

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Simpson S11401

fn17SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/28/11

[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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of Alabama Benton County: County Court Spring Term thereof 1834

On this 9th Day of July in the year while Lord 1834

Personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Christopher A. Greene Judge of Benton County Court now sitting James Simpson a resident of said County of Benton in the State of Alabama aged seventy years since the 29th day of last December, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

Applicant will in the first place state that he was born in Ireland on the 29th day of December 1762. That he came to America with his Father, who with his family settled in 96 District, Craven now Lawrence [sic, Laurens] County South Carolina, in the year 1772, where he resided until the revolutionary war and also until he was called into service by his Country. He states further that he has a record of his age.

He volunteered (in said County of Craven as it was then) in the service of the United States on the ___ day of December 1779 [sic, context indicates that the year was 1780] under the command of Captain James Henderson as a private for the Term of three months; was mustered into service under the command of the said Capt. Henderson in said County & [he] states [he was in] the regiment of Col. ___ Hays [sic, Joseph Hayes], who commanded a regiment of militia. And was marched to a Tory's plantation in the County aforesaid by the name of Edgill [sic, Edgehill]. Our object in going to Edgehill's plantation was to form or raise a fort at which the regiment could in safety remain & suppress the Tories in that country, who were as numerous almost as the Whigs. During the time the regiment was stationed at that place we were continually in detached companies marching and scouting through the country to defeat and destroy the Tories. We were frequently kept going night and day through the cold and inclement weather of Dec., Jany., and February & this applicant can safely say that those days, for trials and troubles has never been equaled by him, before or since. He states that he was constantly and incessantly marching from neighborhood to neighborhood, some times in search of Tories and some times in full chase after them, and at other times stood, with them bayonet to bayonet, and remained in that kind of service under the command of the same Capt. Henderson & Col. Hayes until his term of service of 3 months had expired, at which time he received no written discharge.

But immediately on the next day after his time had expired, [he] volunteered for another term of three months under the same officers being assured by them that, that time was a critical one and one too which demanded his services & was engaged in the same services, to wit: the suppression of the Tories for about one & one half months of his second term, when Col. Glenn came to Edgehill's place where we were stationed with orders to Col. Hayes (in whose regiment I was engaged) to take all the Tories' wives and children that we could find, that is the wives and children of the know Tories, and send them down to Charleston to the British Army, accordingly Colonel Hayes, I think this was some time in May 1780 [sic, more likely 1781] sent out a company of which applicant was a member, who took 24 Tory families—wives and children of the known Tories & brought them to the station, or Fort at the place above stated. When we came to the fort with the 24 families, Col. Hayes commissioned this applicant to take charge of them & placed under his command a guard to convey them down to Charleston according to the order which had been given by Col. Glenn, to the British Army—accordingly, Col. Hayes gave this applicant a commission and Flag & he took charge of the women and children and set out for Charleston with them about the middle of June 1780 [sic, more likely 1781]. He thinks it was about one month from the time he commenced collecting the women and children—wives & children of the Tories, who were engaged on the Crown's side against us. He states that on his way to Charleston for the purposes and on the business aforesaid, he met a certain Tory Major by the name of William Cunningham, who was notorious in that Country for his villainies and inhumanity towards the wives of the Honest American soldiers, who had under his command one hundred chosen, nefarious and daring Tories going to make an attack upon our station—on Col. Hayes. He hailed this applicant to know where he was going and thereupon we presented our flag & commission and he passed on without molesting us. We went on to Charleston—delivered the women & children to the British officers & set out for our station at Edgill's. We went the same road that the Tory company which we had met had gone. The distance from our station to Charleston was about 180 miles. One or two days before we arrived at our station we came to a place where Cunningham the Tory Major had killed a Capt. Caldwell, a Whig & burned his house and destroyed his property—we hastened on to our station where we had left our Col. Hayes & Capt. Henderson, and on our arrival, Maj. Cunningham had attacked and killed Col. Hayes & Capt. Henderson & most of our regiment and took possession of the station. We did not go immediately to the station knowing that if we did that instant death and nothing else would pay the forfeit—that nothing but our blood would satiate the thirst of so reckless a Band as that which had possession of the fort. Our time had then been out for about one week and we went home—and in consequence of the death of his Captain and Colonel he received no written discharge for either of the foregoing terms of service.

Then some times about the last of October [sic, more likely late November or early December] in the same year, to wit: 1780 [sic, likely 1781], he again volunteered under the command of Major Mulwee [sic, Milwee] in a regiment of cavalry commanded by Gen. Pickens, for no definite period or length of time but to serve when necessity required. And [he] was marched to the relief of the Frontiers of South Carolina. The Cherokee Tribe of Indians had & still was committing great depredations on the Frontier by indiscriminately killing men, women & children, stock &c &c. Immediately, however, on the arrival of our army, they surrendered & treated and stipulated friendship—He was

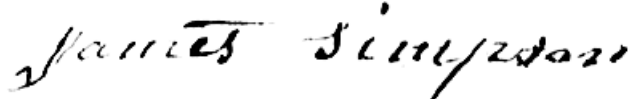
then discharged & received for this term of service a written discharge from General Pickens which discharge he has long since lost.

It will now be seen that he served three terms of duty as a private in the militia of South Carolina. He first volunteered for three months in Dec. 1779 and served the time faithfully and rec'd no discharge; 2nd the same length of time under the same officers & rec'd no written discharge. The third volunteered in the Cavalry under Genl. Pickens and Maj. Milwee & served six weeks and was discharged honorably by Genl. Pickens—whole service in the Revolutionary War seven months and two weeks for which he claims a Pension.

From Lawrence County South Carolina he removed to Pendleton district in the same state in 1811. From thence to Benton County, Alabama in 1833 where he now resides. He has no documentary evidence whereby he can prove or in any manner substantiate the foregoing service. Nor is there any living witness within his knowledge by whom he can prove the same, nor can he authenticate the same in any manner save by his own oath. As to some of his neighbors who can testify to his character for a man of veracity, he came [with] some who knew him in South Carolina & also in this county and state, who are as follows: _____.

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 in the Union.

S/ James Simpson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Simpson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Samuel R. Russell, a clergyman, James Allen and John Maddox gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]