

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Mashalee (Merzell, Lee) W184 Elizabeth Merzell NJ
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 June 2015.

District of New-Jersey, Morris County, SS.

On this fifth day of October 1824 personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, holden at Morris-Town, in and for the county of Morris, in the term of September in the year aforesaid, (the said Court being a Court of Record, possessing a seal, proceeding according to the course of the common law, having a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, keeping record of its proceedings, and its judgement being removable by writ of error only) Peter Mushilee, alias Peter Lee aged Seventy four year, and resident in said county, who being first duly Sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March, 1818, and the 1st of May, 1820, that he the said Peter Mushilee, or Peter Lee, enlisted as a common soldier at Suckiesunnay [Succasunna?] plains in Morris County New Jersey for the term of three years, in Captain John Wilson company of light infantry in Major John Pattons [sic: John Patten's] Battalion, in the Regiment of Delaware blues Commanded by Col [Joseph] Vaughan in or about the month of October A.D. 1776 & marched with his company to west point where he joined his regiment & some time in the year 1777 [sic: 1779] as he believes he with the Regiment was marched to the Genesee County [NY] in General Maxwells [William Maxwell's] Brigade, in Gen'l. Sullivans [John Sullivan's] expedition against the Indians where he remained untill the fall of 1779 when he removed with the army to Morristown N. Jersey where he lay that winter & reinlisted in the same Company to serve during the war. In the spring of 1780 he marched with the same company & Regiment to South Carolina where he joined Gen'l. Gates' [Horatio Gates's] Division & after Gates defeat at the Gum Swamp [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] as attached to Cap'n. Queenalls [Paul Quenowault's] Company in the same Regiment under Col. Vaughan in General Greens [Nathanael Greene's] division just before the peace he was transfered to Capt Wm McCannons [probably William McCammon's] Corps and in the same Regiment & some time in 1783 he was discharged at New Castle, Delaware as he thinks by proclamation of Congress the war having closed

And in pursuance of the act of the 1st of May, 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States, on the 18th day of March, 1818, and that I have not, since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, in the Revolutionary War," passed on the 18th day of March, 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts, due to me; nor have I any Income, other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed. which Schedule is as follows

Two old bed steads & bedding	Two Trammels
Half of an old Chest of drawers	Two old Chairs
one Chest	one old Chest
one old Churn	one old Table
Two old pails	One old big wheel
One old broken kettle	One old Reel
one small kettle	One old bread tray
one griddle	2 lot of Crockery
one Tea kettle	An old Cow
	One last spring Calf
	One old small gun[?] & stone

And this deponent further states that he was in the battle against the Indians under Gen'l. Sullivan of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] of Gum Swamp, where he was wounded the ring finger on the left hand shot

off Also at the battle of Camden S.C. under Gen'l. Green [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, 25 Apr 1781]; of Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] under Gen'l. Green and of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] as well as various skirmishes of less notice He was born in Morris County New Jersey in which County he now resides & is now 74 years of Age, his wife is 59 years old and in poor health. He has but two living Children both daughters The oldest is 32 years old & is married, the other is 14 years old & lives with him at home. This deponent has no occupation or trade but follows chopping wood & coaling but is by reason of age & infirmities unable to labour more than about one half his time. And this deponent further states that his name, Mushellee, was originally a french name & at the time of his enlistment he was known & called by that name but it being a singular name he was frequently nick named by his comrades & called Peter Mushpot & other names equally ludicrous & offensive & by the advice of his Capt (Wilson) & with his own consent the name was changed & he was called Peter Lee & the Orderly Sergant was directed to alter it & he thinks it was continued on the rolls as by that name of Lee instead of Mushelee untill the close of the war since which time he is called Mushalee or Muselle as some call it. He cannot write his name & is altogether ignorant how the name is written or spelled

Peter hisXmark Mashelee or Peter Lee

Office of the Secretary of the State of Delaware/ Dover 22 Dec'r 1824

There are in this office pay rolls of Captain John Wilson's Company, belonging to the Delaware Regiment commanded by Col. David Hall in the service of the United States during the revolutionary war, on the continental establishment, from the month of February 1778 inclusive till the months of March 1780 inclusive, and also muster rolls of the said company for the months of March April & May 1779 and of April May & June 1780, from which it appears that a person of the name of "Peter Lee" was enlisted as a common soldier in the said company on the 25th August 1779, that he appears to have been present with the said company, after his enlistment, during the months of August September October November and December 1779; that in the pay rolls of the said company for January and February 1780, his name is not mentioned and no notice of any kind taken of him; that in the pay roll of the said company for March 1780 his name appears as being present with the said company, and it is marked opposite to his name, in the said last mentioned pay roll, "returned from desertion", and that his pay according to this pay roll commenced on the 27 March; and it also appears from the muster rolls of the said company that the said Peter Lee was present with the said company in the service of the United States during the months of April May & June and till the 17 July 1780; on which 17 July 1780 the last muster roll of the said company, in this office, is dated. In the summer of 1780 the Delaware Troops in the service of the United States marched to the South.

It further appears from an original paper in this office purporting to be a "Muster Roll of the noncommissioned officers drummers and fifers and rank and file of the late Delaware Regiment (then) the first company of the second Battalion in Col. [Otho Holland] Williams' Regiment serving in the Southern army of the United States" dated "Hillsborough N. Carolina Sep. 1780" that a private soldier of the name of "Peter Lee" then belonged to the said last mentioned company and that he was in the Hillsborough Hospital.

H. M. Ridgely Secretary of State.

State of New Jersey } SS.

Morris County } On this first day of April AD. 1825, personally appeared before the Judges of the Superior Court of common pleas in open Court, holden in Morristown, in & for said County, in the term of March in said year, (the said Court possessing all the powers, & exercising all the jurisdiction & prerogatives set forth in the general declaration hereunto annexed) Peter Mushalee, alias Peter Lee, aged nearly 75 years, resident in said County, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth depose & say, that he is the same Peter Mushelee, alias, Peter Lee, named in the declaration before alluded to, taken before the judges of said Court on the fifth day of October 1824, subscribed by Cornelius Ludlow, Jesse Wilson, & Joseph Jackson, judges of said Court, which declaration is hereunto annexed, & this deponent desires that this, his second deposition, may be considered as in connection

with the first, & explanatory thereof. And this deponent on oath declares; that some time in the winter of 1780 [1779 - 1780], universally known among Revolutionary soldiers as the hard winter, he received from his commanding officers a furlough, or permit to visit his parents, residing a few miles from Morris-town, where the Army then was encamped: – that the Army was very destitute, & suffering for provisions & clothing, & that the soldiers were often indulged by their officers in going from camp for short periods, to chop wood & do such work for neighboring farmers as they could find to do to procure some bread or flour or meat to subsist upon. Being then very young, & believing that active service would not be required of the soldiers during the severity of that inclement winter, he remained with his father until about March, & perhaps he might have overstaid his time mentioned in his furlough for a few days, but that he never for a moment entertained a thought of deserting, but returned to his company & comrades in arms, & faithfully served his Country until the war terminated, & the army was disbanded & discharged. And this deponent further swears, that he fully believes himself entitled to a pension, both on the grounds of services & poverty, when the law of March 18th AD 1818 was first passed. & intended applying for relief under its provisions but was informed by his neighbours, that none but those who were actually paupers & were supported by the town, could be placed on the pension roll. That being then able to work, & having some boys to assist him, he preferred to earn his daily bread with his hands, as long as he could subsist. That in April last, 1824, he lost two sons, who both died suddenly, on the same day, & that now, being very infirm & aged he cannot by his own labor any longer support himself & his aged wife. And this deponent further declares on oath that he has never owned a single rod or acre of land during his life, nor has he since the 18th March 1818, owned more than two cows, at any one time, & some years has raised one or two hogs, that at present he has not a hog or a pig, nor any other property real or personal, except what is mentioned in his schedule attached to his former declaration, unless it be from sheep, now in his possession, owned by Richard Conine, & part with this deponent on shares. That since March 18th 1818, he has had no bonds, notes, mortgages, or any kind of securities or promises for money, nor any bank accounts, or debts of any kind due to him. that his business has been that of a wood chipper & collier & that he has seldom received more than a quarter of a dollar at any one time for his labor, in money, but has had flour, meat & clothing for his family, & often been indebted to his employer for necessaries advanced before his labor has paid for them. That he now is indebted to Joseph T. Hoff, Joseph Dickerson, John Seward, David Allen & some others, small debts, which he has no means to pay – that yesterday an execution for fourteen dollars was levied upon him by a constable at suit of Joseph Dickerson Jun'r, which, if urged to extremities, must shut him up in prison

Peter hisXmark Mushalee alias Peter lee

NOTE: On 29 Sep 1848 Elizabeth Merzell of Frankfurt County NJ, age 80 on the previous 26 Oct, applied for a pension stating that as Elizabeth Phillips she married Peter Merzell on 4 June 1785 in Newfoundland in Sussex County, and he died 4 Sep 1827. She stated that they had six sons and four daughters. On 20 Sep 1849 the only surviving child, Charlotte Long, submitted a copy of a family record listing all the children and their dates of birth and death as transcribed below. There is another copy of the family record in the file, but it is too fragmented for transcription.

Peter MerCell borne in the yere of or lord

Elizabeth MarCell was Borne in yere of or lord

David Marcell was Borne in the yeare of our lord December 20^{the} 1785

John Marcell was borne in the yere of ore lord september 24^{the} 1787

Willam Marcell Was Borne in the yere of or lord January 26 1790

Elisebeth Marcell was borne in the year of or lord september the 12th 1792

Moses Marcell Was Borne in the yere of or lord January the 30^{the} 1795

Jacob Marcell Was Borne in the yere of or lord May 18^{the} 1797

Alvy Marcell Was Born in the yere of or lord March 22^{the} 1800

Rachel Marcell Was Borne in the yere of or lord september 23^{the} 182 [sic]

Joseph Marcell Was Borne in the yere of or lord November 3th 185 [sic]

Charlote Marcell Was Borne in the yeare of or lord January 10 the 1810

this is to shoe wen tha did [when they died]

Peter Mercell Deseast on the 4 of September th 1827

John Marcell Was Deseast the year December the 9 1815

wilam Marcell Was deseast september 10th 1800

lisebeth Marcell Was Desest her life Feburary 7 1841

Richard V. Carnine Deseast his life Febuary 6th 1841

[The following entries are written in a religious text.]

Peter Marcell Deseast on the 4 of Septembr the 1827

elizabeth Marcell

David Marcell was Borne the year of our lord the 1785 December the 20