Gen'l. [Philemon] Dickinson the whole of the troops. During the time of this service, had a skirmish with a foraging party of the British, and defeated them. They left, in a piece of woods, two small field pieces, which the American troops had not perceived, and on the next day, the British returned with an increased force, carried off their canon, but our troops took forty waggons that they had brought to carry Forage &c. The troops engaged in this last mentioned service, were Militia.

In the month of June 1777 Declarant was drafted, and served one month as a militia man, in

Captain Compton's company, Col. Frelinghyson's [sic: Frederick Frelinghuysen] Regiment, and Gen. [Nathaniel] Heard's Brigade. this service was performed at Pumptown and Hakensack [sic: Pompton Plains and Hackensack], being a settlement of inveterate Tories. The Troops were all militia.

In the month of August 1777 Declarant was drafted, and served one month militia duty, under the command of Captain Wheeler, Colonel's name not remembered; Genl. Heard commanded the Brigade who were all militia.

In the months of September and October 1777 Declarant served one month's tour as a drafted militia man, in Captain Stotts company, General David Firman commanded the Brigade, and the Declarant, with other Jersey militia, guarded the Ammunition of the American artillery at the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777]. Declarant's commander, Captain Stotts, was wounded at the same battle.

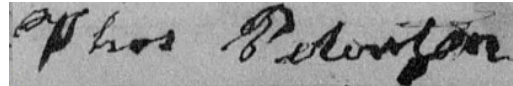
In the month of August, in the year 1778 Declarant was drafted, and did serve one month Militia duty. names of the company Officers not remembered, but to the best of his recollection, Col. Vrome commanded the Regiment.

Declarant was again drafted to serve one month as a Militia man, in the fall of the year 1779, the month not recollected, and did serve the same, at Springfield in New Jersey, under the command of Captain Stotts. At this place there was but one company of Militia and they were employed in protecting the inhabitants.

Declarant therefore claims pension for having served eighteen months, as a private Militia Man, in the War of the revolution. That he has no documentary evidence having never received a written discharge

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, or annuity except the present, and 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.



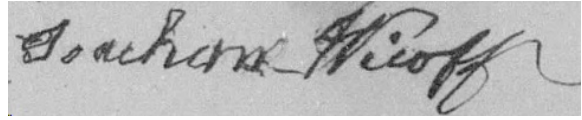
On the same day and before the said Court, personally appeared, in open court, John Vanasdal [S11611], a resident of the county of Brooke aforesaid, who after being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he is well acquainted with the above name declarant, Thomas Peterson, and who (this deponent) resided in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey, at the time of the revolutionary war; and this deponent further says that at the time the said Thomas performed a tour of militia duty under Captain Compton, in the month of June 1777 this deponent served in the said company, as a Drummer, and well remembers that the said Thomas served as a drafted Militia man. Deponent further states that at several times, other than that above stated, when he was in the service as Drummer, he perfectly recollects to have seen the said Thomas Peterson performing duty as a militia man, in the state of New Jersey

John hisXmark Vanasdal

State of Virginia } Ss.

County of Brooke } On this 2nd day of February 1833, personally appeared before me David Pugh a Justice of the peace in and of the court of record in and for the County aforesaid, Joacum Wycoff [sic: Joacham Wicoff, W4401], a resident in the same county and state, aged eighty three years, and who is a revolutionary pensioner of the United States, who from age and infirmity, I do certify is unable to attend at the court of said county, and who after being duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, depose and say that he is well acquainted with Thomas Peterson, of the county and state aforesaid and has been personally acquainted with the said Thomas for the space of forty three years; and from the facts and incidents related to him by the said Thomas Peterson which took place during the time he this deponent was a soldier of the revolution but from the decayed state of his memory, he has not a distinct recollection of his the said Petersons Service in the war of the Revolution but from the facts

referred to he has no doubt but he was a soldier during the revolutionary War



[On 18 June 1833 a certificate was sent to Peterson for a pension of \$60 per year for 18 months service.]

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

Thomas Peterson –

{alleges in his Declaration to have served one year & 6 mo. in New Jersey Militia so says
{abstract for Brook county.

I the undersigned Thomas Peterson in pursuance of the Requisition of the Secretary of War, make the following re Declaration of my Revolutionary services to Wit.

I was born April 9, 1756. am a native of Sommerset County New Jersey, and resided there until about 40 years since. I then settled in this country.

Just before the war broke out and before the British army had reached the united States, in the month of March 1775 or 1776 I cant now recollect which, I volunteered for six months. marched from my native county under Capt. Tenick to Statton Island. we were ordered there to put down the tories – after they were dispersed we returned home and went our respective places of abode, holding our selves ready to march at a moments warning when called on to complete our six months services.

I think in July following it was at any rate when the British army first came to New York, our company was called out again to complete the original six months service. we marched to the city of New York. Joined other troops at that place staid there some days was then dismissed & returned home. I cant say who commanded the American army at New York whilst I was there. I cant tell how long we were in service putting all together. Whether two three or nine weeks or months I cant say – my memory has almost entirely failed in everything.

When the British army lay in Brunswick I think it was in 1776 I was drafted for one month. I served at Summersett CH under Capt. Bird & Major Bird. and shortly thereafter served a nother monthly tour at same place – but here I may stop for it utterley useless for me to attempt to detail my tours of services and give the names of of my officers. [one or two illegible words] all the service I done was the monthly tours except the one first mentioned.

If I was to get all the world for it I could not now recollect one half of the duty I done as a soldier, in the war – my memory was much better when I made my declaration than it now is. I could then only recollect distinctly enough to make out eighteen months, not much more than one half of what I really done, I proved that I was in service by John Vanasdal – whilst in service I was at the Battle of Germantown then a member of Capt. Staals Company.

In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name July 10 1835

Witness

Thomas hisXmark Peterson

Jno. McMilan

a copy

W G Singleton

Note. I am at a loss to form any opinion in reference to this case. – this man seems to be frail in body and mind and I so think him, but I do not think that his memory is as much impaired as he states it is. I learn from some that his character is good, others equally respectable say that it is not good.

W G Singleton

War Dept./ Pension Office/ July 14 1836

Sir [William McCluney, Esq.] In answer to your letter of the 6th inst I have to inform you that the case of Thomas Peterson was re-exam'd. on the 28th of July last, and it was discovered that he was entitled to

\$36 ⁶⁶/₁₀₀ instead of \$60 per annum. [See endnote] A letter was on that day addressed to A Kuhn, Esq. at Wellsburgh, requesting him to return the pension certificate in order that a new one might be issued for the Correct Amount; but it has not been received. The deceased Pensioner was paid from the 4th March 1831 to the 4th Mar 1834 the sum to \$180. And the amount of his stipend to the 27th July 1835 the day of his death, at \$36 ⁶⁶/₁₀₀ per annum will be \$161 ¹¹/₁₀₀. There will therefore, be a small amount to be refunded

[Not signed]

NOTES:

\$36.66 per year is the amount of pension for 11 months of service by a Private. One or two months of Peterson's first tour of duty apparently occurred before the beginning of the Revolutionary War on 19 April 1775, but the file provides no accounting of how the Pension Office arrived at 11 months service. They may have relied on Singleton's report, counting only what Peterson could remember, choosing to ignore his statement that 18 months was less than half of what he actually served.

A document in the file states that Peterson died on 27 Jul 1835.