

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

Pension Application of Jacob Swisher S6179 PA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } To Wit
Harrison County }

On this 30th day of March 1833 personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the peace in and for s'd. County of Harrison in the state aforesaid Jacob Swisher aged 81 years 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 resided in the county of Berkes [sic: Berks] and state of Pennsylvania during the time of the revolution That in the year 1775 he entered the service as a volunteer in a company commanded by Capt. John Leshner that he march to south Amboy and stood guard at that place during the term of three months and was discharged

That he was in March 1777 drafted in a company commanded by Capt. Folk march to the Town of Reading and remained there three months as guard over the Heshens [sic: Hessians] and discharged.

That in the year 1777 he again was drafted in a company commanded by Capt. Leshner marched to chester and continued marching about there untill the battle of Brandywine which was on the 11th September 1777 at which Battle he received a wound in his back which has disabled him ever since, he was then placed in a Hospital where he remained eighteen weeks and was discharged having served seven months including the time of his indisposition

That he was born in the county of Berkes & state of Pennsylvania on 13th march 1752 he has no record of his age except in the church where he was christened from Berkes County he moved to Frederick County State of Maryland from thence to Martinsburg Virginia Thence to Harrison County where he now resides

His diferent discharges he burnt with his continental money thinking they would be of no use That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no one who can testify to his servises 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 He further states that while in the service he recollects to have seen General Washington General [James] Potter &c for his General caracter he begs leave to refer to Col John Sommerville Doct William Williams the Reverend Hance Stewert and others of his neighborhood Sworn & subscribed the date above written Jacob hisXmark Swisher

[On 10 May 1833 Swisher was issued a certificate for a pension of \$43.33 per year for 13 months service. His pension was suspended on the basis of the following report 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 and the endnote below.]

Jacob Swisher – Served 13 mo. has drawn \$129^{99/100}

I the undersigned Jacob Swisher in pursuance of of the requisition of the secretary of War give the following statement of my age and Revolutionary Services, to Wit I shall be 83 years old next April. I am a native of Pennsylvania & resided in that state during the war of the Revolution – in the year of 1775 a while before Harvest, there being a requisition for Militia myself among others was drafted for three months. we marched from Berks county under Capt. John Leazure to South Amboy & thence to old Amboy. My company and another Company was stationed at the latter place for 3 mo.

Some time after the preceeding time, I cant tell how long or in what year – I was drafted again for 3 mo. & marched from same county under Capt Folk to Redding. was stationed there guarding the Hissian Prissoners. there was but the one company in the Guard – Some time after the last preceeding

term, cant tell how long or in what year, I was drafted for 3 mo. & marched from Berks county under Capt John Leazure to Brandy Wine, and was in the engagement at that place & received a wound from a Musket Ball in my shoulder, after being wounded they wanted to put me in the Hospital. I prefered going home & so told Genl. Potter, who gave me a furlough – a day or two after getting home I was taken sick of the “Camp Fever, and lay sick of it for eighteen months. my time of 3 mo. (with the exception of a few days) had expired at the time I was wounded. I was drafted for two other tours of 3 mo. each but hired substitutes in both instances. the forgoing comprises all the services I done in the Revo’n. Col. Jos. Johnson of Harrison wrote my Declaration I gave him the same statement (substantially) that I now give. he charged me \$16 & some cent. In witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name Dec’r 20, 1834
Witness/ J. M. Steed
Jacob hisXmark Swisher

Jacob Swisher – Pensioner
Wood county
Fraud

this is one of Col J Johnsons cases, most all of which are fraudulent./ W. G Singleton/ Dec 20 1834

NOTE: Based on Swisher’s narrative to Singleton he his pension should have been for about nine months rather than 13 months. The difference between the pension application and Swisher’s narrative could have resulted from either fraud or misunderstanding by Col. Joseph Johnson, but Singleton charged fraud merely because he thought “most all” of Johnson’s cases were fraudulent. In fact, however, out of the 25 cases prepared at least in part by Johnson, Singleton charged fraud in only 12, and in 10 of those cases Singleton was demonstrably wrong or gave no reason.