

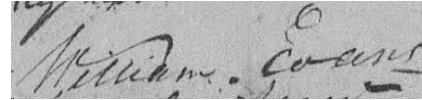
Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Francisco W11021 Mary B. Francisco VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 2 Apr 2015.

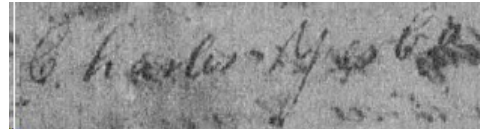
Buckingham County Feby 13th 1812

This is to Certify that; Peter Francisco enterd into ye Continental Army as a Soldier with my self in the 10th Virginia Regm't – Enlisted in the Fall 1776. Joind at Head Quarters in the Spring 1777 was that Summer Drafted in the Light Infantry under General Wayn [sic: Anthony Wayne] Was in the Storm'g of Stoney Point [sic: Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779], where He Recv'd a wound, then continud three years to the North; after which he was under the Command of General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] with my self, and generally known to be one of the Best Vetrans of his day, serving the whole of those campaigns & one of the most meretorious soldiers I have Ever bean Acquainted with,

Given under my hand William Evans [S25069]
formerly Lieut In 10th Virginia Regm't.



This to Certify that I was present when Peter Francisco Purchased a horse at the Price of 23000 weight of Tobacco and I became his security for the same; and to my certain knowledge when the Tobacco was settled it was settled at 42/6 Per hundred he served a faithful tower of duty under me in South Carolina and had the misfortune to have his horse shot from under him in a scrammaging Party Near Charlestown. Given under my hand this 6th Mar 1780 Capt Charles Yerba



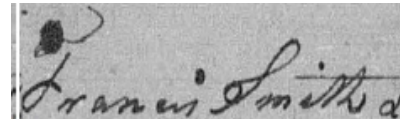
We hereby certify that Peter Francisco, early in the revolutionary war entered into the Continental service, that he continued in the said service until about the year 1779 or 1780 at which time he entered the state service and enlisted in the troop of Cavalry (of which I Philemon Holcombe, pension application S4399] was Lieutenant) in Prince Edw'd [Prince Edward] County, and was in the battle of Guilford. We know that the said P. Francisco rendered important services to the Country, and that just before the action of Guilford he sold what little property he had and having rec'd paper money for the same, he lost much of his little by the depreciation of the currency of the Country. The said P. Francisco has a large family to support, and he must labor hard for that purpose — Given under our hand this 24th Septemb'r. 1818 —

Philemon Holcombe

I hereby Certify that Peter Francisco in the year 1777 entered into the Continental Service with me, that we continued in the said service until the year 1780 in the Northern Army, I know him to be in the Battle of Guilford & also that he said P. Francisco rendered important services to his Country, which is well known by many others Given from under my hand this 5th day of October 1818.

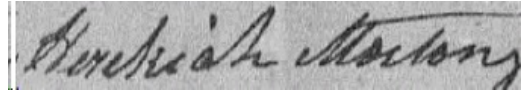
Francis Smith Late Lt. C. A.

NB Peter Francisco was in every Battle that was
was fought in the above mentioned service

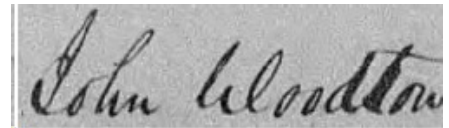


I do certify that Peter Francisco inlisted in the continental army earley in the year 1777 and continued in the said service until 1779 and was badly wounded in one or two Actions, and afterwards while Lord Cornwallis was marching through the Carolinas [Feb and Mar 1781] he joined Gen'l. Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army and acted very bravely in several instances particularly in the Guilford Action where he was severely wounded

Given under my hand this 6th Day of October 1818
Hezekiah Morton [BLWt69-300]
formerly Capt. in the Continental line



I hereby Certify that in relation to the Guilford Battle the above named Peter Francisco did act bravely as was Severly Wounded I acted as a Leutenat from the County of Cumberland & State of Va. and in company with said P Francisco when leaving the Battle ground he was very Bloody also was his Sword from point to hilt As relating to his service in the Northern army he inlisted from my neighbourhood & returned three years after and said to have several wounds —
John Woodson



I have examined several wounds received by Peter Francisco while in the service of his country during Revolutionary war – I consider them to have been dangerous wounds well calculated to impair his Bodily strength and to render him unable to procure by manual labour a support for himself and family.
9th December 1818

Thomas C Armstrong

I have examined Peter Francisco who appears to labour under much debility in the hip joint, which I am informed was produced by a Bayonet wound received in the revolutionary war. This defect, from the statement of Mr. Francisco and others, must necessarily impair his general health and render him incapable of giving to his family that support which necessity requires.

William B. Smith Dec'r. 12th 1818

I have examined the cicatrices or scars of Peter Francisco which are said to be effects of wounds which he received during the revolutionary war, of which fact I have no reason to doubt, they are numerous & the wounds must have been serious, & extensive in their consequences the limb on which most of the wounds were inflicted appears much debilitated and is afflicted with ordematous [edematous] inflammation, which in my opinion will in all probability, always debar Mr. Francisco from taking much exercise and using the necessary exertions towards the support & maintainance of his family notwithstanding the use of the curative & preventative means such as the roller &c &c.

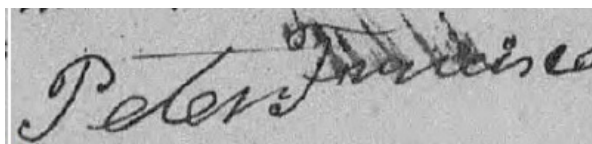
Mr Francisco is said to be about sixty years old, his head is silvered over with age & his constitution appears much Shipwreck'd & the vital sparks gradually exhausting itself & he must ere long head that road which has been trodden by the other of our revolutionary Heroes who are gone before him.

Mr. Francisco often reminds me of the old adage, O age & want, (I may say infirmity) are ill match'd pair. He informs me that he is frequently confin'd fifteen or eighteen days to his house, with an inability to raise the wounded limb & that is very painful to him

I have been acquainted with Mr. Francisco for the last nine or ten years and believe him to be a very sober & temperate man, a man of uniform habits therefore no part of his indisposition is the effect of dissipation of any kind & further believe him to be a fit subject for a Pension during life & therefore recommend him to that Government in which he as a private acted so conspicuous a part

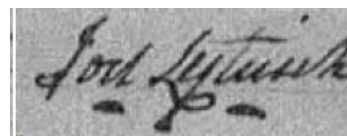
Jno. Spencer Cumberland county Jan'y 7th 1819

Buckingham County Sct — on this 11th day of March 1823 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Peter Francisco, who on his oath, declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the Company Commanded by Captain Hughes Woodson [R19215], in the Regiment Commanded (at different times by Colo. [George] Weedon, Haws [sic: Samuel Hawes] & Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] in the service of the united states, that his name was placed on the pension roll of the state of Virginia, that he received a Certificate of that fact under the Signature and Seal of the Secretary at War, which Certificate, in the year 1821 he placed in the hands of Lucous[?] Bolling, Esquire, & has not been able to obtain it again, being informed by said Bolling that he has lost the same or mislaid it that he knows not where to obtain it.



This is to certify that I became acquainted with Peter Francisco in the Revolutionary Army while in Winter quarters at Valley Forge in the Winter of 1777-78 and saw him frequently in the army while attached to the Norther Army untill I was discharged at Rammapo [sic: Ramapo] in New Jersey on the first of August 1779 & afterwards saw him in the Southern Army in the Campaign of 1780 but do not recollect for what length of time he had enlisted but believe from what I heard of him afterwards that he continued in Army during the War & was no doubt amongst the bravest men attached to the Army Given under my hand in the County of Bedford & State of Virginia this 4th day of June 1845

Joel Leftwich A Revolutionary Pensioner [S8830]
and late Maj'r Gen'l of the 1st T.[?] M.



[The following are from [bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

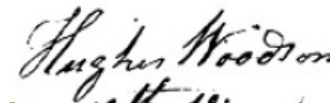
I do certify that Mr. Peter Francisco was at the action of Guilford a volintear Dragoon and distinguished himself, as a good & brave soldier as witness my hand

Test [William Barret VAS1197]
Nelson Berkeley Sen'r. late Capt of Dragoons
November 15 1790



This is to Sertify that Peter Francisco Inlisted in my company in the Continantal Service for the term of Three years and Served the time And has not Receiv'd a warrant for the Land allotted for the Soldiers for that term of service

Given under my hand this 16th day of Dec'r. 1795
Hughes Woodson Capt. formerly of 6th Virg'a Regmt



[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The enclosed vouchers shew that Peter Francisco served as a brave and gallant soldier during the whole revolutionary war, and did not leave the army untill the termination thereof, when he was honorably discharged. The said Peter Francisco thus is entitled to 300 acres millitary land bounty under the act of Assembly passed the — day October 1780 see 10th Hen'g page 331

[\[http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol10-16.htm\]](http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol10-16.htm) Jno H Price atty for the Heirs

An act concerning Peter Francisco passed 21st Dec'r 1790

Section 1st. Whereas it has been represented to the present General assembly that Peter Francisco of the county of Charlotte, entered into the Va. line as a soldier at a very early period of the late war with great Britain, rec'd. several wounds in the course thereof, and distinguished himself by numerous acts of bravery and intrepidity; and whereas the s'd Peter Francisco afterwards joined the cavalry to the southward, under the command of Colonel Wm. Washington [William Washington], having first purchased at his own cost a very valuable horse, which being worn down by hardship died in the service; Section 2^d. Be it enacted by the general assembly that as well to compensate the s'd. Peter Francisco for the loss of s'd horse, as to reward him for his valour, the auditor shall and he is hereby required to issue him a warrant on the treasury for the sum of seventy five pounds, payable out of the contingent fund. The above is a true copy of the Virginia Act of Assembly Sec 13 Vol Henings statutes at large Page 220 [http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol13-11.htm#page_220] William DuVal

Mr Peter Francisco declares that the Horse he bought as a Volunteer to serve the United States cost him Twenty Thousand Weight of Tobacco for which he gave his Bond which he did not pay untill after the Revolutionary War which he puts in 1783 or 1784 and settled then at 42/6 per hundred Virg'a Money, which then half ruined him

That the Sum of Seventy Five pounds was so inadequate to the Value of his Horse he declined accepting the £75. he ought to have rec'd the sum the Horse Cost him at the time of his purchasing him. I do certify that in 1780 & 1781 a good strong Horse such as would carry a person of Mr Fransico's Weight would at that day cost from 15,000 to 20,000 Weight of uper James River tobacco. I bought a pair of Horses for two Young Gentlemen in 1780 and they then cost me 10,000 James River Tobacco each which I lent to my two Friends to join the Light Horse as Volunteers one of them for his Valor & the prisoners he took in different charges on the Enemy obtained the thanks, [one or two illegible words] of the Commanding General. Horses sold at that Period very High, good Horses now would sell equal to those I purchased for 100\$ & no more
William DuVal/ Feby 22^d 1828

This is to certify that Peter Francisco dec'd and myself served in the Revolutionary War together nearly six years, giving me an opportunity of knowing the prowess, heroism, and magnanimity of my old brother soldier. I am now the only surviving Officer of the 10th Virginia Regiment that I know of to which Mr. Francisco was attached. We fought together at the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777], and the Storming of Stony point, at the latter Mr. Francisco displayed more being of uncommon strength and having to pass through the ambygores[?]. Francisco was the 2nd man who laid hold of the Flag Staff, which circumstance brought him into particular notice by the Officers and men. We served together under his excellency General Washington to the north three years and to the south under Gen'l Green nearly to the end of the war. I frequently heard of Francisco's galantry, he in the light horse and myself in the Infantry. Francisco was in the battles of Guilford and Seige of Ninety Six [22 May - 19 Jun 1781] Francisco served to my knowledge throughout the war. These are to the best of my knowledge & recollection facts the most prominent which I can now recollect in my present advanced age. Given under my hand this 30th day of July 1831 [signed] William Evans
Lieutenant in 10th Virginia Regt

Teste/ Wm. M Evans Jr

NB Mr. Francisco was one of the forlorne hope at the Storming of Stony point under Genl Wayne. I will now mention the field officers we served under together

Colo Edward Stephens [sic] of Culpeper

Colo. [Lewis] Willis: Fredericksburg

Maj'r Geo. Nicholas [George Nicholas; illegible word]

Coln Saml Hawes [Samuel Hawes]

Majr [Thomas] Ridley & [Thomas] Hill

Coln. Washington Light Horse

[The following are from [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Buckingham County]

The honorable the General Assembly of Virginia
The memorial of Peter Francisco humbly represents that being warmly impress'd with the jusness & magnitude of the American Cause in the grand contest for Liberty, from an ardent desire to oppose a system form'd by the powers of Britain to inslave the Americans, he most chearfully engag'd as a volunteer at the commencement of the war and continued in the service of the united States for the term of three years in which space he not only underwent the hardships & toils incident to Soldiers in common but was exposed on every emergency to the most eminent dangers that occur'd in the critical situation of the Army under the command of his excellency General Washington in the northen States; where he receiv'd three wounds at different periods. For which Services he has neither receiv'd money or Cloathing. Your memorilist begs leave further to observe that at the alarming crisis when Lord Cornwallis invaded this State he furnish'd himself at his own expence with a valuable Horse & other necessary acoutrements for a dragoon and enterd as a volunteer the sccond time under the command of General [Robert] Lawson & was afterwards incoporated with Colo Washingtons Legionary Corps, was in the charge at Guilford [several undeciphered words] and was employd principally on the lines of the enemy in the Southern department: the many services render'd there particularly at the battle of Gilford is too well establish'd to require further proof to your honorable body. For all of which services toils, and dangers, your memorilist has neither receiv'd money, Clothing, or any kind of compensation whatever. In consideration thereof your memorilist humbly pray you to take a dispassionate vies of these several circumstances, and give that relief as the neglect of his demestic business, his Services, the expence of furnishing himself with a Horse &c, and his merit as a Soldier, undergoing many distressing difficulties intitle him to

Auditors Office Nov'r. 24 1784

The within mentioned claimant never applied to this office for a settlement of his acc't as a Soldier in the Cont'l. army – well knowing that the Auditors are not authorized to make him any allowance therefor he is not possessed of any Certificate which fixes the time of his entering into the army & his discharge therefrom. With respect to the claim for a Horse furnished it ought to have be adjusted by a Court of claims – Given under our hands the day & year above B Stark
November 22^d 1784 Ref'd to Claims/ Rejected/ Reported

To the honble the Speaker & the House of Delegates

The petition of Peter Francisco humbly Sheweth

That he served in the continental Army in the several general Battles fought during the last War except at Saratoga. His Behaviour at Stoney Point & his Wounds are known to his officers, as well as his personal atcheivements in sundry Encounters with the comon Enemy. That after a long Series of Suffering & Danger he for a while retired to house & Labor, when the Stress of the War changed from the North to the South, & in order again to serve his Country he embraced the Invitation held out by the Government for Volunteers, & converted his little All into the necessary Equipments for service in the Cavalry. His Horse cost him 15,000 lb Crop Tobacco of the upper James River Inspection which altho' dee[med] a proper price at that Time, he has since discharged at the prices of 28/ per cent for 5,000 of it, & [?]0/ per cent for the remaining 10,000. Your petitioner shews that he served as a Soldier in the Cavalry in several Corps', among the others in Colo. Washingtons & that by Dint of hard service his said Horse died as he verily believes.

Your petitioner forbears to recount a number of particulars which if known might serve to recomend him to his County's Favor. He refers to thos who served with him to explain his conduct. He cannot however forbear to request payment for his said Horse from this honble House being in great Want of Money. He will here repeat nothing of the large arrears of Cloathing & other Things due to him

& confine his Request to the simple Article of the Horse aforesaid & as in Duty bound &c
15 Nov'r 1790 Ref'd. to Claims
reasonable
£300
ref'd 20th Nov'r 90

Resolved that the petition of Peter Francisco praying to be paid by the public for a Horse lost by him in the service during the late war is reasonable.

Resolved that as well to compensate the said Peter Francisco for the horse aforesaid, as to reward him for the distinguish'd bravery displayed in the course of the late war, the Auditor of public accounts ought to be directed to issue him a warrant for the sum of [blank] pounds payable out of the [blank] fund

Bill by Claims

[In the margin of the following someone has written, "From the collection of Mrs F. Spotswood.]
Buckingham County November 12th 1820

To the Senate and House of Representatives in the Capitol in Richmond assembled.

The petition of Peter Francisco humbly sheweth, that he enlisted in the continental army under Capt Hughes Woodson in the years 1776 and joined the grand army at a place called Middlebrook and was in the following actions to wit Brandywine & Germantown the two first general engagements, and then stationed at a place called West point fort on the North river for a considerable time & from thence volunteered himself under Colo [Francois Louis de] Fleury to storm Stony point fort on the North river, he was the second man who scaled the walls at the enemies fort on the right wing, & recieved a wound slaunting through the belly nine inches long, from thence carried up the North river to a place called the Fishkill & remained there about six weeks & recovered his wound, Then joining the grand army the next action was the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] being detached under Colo. [Daniel] Morgan from the main body where a considerable slaughter of the enemy took place in which action he received a wound of an ounce ball through the right thigh, altho being wounded pursued the enemy to a place called Powel's hook [sic: Paulus Hook] where the imbarked, and by 10 O'clock the next day he killed two of their grenadiers belonging to the 14 Regem't. while they were on pickett, & further that he never felt satisfied nor thought he did a good day's work but by drawing British blood & if that was not the case could not have a good night's repose. After being in a number of scouting parties and serving the term of three years he bid adieu to the Northern states & came to Virginia, he then volunteered his services to go on with Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates and then was detached into Colo. Mayo's regiment [see endnote] & in a few days a general engagement took place between Cornwallis & Gates which action he was in [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], and being placed near the Colonel in the center of the regement the general orders were that Wallis' army was to be taken at the point of the bayonet by a parcel of raw undisciplined men, and between daybreak & sun rise the British charged upon us and in a few moments dispersed the great Gen'l Gates' army & he himself (the Genl) killed two horses in making his escape to Hillsborough.

Colo. Mayo & himself continued together after the army broke and a grenadier of the british was about running his bayonett through him, he then wheeled about and put a ball & three buckshot through the grenadier & saved the Colo's. life. Mayo & himself kept together upon the left wing of Talton's [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] line until they were charged upon by one of Talton's troopers, and at that time ordered his men not to fight in form but to cut down the militia as they rose the hill (for the militia had thrown away all their guns) The trooper ordered him to give up his gun, he made a feint advance towards him, as he did not advance quick enough he made a pass at his head with his sword & he parried it off with his gun he then reined in and made a second charge and demanded his gun as he advanced towards him wheeled the point of the gun run him through the body dismounted him, got on his horse, rode through the British army crying Huzza my brave boys yonder goes the damned rebels. he made his escape by considering him as one of the refugees. the Colo. who after running two or three hundred yards, he came up with him & gave him his horse which he rode to Hillsborough where he continued

about five or six weeks through fatigue, the Colo. after his return willed him a thousand acres of land lying on Richland Creek in Kentucky for services he rendered his country & for saving his life which land he never got at the title is disputable.

After Gates' defeat he returned to the county of Prince Edward, he then volunteered himself under Capt Watkins to join Colo. Washington to the south, equipped himself with a good horse we then fell in with the British about 5 or six hundred at place called the Scotch lake [Scotts Lake, now part of Lake Marion], about a hundard yards from the lake they fortified themselves in upon the top of a hill resembling a sugar loaf [Fort Watson, atop an Indian mound; see endnote], as soon as he got in sight of the lake he tied his horse and ran under the bank thereof to discover the situation that the enemy were in, and after getting opposite to the fort he discovered their situation found there was no danger under the foot of the mount where all their tents & marques [marquees] were pitched, he then ran from the lake to the foot of the mount among all their tents & marquees for they stood pitched, and after walking about for some time went into one of their marquees where there were several hogsheads. when he was about to return threw one of the hogsheads down upon the bulge & rolling it some distance, place himself upon his belly with his head under cover of the hogshead, and by drawing it down gently by each chine[?] got it to the lake the british firing at him at the same time & fired several balls through the Hogshead, the British being surrounded by our Cavalry and Infantry they could not come out of the fort, & when he arrived at his journeys end General Johnson & his picquets were placed, there the General opened the hogshead & the contents were shirts overalls & spatterdashes, which he divided among Washingtons & [Henry] Lee's men who were bare for such necessaries, General Johnson himself [one or two undeciphered words] of the pantaloons; he then mounted his horse & rode round to the north side of the mount where he discovered eight horses belonging to the British officers about one hundred yards from the fort he borrowed a whip & rode between the fort & the horses under fire & brought them safe into camp & gave them up to Colo Washington. He then joined Colo Washington and was at the battle of Guilford and after the action was pretty well over there were eight hundred of the king's guards held in reserve to cut off the retreat of the militia; Col. Washington observing these manoeuvres made a charge upon them in which charge he was wounded in the thigh by a bayonet from the knee to the socket of the hip, and in the presence of many he was seen to kill two men, besides several other passes which without a doubt might be fatal. Besides he was in many skirmishes to the south with Capt Irby in one of which he lost his horse, shot from under him which he gave twenty three thousand pounds of Tobacco for, and he lost another at the battle of Guilford from hard riding; the country paid him for latter the other is still unsettled the ducuments at this time are in the hands of John W Eppes. The reason that he has never made application till this late hour was that he lost his pockett book which contained all his vouchers, but happily were sent to him from the moravian town [Bethania, Bethabara, or Salem NC], which was found by an honest old Dutchman in the course of a few years past. After returning home from Guilford he fell in accidentally at the house of Benjamin Ward in Amilia County [sic: Amelia County VA] where a plundering party of the British detached from the main body of Colo Talton came to the said Ward['s] to plunder, at which place he was, one of the British demanded his Watch and some other Jewelry that he possessed at the same time after he received the plunder demanded & laid his sword under his right arm, he stept back one pace in the rear seized his sword by the hilt cut off five inches of his scull one way & two and a half [several illegible words] many of his brains flew out, he had then at that time neither sword nor pistol of his own, but fought with his adversaries own weapons, which he had got from him, he wounded & drove the balance took eight horses out of nine & the ninth went off with a large cut on his back, so they all retreated to join Talton who was about a mile or little better off [see endnote]. This is the last favour I ever did the British. Now If the Gentlemen of the assembly think that I am entitled to any thing from the above recited services let them say, for I did not wish to call on them when my country was in debt but as I am now in the decline of life I hope they will consider my situation & remember the services rendered & make me such compensation as they in their wisdom shall think meet, and allow me full pay for my horse and the interest theron. & your petitioner shall ever pray &c
When the Bond for the Tob'o was paid it was 42/6 pr hundred.

NOTES:

Francisco's bloody sword may have been the one said to have been given to him by George Washington after Francisco complained that the standard size was too small for him. Much more on Peter Francisco, the "Virginia Giant," can be found online and in books.

I could not find any other pension application referring to a Col. Mayo at the Battle of Camden. There was at that battle, however, a Capt. William Mayo from Powhatan County VA.

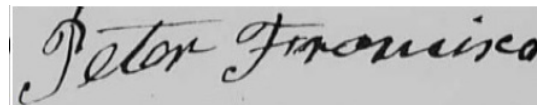
The action near Scott Lake would appear to have been during the siege of Fort Watson, 15 - 23 Apr 1781, except that William Washington's troops were not there, and of course the siege was after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, when Francisco was supposedly recovering from his wound. I could not find any record of a Gen. Johnson at the siege of Fort Watson or elsewhere.

Tarleton was in Amelia County in the middle of July 1781.

On 8 Jan 1830 Francisco made the following statement in support of the pension application S37702 of Ansolem Bailey:

The affidavit of Peter Francisco of the County of Buckingham in the State of Virginia, and now Sergeant at Arms to the House of Delegates

This affiant states that he was acquainted with Anselm Bailey a soldier in the Revolutionary Army. That said Bailey and affiant constituted a part of the Forlorn hope at the Storming of Stoney point – that there Bailey was his left hand man and was in the hottest of the fight and in the thickest of the Slaughter. That he and the said Bailey were also together in the battles of Monmouth and the Storming of mud Island [Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, 15 Nov 1777]. That in all these actions, so far as the affiant saw, Bailey conducted himself like a good and brave soldier – and the affiant never heard any complaint of him in the army or elsewhere.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Francisco". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

On 17 Feb 1854 in Botetourt County VA Mary B. Francisco, 68, applied for a pension stating that she married Peter Francisco on 3 Jul 1823, and he died 16 Jan 1831. A letter dated 19 Jan 1854 refers to her as the "last wife" of Peter Francisco. With her application was a copy of a bond signed in Buckingham County on 29 Jun 1823 by Peter Francisco and Francis Moseley for the marriage of Francisco to Mary B. West. Samuel J. Walker stated that he witnessed the marriage, which occurred in the residence of Mary B. West in the part of Buckingham County that is now Appomattox. On 24 Mar 1855 Mary B. Francisco, 70, applied for bounty land, adding that Peter Francisco had also been a Private in the 5th Regiment of US Infantry during the War of 1812 and had died at Richmond. According to a typed summary, in 1848 she was living in Botetourt County with a son-in-law, Joseph V. Carper.