

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of George Pearson R8042

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } S.S.
Chatham County }

On this the 17th day of May 1839, personally appeared before the undersigned, one of the Justices of the Courts of pleas and quarter sessions for the aforesaid County of Chatham, at her own residence Arianna Pearson a resident of said County, aged about ninety (90) years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on her oath, make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed July 4th 1836:

This Declarant states that from old age and bodily infirmity, she is unable to attend Court to make this Declaration.

And the said Arianna Pearson further states upon said oath, that she is the widow of George Pearson, who was a private Soldier in the War of the Revolution in the United States' Service, as hereinafter set forth: to Wit:

1st. The Declarant the said Arianna Pearson, further states upon her said oath that she has reason to believe and does believe that in the year of 1780, there was a draft for three months in the County aforesaid, when her Dec'd. husband the aforesaid George Pearson, was drafted to serve the United States in said Tour. the Company to which her husband was attached was a Company of infantry and commanded by Captain Joseph Johnston [Joseph Johnson] that said Company preparatory to their entering the Service rendezvoused at Pittsboro' in the aforesaid county, on or about the 1st of July 1780, as well as this Declarant now remembers; that said Company was marched to the South, was under Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates & was at his defeat in the August following [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] — After the said defeat this Declarant husband returned home and in a few days after was ordered to Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] in Orange County, from Hillsboro was marched to Bells Mills on Deep River, thence to Salisbury she thinks, where his three months tour expired and her husband was discharged and returned home.

This Declarant remembers very well of hearing her husband say he had received a discharge for this tour, but does not now know any thing of it. that in said tour her husband was in a legally organized Corps and called into service by competent Authority.

This tour the Declarant proves by the affiant Samuel Smith, a resident of Orange County, but who during the war of the Revolution lived neighbour to this Declarant. the Affiant Smith evidence is hereto annexed.

2. This Declarant further states that she has reason to believe & does believe, that in the War of the Revolution, her Dec'd. husband George Pearson, aforesaid, as private of Dragoons, did serve the United States three months in Captain Abram Allen's Company of volunteers. this Company, the Declarant thinks was attached to Col. Tinnen's Regiment. that said Company rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro' in Orange County, on or about the 1st July 1781.

In this tour her husband was in the engagement at 'Kirks Lane' when Capt. Allen was wounded, when Capt. Douglass, she thinks, took the command of said Company. [See note below.] It was during this tour that the Tory forces under Col. [David] Fanning surprised and took the town of Hillsboro' [12 Sep 1781] - that her Dec'd. husband was with the troops that pursued Col. Fanning, was in the battle at Lindley's Mills [13 Sep 1781], and in the neighbourhood of Wilmington, and in this tour was in the Service till the middle of October following, three months & two weeks, as private of Dragoons. that said Corps she thinks were discharged in Hillsboro' & returned home.

That in this tour her husband was in a legally organized Corps and called into service by competent authority.

That for this tour also, her husband had a discharge, but at this distant day, does not know what has become it.

This tour, this Deponent proves by the affiant Samuel Smith, whose affidavit is hereto

annexed.

3. And the said Arianna Pearson, widow as aforesaid, further states upon her said oath, that, she has reason to believe and does believe that, in Spring of the following year, to wit, 1782, her Dec'd. husband George Pearson, aforesaid, as a private of Dragoons did serve the United States a three months tour of duty in Captain William Douglass' Company of Dragoons, that said Company were Volunteers, this Declarant thinks, and rendezvoused at 'Littrells Barracks' in Chatham County, on or about the 1st day of March of said year; were marched to the South under Gen'l. [John] Butler, remembers of hearing her Dec'd. husband say that in this tour, he was stationed some time at 'Grassy Island' on the Pee Dee, was at 'Drowning Creek' [near Lumberton NC] where he was also stationed some time - at the expiration of his three months tour was discharged in Pittsboro' and returned home:

that in this tour her husband was in a legally organized Corps and called into Service by Competent authority.

That as to her husbands discharge for this tour, she does not know anything of it, and presumes that it has been lost many years.

This tour this Declarant proves by the affiant Samuel Smith whose affidavit is hereto annexed, and which affidavit she believes to be genuine and true.

That her Dec'd. husband the aforesaid George Pearson, did serve the United in the War of the Revolution - three months as private of Infantry and six months & half as private of Dragoons, and for which services she, Declarant claims a pension.

She further declares that she was married by the Rev'd. John Mickle John [probably Micklejohn] to the aforesaid George Pearson, some time in the Spring, she thinks it was, of 1777 - and remembers very distinctly that when her husband first went into the Service (in 1780) her two oldest Children Isaiah & Zion were then born.

That there was a record of the births of their children in an old family Bible, but it was taken off by some of her children, and does not now know any thing of it.

As to the three tours above mentioned, which her husband served, she remembers them very well, and how much hardship she had to encounter in his absence.

That her husband died in 1809, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to, and subscribed, on the day and year first above written before me.

Will. C. Stedman J.P.

Arianna herXmark Pearson

State of North Carolina } S.S.

Orange County }

On this the 16th day of April 1839 personally appeared before the Undersigned an acing Justice of the peace in and for said County, Samuel Smith, in the 75th year of his age, who being first duly qualified according to Law maketh oath, that he resided in Chatham in the State aforesaid 'till about six years after the close of the Revolutionary War, when he moved to this, orange County, and has been a resident of this County ever since —

This Deponent further sets forth upon his said oath that, while he resided in Chatham County, he lived neighbour to the late George Pearson of the County of Chatham aforesaid, and was intimately acquainted with the aforesaid George Pearson from his earliest recollection 'till the death of said Pearson, who during the war of the Revolution was a private Soldier in the Uni[ted] State Service, as herein after set forth: to wit:

1. This Deponent remembers that in the year of 1780 there was a draft for three months militia men, when said George Pearson was drafted for said three months service - and was a private in Captain Jo. Johnston's Company of Infantry. Rendezvoused at Pittsboro', was marched to the South and was under Gen'l. Gates at his defeat in August 1780. Said George Pearson after serving out his three months, was discharged in Hillsboro' in this County & returned home. This Deponent saw said George Pearson in the Service when he was marched off and when he was discharged & returned home.

2nd. This Deponent remembers very distinctly that in the Summer of the next year, 1781, there was a three months tour of dragoons in the Service of the United States, of which Company, Allen was Capt. & Jo. Young Liu't. Robert Mebane Col. These Troops this deponent thinks were

volunteers - in said tour, these troops were in the engagement at 'Kirk's Lane,' at Lindley's Mills - pursued Col. Fanning to near Wilmington. after serving out their tour, which was upwards of three months, said troops were discharged in the Town of Hillsboro' by Col. Hugh Tinnin. This tour commenced as well as this Deponent now remembers about the 1st of July of said year, & terminated this deponent thinks about the middle of October following. This affiant remembers very well of seeing said George Pearson when he went into the Service in this tour and when he was discharged - being in this tour a private of Dragoons and was discharged in Hillsboro' in the County aforesaid.

3rd. This Deponent remembers that in the year of 1782 and in the Spring of said year, the aforesaid George Pearson as private of Dragoons in Captain Douglass' Co. did serve a three months tour, said tour commenced on or about the 1st day of February or March in said year. The company rendezvoused at Littrell's Barracks in the County of Chatham - were marched to Drowning Creek, Grassy Island on Pee dee, & Cross Creek [now Fayetteville], and at the expiration of their three months tour were discharged in the Town of Pittsboro' and returned home - Col. ONeal & General Butler, this Deponent thinks, were the Superior officers in this last tour, which was three months; in all of said tour the aforesaid George Pearson was private of Dragoons in Captain Douglass' Company.

To the best of this Deponent recollection and belief the aforesaid George Pearson, as a private soldier did serve the United States in the war of the Revolution, Nine months and Two weeks, as above stated.

This Deponent further states upon his said oath that he has always understood & has never heard it contradicted, but what said George Pearson, and his widow Arianna Pearson were lawfully married; the precise date he does not now remember, but is under the impression that they were married in the year of 1777, or thereabouts; the Deponent however distinctly remembers that when said George Pearson served his first tour in 1780 he was then married to the said Arianna and both of his oldest Children (Isaiah & Zion) were then born -

the aforesaid Arianna Pearson, widow of George Pearson, aforesaid Dec'd. has not married since the death of her husband (which ocured about thirty years ago) But still remains his widow.

Samuel hisXmark Smith

State of North Carolina }
Orange County }

On this the 10th day of September 1839 personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid James Dollar a resident of Chatham County, who being first duly qualified according to Law maketh oath that in the war of the Revolution he served the United States as private of Militia three months in the year of 1780. and was in Gates' defeat. In all of said tour this deponent remembers seeing George Pearson, Dec'd. of the County of Chatham in the State aforesaid

James hisXmark Dollar [pension application W25535]

State of North Carolina }
Orange County }

On this the 31 day of March, in the year of our Lord 1840, came personally before the Undersigned one of the acting magistrates for the above County, Sterling Pearson, of the County of Chatham, aged 85 years or thereabout, who being first duly qualified according to law deposeth and saith as follows, to wit: that in the Summer of 1777, the year after Independence was declared, he moved from the County of Lenior [sic: Lenoir, formed from Dobbs County in 1791] and settled in Chatham County, aforesaid, and that about two weeks before the August election in that year his brother, George Pearson and Arianna Clarke of said County were married in the Town of Hillsboro' in the aforesaid County of Orange, by Parson Mickle John. This Deponent and others accompanied the said Couple to Hillsboro' as aforesaid, & witnessed the marriage.

This Deponent further stateth upon his said oath that, his brother the aforesaid George, was during the war of the Revolution in the United States' service as a private of militia.

1. This deponent remembers that his brother George was in a tour in the militia in the United

States Service in 1780, and was in Gates defeat, in Captain Johnston's Company. that they marched from Chatham Court House (Pittsboro) and was in the Service three months & was drafted for said tour.

2. This Deponent also states upon his said oath, that, in the Summer of the next year, 1781, the aforesaid George Pearson, served as private of Dragoons in the United States Service, in Capt. Allen's Company, and was in the engagement at Kirks Lane. this Tour this Deponent thinks was some upwards of three months.

This Deponent, however, did not himself serve in this or the preceeding tour.

3. The said Sterling Pearson aforesaid stateth upon his said oath that, about the beginning of Spring of the next year, 1782, this deponent volunteered in the United States' Service, and as private of Cavalry served a three months tour of duty - was under Captains Douglass & Griffith, O'Neal Colonel & Butler Brigadier General.

In this tour this deponent states said troops were stationed a while at Littrells Barracks in Chatham. From there were marched to Grassy Island on the Pee dee. were stationed a while at Graham's Bridge on Drowning Creek - thence to Cross Creek, where we also remained some two or three weeks, thence to Pittsboro where we were discharged by Col. O'Neal & returned home on or about the 1st of June following, having served in said tour three months. and in all of said tour the aforesaid George Pearson was a private of Dragoons, in Captain Douglass' Company and was discharged with them in Pittsboro, and this Deponent & said George returned home together.

And said Sterling Pearson further states, that the aforesaid George Pearson died some thirty years ago, that the said Arianna has not married since, but remains the widow of the aforesaid George Pearson. and further this Deponent saith not.

Sterling hisXmark Pearson [pension application R8041]

NOTES:

The engagement at "Kirk's Lane" may be the skirmish at Kirk's Farm on New Hope Creek south of Hillsborough, 12 Sep 1781, although details presented here differ in some respects from those given in Patrick O'Kelley's *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*.

Arianna Pearson's claim was denied on grounds that the date of marriage and the terms of her late husband's service were not sufficiently proved. On 17 Jan 1853, Isaiah Pearson of Hillsborough assigned power of attorney to try to obtain a pension for the service of his father, George Pearson.