

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Pesnell R8141

f14SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 2]

State of Alabama Benton<sup>1</sup> County} SS

On this 23rd day of October 1839 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Chapman presiding Judge of the Circuit Court for the County aforesaid John Pesnell a resident of Benton County Alabama aged about 80 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 7th 1832, that he volunteered in the Army of the United States in the year 1779 on the 14th of February & having entered the Service, served as herein stated -- to wit on the day last mentioned he volunteered in Cheraw District South Carolina under Thomas Sparks as Captain -- Jesse Willis Lieutenant David La Roach [sic, David LaRoche] Ensign -- \_\_ Poe was his Major and Francis Marion his General -- (there being then only four Companies under Marion) -- this deponent then resided in Cheraw District in said State. He states that they were used as Scouts -- & that he volunteered for 3 months & before the time expired volunteered for 3 more under the same officers -- their first camp was at Long Bluff on the Pedee River from there they marched towards George Town [Georgetown] South Carolina & there met a British scouting party about eleven miles from Georgetown & there had a skirmish with them -- the British retreated (two of them being killed) & we pursued them within sight of their lines in the town aforesaid -- This company then retreated & crossed the Pedee at Main camp near Wacamaw [sic, Waccamaw] -- there we laid five days -- & then the General having heard of a Tory gathering in the forks of Big & Little Pedee we marched & got in sight of their camp at Dark & lay there until their fires were kindled when we crept up & killed & wounded thirty of the Tories under command of Cunningham, from thence we marched to Long Bluff again & having heard of some Tories at Pique's Plantation -- who had killed Colonel Kulp [sic, Abel Kolb or Abel Culp<sup>2</sup>] & burned [?] him in his own house, we marched on horseback about a mile from Long Bluff and about one mile from there, attacked the Tories and killed seventeen of them. At that time & place this Deponent was shot through the left thigh by a Rifle ball & was at the time across the head by a sword by one Howell whom this Deponent killed at the time. This Deponent being confined some three weeks under Dr Wilson & remained in camp about one month unable to do duty -- after that we marched from the Bluff & joined at Wackamaw [sic, Waccamaw] with General Marion again. After that as the Tories were quieted by the two defeats -- we were placed as Scouts to watch the Country from the

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<sup>1</sup> Benton County (named in 1832 for Sen. Thomas Hart Benton) was renamed in 1858 for John C. Calhoun and is now Calhoun County, Alabama

<sup>2</sup> Bobby Moss lists this man as Abel Kolb]

Cheraw Hills to the mouth of Pedee [River] opposite to which the British were camped in Georgetown -- our Captain (Sparks) died after I had been under him four months -- William Clarke [William Clark] then became our Captain—the other officers remaining. This Deponent was discharged by Captain Clarke in September 1779 -- although his service expired before that time. He received a written discharge -- which this Deponent left with one Captain Milligan -- who shortly after went to New York without the knowledge of this Deponent & took the Discharge. This Deponent has never seen or heard of him or his discharge since -- this Deponent has no documentary Evidence & knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure to prove his Service although there may be in South Carolina from which State in 1790 he removed to Winton County Georgia [sic, South Carolina?]<sup>3</sup> upon the Edisto from thence he removed to Wilkes County Georgia -- from thence to Franklin County which was divided & this Deponent fell into Habersham from whence he removed to Benton Alabama in 1835 where he has since resided --

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State or (if any) only that of the State of South Carolina & he does not believe it to be there -- Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court this 23rd of October 1839.

Attest: S/ James Crow, Clk

S/ John Pesnell, X his mark

[Robert Dowdy, a clergyman of the Baptist Church, Thomas R. Williams & John Elston gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions propounded by the court

[standard 7 questions<sup>4</sup> set forth]

Answers in Open Court

1<sup>st</sup> Was born in England in 1760

2<sup>nd</sup> Has no record of his age except what he has made himself

3<sup>rd</sup> was called into Service in Cheraw District South Carolina & have since lived in Georgia & Alabama & now in Benton

4<sup>th</sup> was a volunteer & never a substitute & served as a minute man (independent of his 6 months within mentioned) about 3 months.

5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> I have given in my Declaration all I knew in answer to this -- & besides state that my memory is so impaired by age & a "pawlytic stroke" that my recollection is very bad.

Attest: S/ James Crow, Clerk

S/ John Pesnell, X his mark

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<sup>3</sup> Since the Edisto River is solely within South Carolina and since Winton County is now known as Barnwell County, I think it probable that the applicant made a mistake in stating that he lived on the Edisto River in Georgia.

<sup>4</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.