

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Thomas Ruter (Reter) S9055  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia            At a Court held for the County of Isle of Wight on the 4th day of October 1830.

On the motion of Thomas Ritter, and for reasons offered he was permitted to swear, and being sworn deposed and said that he enlisted in the Continental service of the United States during the Revolutionary service of the United States during the Revolutionary War under one Lieutenant Thomas Wishart and was attached to Captain John Grigorys company [sic: John Gregory's company raised in Nansemond County], belonging to the 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Virginia, and that he marched in the said regiment commanded by Col. Ennis [sic: James Innes], to the north, and served three years; that he was at and in the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777]. That about the year '79 or 80 he reenlisted during the war, and was sent to the South under the command of captain John Andrews, whose company was attached to Col Haws [sic: Samuel Hawes's] Regiment. That he was at the battle of Guilford Courthouse [15 Mar 1781], Ninety Six [Siege of Ninety-Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781], Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781] and U<sup>t</sup>aw Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781]. That some months after the last mentioned battle he was sent on to Cumberland Old Courthouse. That he got a furlow at the said old courthouse, in the early part of 1782, and before the furlow was out, the army was disbanded. Therefore, he did not receive any regular discharge. That during the whole time he acted as drummer & drum major.

James Casey [pension application S9158] being sworn, deposed that he was in the Continental Service for three years to the North, that he knew & served with the above named Thomas Ritter, and the said Ritter was drummer – that he the said Casey was discharged at Valley forge and knew nothing more of Ritter.

NOTES:

A paper in the file explains that Ruter's name was originally in German "Rüter," pronounced almost like Reter.

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Albemarle Old Courthouse lists Thomas Rutter/ age 19/ height 5' 10"/ brown hair/ blue eyes/ fair complexion/ born and residing in Nansemond County. Entered service for the duration of the war. Drummer.

A document in the file states that "Thomas Retter" died on 14 May 1832 leaving no widow but one daughter, Elizabeth Sadler. On 31 May 1855 Elizabeth Sadler, 38, wife of Thomas Sadler of Southampton City, applied for a pension stating that her father, Thomas Ritter, died on 14 Sep 1832, and her mother, Sally Ritter, had died at Southampton City on 17 May 1823. On 5 June 1857 Willis Brown and Sarah B. Brown stated that Thomas Reter had two sons: "one was kild and the other was hund [hanged] for the murder of Captain Summerrell." They also stated that "their youngest child J Brown was just fore weeks old at his [Reter's] death and that was August the first 1832 and it being the time the Insurrection Excitment was going on in this county." This is evidently a reference to the Nat Turner slave rebellion, which actually occurred in Aug 1831.