

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Francis Pearce (Pierce) R8235

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 Dec 2014.

State of Missouri towit

Be it known that Francis Pearce a resident of the County of Boone in the said State a free man of colour, who was by birth, free, came personally in the County court of said county now in session on this first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven, which said Court is a court of record established by the Laws of said state, before James M. Gordon, and Hiram Philips and Alexander Persinger Justices, and doth on oath make the following declaration to obtain a pension as a revolutionary soldier under the act of congress of the United States granting pensions for revolutionary services passed on the 15th day of May 1828 and the act amendatory thereto passed on the 7th day of June 1832 and he doth hereby declare that he is not upon the pension roll of any state for his services as herein after stated, and he doth renounce all claim or right to any such pension and all right for such, except from the united states under the said acts of congress, and for the services here mentioned. He doth declare and say that he is not in possession of any documentary or written testimony by which he can establish his services or his discharge for the same; as the discharge he has obtained has been lost and mislaid by reason of his removal, and for want of knowledge of the necessity to preserve them: neither does he know of any living witness by whom he can establish his services. This declarant farther states that about the [blank space] whilst he resided as hereafter stated in the county of Harrison in the State of Kentucky he made application to the County Court of said county and prepared his papers for a pension for the same services here enumerated, and under the same provisions of the acts of congress aforesaid, and they were forwarded to the war department, and which he declares were not allowed by reason of some deficiency in form & that therefore he does not know that he is on the pension roll of any state or territory said papers are on file he refers to them to support his present application, and to them the date of his first application to the war department.

This declarant states that he was born as he thinks from information on the 13th day of April and according to his computation & his best belief was about seventy one years of age the 13th day of April last past. The place of his nativity was near Port Royal in Caroline County in the State of Virginia where he resided until in the month of April when he was entering his seventeenth year in the county of Caroline and state of Virginia he was then enlisted by Captain Philip Buckner of the regular army for the term of five years or during the war. That from his best recollection he thinks was the year of seventeen hundred & eighty two as he thinks the year after Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army at York Town [19 Oct 1781]. After my enlistment I was taken by Captain Buckner to near the line between Caroline & Spotsylvania counties but in which I am not certain to the Fathers of Colonel Samuel Haws [sic: Samuel Hawes] of the Regulars to whose charge I was transfered and with and under him I acted in the capacity of his servant a good portion of the time I was in the service. From this place my first rout was with Colonel Haws to Cumberland Court house to a board of war setting there, after which I attended Col Haws until Christmas when we went to Winchester to a board of war & then to Winchester Barracks then under the Command of Generals Muhlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] & [Charles] Scott. Of the officers under the command of Col Haws there were Captain Abram Kirkpatrick [Abraham Kirkpatrick] whose Lieutenant was Archy Campbell [Archibald Campbell] – also Captain Ambrose Bohannan [Ambross Bohannan] of the artillery – Captains [John] Stith, Coverly & [William Lewis] Lovely & Lieutenant Drew. At the Winchester Barracks there were at that time a number of the Brittish Prisoners taken principally at the surrender of York Town. I remained at Winchester until the August or September following during which time I had the small pox which prevented me from accompanying Col Haws on trip of duty he took I think to Richmond during which time I was left under the charge & command of Captain Kirkpatrick in whose company when able I did duty as a soldier. At this place we were joined by Captain Peyton of the regular army. I marched with & under Captain Kirkpatrick from Winchester in

August of September to the forks of James River [at its junction with Rivanna River] (sometimes called the Point of Forks) where we were again joined by Colonel Haws, & who again so arranged it that I acted as his servant & went with Col. Haws to a Mr. Ross's in the point whose given name I think was David. I continued in the service of Col. Haws until I received my discharge from the army in which I had served eighteen months & for that time I was allowed as I now recollect, which discharge as here for stated in my moving about I have lost without knowing it would ever be of value to me I will also state that I received for pay as a soldier at one time six dollars at another a twenty dollar Morris note as it was called & at another one hundred and seven dollars and some odd cents. At the time I received my discharge I was with Col Davis at his fathers in Caroline or Spotsylvania as before stated After my discharge I remained in Caroline County Virginia about two years and was then employed by a [illegible word] Robert Ware with whom I went to the State of South Carolina Edgefield County & remained there about seven years I then returned to Caroline County Virginia & remained there between one or two years & went to Spotsylvania & remain there about five years & then removed to Harrison County Kentucky & remained there until September past was four years ago & then removed with Mr. Michael Robinson to the county of Boone & State of Missouri where I have resided ever since I am acquainted in the neighbourhood where I reside, with Michael Robinson, and the Rev'd James Wright to whom I refer with regard to the veracity of these statements.

Francis hisXmark Pearce

[1 May 1837] I Michael Robinson doth solemnly swear that I became acquainted with Francis Pearce in the State of Virginia about the year 1796 and have known him ever since, that he said Pearce removed to Harrison county in the fall of 1817, and knew said Pearce then and until his removal Missouri last fall four years that said Pearce now resides [in] Boone county and he formerly had a wife in the family of this affiant – that I believe the said Pearce was reputed in Virginia, in Kentucky and in Missouri, in the neighbourhoods where he resided, to have been a soldier of the revolution, and I concur in that belief – and I believe him to be a person of veracity and truth, and such is his general reputation at this time, and at such times and places where I have known him to reside.

Michael Robinson

NOTE: A letter from the Pension Office dated 17 Nov 1837 indicates that Francis Pearce was denied his pension because he was confused with Francis Pierce, pension application S14168. Although both were born in Caroline County, the latter Francis Pierce was a white man, six years older, and claimed entirely different service. He was still living in Kentucky in 1850.