

Buckingham County November 11<sup>th</sup> 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 year  
1776 and joined the grand army at a place called  
Middlebrook and was in the following actions  
to wit Brandywine & German town the two first  
general engagements and then stationed at a place  
called Mifflin's point fort on the North river for a  
considerable time & from thence volunteered him-  
self under Colo. Fleury to storm Stony point  
fort on the North river, he was the second man  
who scaled the walls of <sup>the</sup> enemies fort, & received  
a wound slanting through the belly nine inches  
long; from thence carried up the North river to  
a place called the Fish kill & remained there  
about six weeks & recovered his wound,  
Then joining the grand army & the next action  
was the battle of Monmouth being detached under  
Colo. Morgan from the main body where a con-  
siderable 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 Powell's  
hook where they embarked, and by 10 O'clock the  
next day he killed two of their grenadiers belong-  
ing to the 14 Regim<sup>t</sup> while they were on pickets,  
& further that he never felt satisfied nor thought  
he did a good day's work <sup>but</sup> 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<sup>l</sup>. Gates and then was detached into  
Colo. Mayo's regiment & in a few days a general  
engagement took place between Cornwallis &  
Gates which action he was in, and being placed  
near the Cholonk in the center of the regiment  
the general orders were that Wallis' army was to

be taken at the point of the bayonet by a parcel of rascals  
undisciplined men, and between day break & sun rise the  
British charged upon us and in a few moments dispersed  
the great Genl Gates' army & he himself (the Genl)  
killed two horses in making his escape to Hillsborough.  
Col: Mayo & myself continued together  
after the army broke and a grenadier of the British  
was about running his bayonet through him he then  
wheeled about and put a ball & three buck shot through  
the grenadier & saved the Col: life. Mayo & myself  
held together upon the left wing of Talton's 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 guns, 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 guns as he advanced towards him wheeled the  
point of the gun near him through the body dismounted  
him, got on his horse, rode through the British  
army crying Hurra my brave boys you'd go  
the damned rebels, he made his escape by considering  
him as one of the refugees. The Col: who after running  
two or three hundred yards, he came up with him &  
gave him his horse which he rode to Hillsborough  
when he continued about four or six weeks through  
fatigue, the Col: after his return willed him a thou-  
sand acres of land lying on Richland Creek in Kentucky  
for services he rendered his country & for saving his  
life which land he never got as the title is disputable.

After Gates' defeat he returned to the county  
of Prince Edward, he then volunteered himself under Capt  
Walkins to join Col: Washing<sup>ton</sup> to the south, equipped him-  
self with a good horse we then filed on with the British  
about 5 or six hundred at place called the Scotch  
Lake, about a hundred yards from the lake they fortified  
themselves in, upon the top of a hill resembling a sugar  
loaf, 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 & Mangues were  
pitched, he then ran from the lake by <sup>the</sup> foot of the  
mount among all their tents & Mangues <sup>as</sup> they stood  
pitched, and after walking a bout for some time went  
into one of their mangues where there were several  
hogheads, when he was about to return threw one  
of the hogheads down upon the bulge & rolling it  
some distance, placed himself upon his belly with  
his head under cover of the hoghead, and by drawing  
it down gently by each chain got it to the lake  
the British firing at him at the same time &  
fired several balls through the Hoghead, the  
British being surrounded by our Cavalry and  
Infantry they could not come out of the fort.  
& when he arrived at his journey's end General  
Johnson & his pequetts were placed, the General  
opened the hoghead & the contents were shirts,  
Overalls & Spalldashen, which he divided among  
Washington & Lee's men ~~who~~ <sup>who</sup> were bare for  
such necessities, General Johnson himself  
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 Guil-  
ford 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, Colo  
Washington observing these mangueers 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  
papers which without doubt might be fatal. Besides  
he was in many skirmishes to the south with Capt Selby  
on one of which he lost his horse, shot from under  
him which he gave twenty three thousand pounds of

From the collection of Mrs F. Ashwood

of Tobacco for, and he lost one then at the battle of  
Guelford from hard riding; the country paid him five  
pounds the other is still conserved the documents 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 pocketbook which con-  
tained all his vouchers, but happily were sent to him  
from the moravian town which was found by an  
honest old Dutchman in the course of a few years  
past. After returning home from Guelford he fell  
in accidentally at the house of Benjamin Wood in  
Amelia County where a plundering party of the British  
detached from the main body of Col: Patton came  
to the said Wood to plunder, at which place he  
was one of the British demanded his watch and some  
other Jewellery that he possessed at the same time  
after he had received the plunder demanded & laid  
his sword under his right arm he slunk back on  
pace on the rear seized his sword by the hilt cut off  
five inches of his skull one way & two and a half  
concerning the same

many of his brains flew out, he <sup>had</sup> 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 Bal-  
ance took eight horses out of nine & the ninth  
went off with a large cut on his back, so they all  
retreated to join Patton who was about a mile or  
little better off. This is the last favour I ~~did~~ won  
ded 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 thereon. I your Obedient  
Slave will pray &c

When the Bond for the Debt was paid it was 42/6 of pounds.