

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

Pension Application of James Ayres R334 SC VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 Apr 2018.

State of South Carolina } SS.

District of Pickens } On this sixth day of October 1834 Personally appeared before the Honorable A. P. Butler Esquire one of the associate Judges of the said State in open Court at Pickens Court House James Ayres resident in the District and State aforesaid aged seventy three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That when he was Twelve years of age as well as he recollects his Father Enlisted him in what was called the Minute Service, called to Guard the frontier of Georgia, his Enlistment was as he believes for 18 months he served out his Tour Eighteen months under Capt. William Ayres – Col. John Stewart and was discharged by them. He is certain that he did serve at this time not less than eighteen months and was employed most of the time on the frontier of Georgia & South Carolina against the Indians and was discharged in Augusta Ga. in the year 1775 as well as he recollects.

Soon after his return home to Kershaw he turned out Volunteer under Capt. William Nettles under Col. John Marshall was marched towards Savannah in the lower part of South Carolina and was discharged at Granby [probably Ft. Granby on Congaree River] at the end of his Tour he is positive he served at this time not less than Two months – Afterwards in the year 1778 he went from Kershaw County S.C. where he then lived into Henry County Virginia where he had moved from and on Smith River [in] said County He Enlisted with James Kelly and was taken to Brunswick C. H. N.C. there the recruits were formed into Companies. He was under Capt. James Dunkins of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia (he believes) Regiment commanded by William Drennon [see endnote] from there went to Head quarters at Hico [Hico River in NC] where we joined the main army under the command of General Nathaniel Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] marched to Petersburg and to Norfolk or near it the British had possession of the Town & after remaining some time there the army left Norfolk and was divided – and he went with General Green to the South, was with Gen'l. Green and under Col. Drennon at the Battle at Eutaw [Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] the Term of his enlistment having expired he was discharged at Cheraw S.C. about the time of the Battle at the Cowpens [sic: 17 Jan 1781] by Col. Drennan and Gen'l. Green. He then returned home to Kershaw County – and afterwards turned out Volunteer in Kershaw County under Capt. [William] Gleason, Col. John Marshall and General [Francis] Marion and was with those officers at the Battle at Orangeburg S.C. and served this time not less that one month.

He served his first Tour Enlisted	1 year	6 months
He served his second Volunteer		2 months
He served the Third Enlisted	1 year	6 mo.
He served the fourth Volunteer		<u>1 mo</u>
He says he served not less than	3 years	3 months

All his services were done as a private

He does not know of a single living witness who can testify to his said services or any part having lived for many years remote in the mountains and too far to hunt his old companions if there are any living – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares, that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. And he makes the following answers to the interrogatories put by the Court by direction of the War Department.

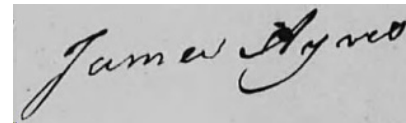
1<sup>st</sup> Was born in Cumberland County Virginia on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1761.

2<sup>d</sup>. He has a record in his Bible at home taken from his Fathers Family Bible.

3. He was living in Kershaw County S.C. when he entered the service – When he was very young his Father moved to Henry County Va. He was about 4 years old when his Father moved into Kershaw

County S.C. where he lived at the times he entered the service When he Enlisted in Virginia he was on a visit to see his friends there. He lived in Kershaw till 1792 he moved into Greenville S.C. lived there 6 years, moved to Buncomb [sic: Buncombe County] N.C. lived there 6 years moved to Greenville lived there one year in 1805 or 6 he moved to Pendleton now Pickens and has lived in the same District ever since

- 4 He Enlisted twice – Volunteer twice.
- 5 He recollects Gen'l. Green, Col. Drennon and Capt. James Dunkin
6. He got only two discharges, one signed as well as he recollects by Capt. Ayres and Col. Stewart One by Col. Drennon and Gen'l. Greene. he has lost his discharges he did not suppose they would ever be of any value to him therefore he took little care of them.
- 7<sup>th</sup> He believes all who know him would testify to his veracity, but he names Col. Joseph Gresham, Col Jephtha Norton, Col. David McKinney, Col. Jesse McKinney, Major James McKinney, John Holden Esquire.

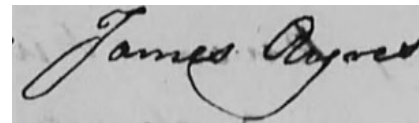


#### The State of South Carolina

Before the undersigned one of the Justices assigned to keep the Peace in and for Pickens District in the State aforesaid James Ayres of the District of Pickens and made Oath as the Law directs and deposeth and saith – That from old age and consequent loss of Memory there may be some inaccuracies in dates &c in his Original Declaration – and the one which [illegible word] here reflected on the age at which he entered the service might have been Fourteen years he was small and his Father Enlisted him the deponent and took him with him in the service as stated in the Declaration.

This deponent further deposeth, That he did Enlist in Virginia as stated in his declaration. He joined the Company at Brunswick in North Carolina, and from there marched to Head quarters near Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough NC] and then was marched to Petersburg Va from there to Norfolk & from there returned into N. C. the Army was then divided & his division marched into S. C. under Gen'l. Greene. The deponent does know & well recollect that he did the said services. The precise dates he does not pretend to give at this late Period. He also further states that he does not know whether he was in the Virginia North Carolina or South Carolina line. He Enlisted in Virginia did the most of the services in the Carolinas. He has lately by accident found out one of his companions in the War of the Revolution of whom he had heard nothing for ten years until the 18<sup>th</sup> Instant when he Benjamin O'Bannon [pension application S31886] who resides in Habersham County in Georgia, but within half a Mile of Tugoloo [sic: Tugaloo] River which is the State Boundary came to this deponent to Testify for him & who was well, long and intimately acquainted with deponent from the time he was a small Boy or Lad. This deponent is too sick [sic: sick?] for Testimony and has no relative able to assist him. This deponent saith he was with the Army the greater part of the time from the time of his first Enlistment by his Father to the close of the War.

Sworn to and subscribed the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 1834



#### The State of South Carolina

Personally appeared Before the undersigned, One of the Judges assigned to keep the Peace for the District of Pickens in the State aforesaid – Benjamin O'Bannon of Habersham County, Georgia, who lives within Half a Mile of the State & District Line – Who after being duly sworn as the Law directs, doth depose and say. That he lived in the District of Kershaw in the State of S. Carolina during the War of the Revolution [see endnote]. That James Ayres now resident in Pickens District S. C. lived near him they lived for many years from four to seven miles of each other. This Deponent was well acquainted with the

Father of the said James Ayres, (Daniel Ayres) who was a good Whig and who was much in the service Deponent was at the House of the said Daniel Ayres the morning that he and his son James Ayres left home and Mrs. Ayres the Mother of said James was in great distress blaming her Husband for Enlisting and taking her son a Lad or Boy not over Fourteen years of age as he believes as he was quite small about of good size to send to Mill. The said Daniel Ayres was much in the Army and did his duty well. The said James Ayres was much in the Army with the Patriots struggling for Liberty The said James Ayres lived so near that when at home deponent knew and when not was informed of the duties & times. He has no hesitation in saying the said James Ayres was a good soldier did his duty faithfully. Had the character of an Honest man – man of the strictest varacity and one of the best soldiers in that part of the Country. This deponent was with the said Ayres one tour about one month under Capt William Nettles of Col John Marshalls Regiment. They were both in the same service on another Tour under Col. William Richardson [Richard Richardson?]. deponent was in Capt Watson Comp’y and the said James Ayres was under Capt. William Deason. The said James Ayres was with Deponent at the Battle at Eutaw Springs. We were long and intimately acquainted & the deponent believes the said James Ayres was in the service of the United States the greater part of the time from the year 1775 to the close of the War. This deponent well knowing the varacity of the said James Ayres and that he was acquainted with him & his services he called on him to Testify for him and it affords him pleasure in Certifying for the said James Ayres, that he is deserving of the Bounty and aid provided by his Country. Sworn to and subscribed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 1834  
 Benj. hisXmark O’Bannon

[The following are from South Carolina Audited Accounts on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia SC and eventually to be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. The file also contains receipts signed by E. Harris for James Ayres’s annual annuity of \$60 beginning on 31 May 1831 and continuing through March 1834.]

The State of South Carolina }  
 Pickens District }

To the Honorable the Senate & other members of the said state – your Humble petitioner sheweth that he is now in the seventieth year of his age and poor & infirm and desires that your Honorable body will take his Case into concideration and place him on the penson list of the State as he has been a faithful soldier of the revollutionary war and a true friend to his Countrys Cause – I was a Citizen of Kershaw Dist of this State in the year 1781 I turned out volunteer under Capt. William Nettles a nine months Tower & then returned home My father was then Drafted & I turned out volunteer under the Command of Capt. William Deason & Joind General Marion and Col Richeson & then I was in two ingagements one at Orrangeburg and one at the utaw springs

The State of So Carolina } before me the subscribing Justice for the said dist personally came and  
 Pickens Dist – } appeared James Ayres and made oath & says the above is a just and true  
 statement of his Services in the revollutionary war Sworn to & Subscribed this 8<sup>th</sup> Nov’r 1830 before me  
 Bailey Barton J.Q.



- Schedule [of property]
- 28 acres of land in the Mountains
  - 5 head of Cattle
  - 3 head of hogs
  - 1 mare
  - 2 Beds & furniture

a few farming tools and a little parcel of house hold & kitching furniture not to the amount twenty dollars. Pickens Dist – before me the subscribing Justice of the said dist personally came & appeared James Ayres and made oath and says the above is a just and true schedule of all the property he is in possion of both real or personal or intrested in and this deonant says he has not Dispossessed himself of any property in order that he might be placed on the pension list of the state Sworn to and Subscribed this 8 day of Nov. 1830 before me

Bailey Barton JQ



South Carolina Pickens District

Personally came before me Benjamin OBannon and upon being duly sworn, deposed and saith that he was with James Ayres in a tower of duty in south Carolina Militia under the Command of Capt. William Nettles in the year 1781, that the said James Ayres (who now petitions the State of South Carolina for a pention was with me in a tower of duty 1781 & saith that the said Ayres behaved himself well and was a good Soldier and a friend to his Country sworn to and subscribed this 4<sup>th</sup> Novemb'r 1830

Before me Stephen Bates J.P.

Benjamin hisXmark OBannobn

NOTES:

I could not find a Capt. James Dunkins or an officer named William Drennon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment or in any other regiment of the Continental Army.

In his own pension application Benjamin O'Bannon stated that he lived in Mecklenburg County NC during the Revolutionary War, but on 20 Dec 1834 James Ayres stated that he lived in Kershaw County SC.

On 21 Feb 1835 one Robert Ashley of Macon County NC stated that he knew of Ayres's services, but he did not state how he knew.

Ayres's claim to a federal pension was rejected with the following explanation: "Alleges eighteen months service in the Virginia continental line--period, length, grade, stations, marches and names of company and field officers required."