

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Hezekiah Posey S14192

fn57SC

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. 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.]

[fn p. 4]

State of Alabama Benton County

Be it known that on this ninth Day of July in the year while Lord 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Christopher A. Green Judge of the County Court of Benton County in the State aforesaid now sitting, Hezekiah Posey a resident citizen of the County and State aforesaid aged 83 years sense the 20th of March last who being 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.

He will in the first place state, that he was born on the 20th of March 1751 in Charles County Maryland and that he has a record of his age from which he removed to Ninety Six now Abbeville and South Carolina in the year 1772 where he resided when called into service.

He will state by way of introduction that some time in the year 1774 the standard of Liberty was raised in this District where he resided, and voluntarily as was the custom at that time all who wished to separate themselves from the oppressions of the British Crown flew to its banner & took an oath to maintain their freedom with the most sacred pledges -- their lives, honor & property & he was one of the first to march to the standard and take the oath -- An oath which he has kept inviolate to this day.

He will now state the Nature of his service &c. That he was drafted, or enlisted about the first day of July 1776 under the command of Captain Andrew Pickens in the Regiment of Colonel Hammond [LeRoy Hammond] (a militia man who was specially appointed to command that Regiment for that trip in the Division of General Williamson [Andrew Williamson]) for the term of 3 months to perform a tour of duty against the Cherokee Indians who made an attack upon the whites near the frontier and was marched, under the command of the above named officers to the Cherokee Nation to an Indian town called Senaker [Seneca] in said Nation, where he was ordered out of the company of Captain Pickens and placed in the company of Captain Noble & was then commanded by said Captain Nobles, but was still in the same Regiment, & were marched in the night into the said Indian town, where we had an engagement with the Indians in which we lost to brave and patriotic soldiers, also we had a number wounded not recollected. We remained in camp but one day after the engagement, to dress our wounded & on the day following we were marched to another Indian town called Shugar Town [Sugar Town], and when we arrived at Sugar Town the Indian warriors had evacuated their town & there were none left except a few old cripples upon whom we made no attack; we marched then a day or two & General Williamson took a part of the Regiment and went still further into the Cherokee Nation in pursuit of the Indians and left Colonel Hammond & Captain Noble with their man in Sugar town where applicant also remained to take care of the wounded, baggage wagons &c

until General Williamson should return he thinks the General was gone 2 or 3 weeks, & returned with more wounded men – had had a scrimmage with the Indians in which he had lost a considerable number of men. And on the General's arrival with the wounded this applicant was ordered to take charge of them to convey them down to Noble's Fort in the Calhoun settlement in Abbeville District South Carolina -- which he done and in a few days went home, previous to this period, however, his term had expired but as the situation in which the wounded were placed he was compelled in order to take care of them to serve one month after the Expiration of his time -- making for this term of 4 months, for which he received a written Discharge from General Williamson, which is long since lost. –

2nd He was then not called on again until May 1778 -- when he volunteered under the command of Captain Joseph Pickens & in the Regiment of Colonel Andrew Pickens, who had been elected to that office since his Cherokee expedition (We had no General with us) and was marched through Georgia to the Oconee River in the Creek Nation of Indians to suppress them who were very hostile and indiscriminately killing man, women & children along the frontier of Georgia & with whom we had a small rencounter -- took their horses, baggage, provisions &c from them & they fled, our time which was for 3 months having expired we returned home, for this term he got no written discharge.

3rd Then in a few days say in August 1778 -- an alarm came and he volunteered under the command of Captain Jo Pickens for 3 months who embodied a company on horse, who went out to range the frontier of Georgia, and were marched: along the Georgia line & in the Indian Nation, ranging & preventing the Indians egress into the white settlements & was engaged in that kind of service alone sometimes without provisions & going day and night until our time expired when we received a written discharge from Captain Pickens who was the highest in command this term --

4th Then the next day after he returned, he was again drafted for 3 months (which was in November 1778) under the command of Captain Pickens & Colonel Pickens & marched to an Indian trail in pursuit of some Creek Indians who had been in about one mile of the Fort, the name of which he cannot now recollect to a Mr. Winsons [sic, Winston's?] who they [had] taken together with his family & also a guard which had been stationed at his house prisoners into their Nation & our Regiment was called out in order to follow and rescue the whites from them -- followed them but unsuccessfully -- we came upon them at one time and killed one Indian the balance fled and so concealed themselves that we could not find them nor could we obtain the whites afternoon we had gone -- our time of 3 months having expired, we returned home without any discharge in writing --

5. He then remained at home not being called on until in March 1780, when he volunteered in the same place, to wit Abbeville District South Carolina for 3 months under the command of Captain Jo Pickens in the Regiment of Colonel Robert Anderson & General Andrew Pickens, who had successively arose from Captain to Major to Colonel and to General to supply the vacancy occasioned by General Williamson who went to Savannah, turned traitor & joined the British as applicant was then informed, we were marched in the direction of Charleston expecting the British would attack this place & on our way intelligence met us (I think we were near Orangeburg) that Charleston was taken by the British. We then turned our course, swam over the Santee River & on the other side we scouted through the Country in order to prevent the Tories from furnishing the British with provisions who were then in Charleston & continued in that kind of service until our time expired & he returned home -- got a written discharge which he has long since lost -- this term was also for 3 months.

6. Then in July 1780 he again volunteered for 3 months under the command of the same Captain Jo Pickens Colonel Anderson & General A. Pickens in Abbeville District South Carolina and was marched to a place called Cow head in the direction of Augusta Georgia to where we had intended going, but was met by an express that there were troops sufficient at Augusta to make a successful attack on the British; But they needed only General Pickens¹ to Command, consequently General Pickens left us & went on to Augusta & we were ordered into the Regiment of Colonel Hays [Joseph Hayes?] & was marched under his command towards Ninety Six in order to prevent the Tories from taking provisions to the British Army who were then in possession of Ninety Six. We were kept scouting through the Country in that business for some time -- we found 2 men one evening we took them as spies -- tried them by a court-martial condemned & executed them. And at their execution Captain Pickens said they were innocent, which too turned out to be the case, & that if they were executed he would resign his commission which was done & which he did and delivered it to Colonel Hays & we went home our time had not white expired. This then he did not serve but 2 months & got no discharge in writing.

From old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to time and dates but does swear positively and unequivocally to the service & that he did serve as he states & longer if he could recollect the times particularly -- & that every time he was called out it was from the same place to wit, his residence in Abbeville District South Carolina.

Then in a short time after we had retired home in October 1780 an alarm came that the Tories were coming to our neighborhood & that their intention was to plunder, kill & Rob for the British Army & this applicant volunteered as a minute man -- the company was immediately embodied and they elected Joseph Pickens (their old Captain) their Captain and under his command was marched towards Ninety Six to meet the Tories, who we had heard were coming against us, when we came to where they had been they had turned their course & going toward Augusta Georgia & we returned home; he states that this term he only served 2 weeks, but was not discharged as it was the custom not to discharge minute man -- at this time Colonel Cruger the British commander was in possession of Ninety Six.

When he returned home news was at that time which was in November 1780 that the British officers in Ninety Six have proclaimed that if we rebels as they termed us would come in to Ninety Six and surrender that they would pardon us and many of applicant's neighbors went in, surrendered, gave up their guns and was compelled to remain & perform duty in the British Army -- this applicant did not nor would he go to Ninety Six at all & in consequence of which he became a marked object of hatred and revenge to the British & Tories & was compelled to take refuge in the woods & houses and was compelled to conceal himself the best way he could as he was known to some of the Tories they made diligent search for him, went to his house destroyed his corn &c took off his horses two in number and in that situation he remained until about March 1781, when Colonel Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] who commanded the Georgia Militia sent an express for General Pickens to come to him with men to suppress the Cherokee Indians, who had come to the Creek side & they had and still was committing depredations in the name of the Creek Indians and pretending to be friends, consequently General Pickens beat up for volunteers

¹ Veteran's timing is definitely incorrect. The evidence is very clear that Andrew Pickens took protection along with General Andrew Williamson after the fall of Charleston. Pickens stayed at home on his plantation honoring his parole until late in the year 1780 when his plantation was plundered by the Tories which he took as a release from his parole. He then rejoined the Whig cause. He was not promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, however, until sometime in 1781. Consequently, it is likely the veteran is recalling events which occurred in 1781 or later.

and about the last of March 1781 applicant volunteered for not [sic, no] definite length of time under the command of Captain Jo Pickens who was a second time commissioned & was marched by them to the State of Georgia where we were joined by Colonel Clarke and were marched to what was then called the over-hill-towns, and before we reached their towns we marched night and day & arrived in the Indian town about daylight -- made an attack upon them and killed 14 before we ate our morning meal, we then returned home but was not discharged not out of service but was ordered into a company of Rangers commanded by Captain Norwood. General Pickens Army was joined by General Greene then went home to siege of Ninety Six -- Captain Norwood under whose command applicant was as a Ranger as aforesaid marched us from place to place between the Savannah and Saluda rivers, he was in no action or scrimmage until in August when we came upon some Indians, who had been in the white settlements and stole some cattle and were driving them off -- we took the cattle and killed one Indian & chased the remainder out of the Country we continued in that kind of service constantly going ranging and scouting until about the first of December 1781 when he was appointed to guard some wagons down to Saluda old towns & on this 7th day of December we set out with the wagons which were 12 in number & 22 in number was the guard; Our Captain who was to command us down was by the name of Moses Liddle [sic, Moses Liddell]², but who did not start on the 7th as the guard did, expecting to come up with us in a short distance & on the next day which was the 8th day of December 1781 we were attacked by a company of Tories commanded by William Cunningham a commander in chief of Tories and every one of our men was killed & taken prisoners together except this applicant and he was shot through the left shoulder and arm by the first gun which was fired & by that means he made his escape, he jumped on his horse in haste, not knowing what moment he might fall from him dead -- he went a short distance got off his horse and was met by a good man who took him and hid him in the woods where he remained until & dark and the man by whom he was hidden sent two ladies to him that night, these 2 ladies carried him some distance as far as they could and laid him down, went to a house procured a horse and boy, they set him on the horse & put the lad on behind him to hold him on and in that situation he traveled within 3 miles of home where he was met by his relatives and friends & his wounds were there dressed by his Brother & was the next day taken by his relatives & friends to one Doctor Harriss where he remained lingering under the treatment of the said Harris until the last of the next month, to wit, 1782, when he had so recovered that he went home but in consequence of the wound, he was compelled to return to Doctor Harriss & remained there until he recovered, when he received an honorable discharges from Captain John Norwood -- Colonel Anderson and General Pickens which discharges are all so long since lost -- This completed of course applicant service in the revolutionary war. He has no documentary evidence whereby he can in any manner prove the foregoing services -- as to his wounds he reposes the Department to a certificate of Mary A. Shepherd who saw the wounds dressed, nor is there any living witness by whom he can prove the same.

He hereby declares his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency in any State in the Union and relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present.

From Abbeville District South Carolina he removed to the State of Tennessee in the year 1796. From thence he removed to this State in the year 1817 and has resided in this County since April 1832 and has resided in the same ever since.

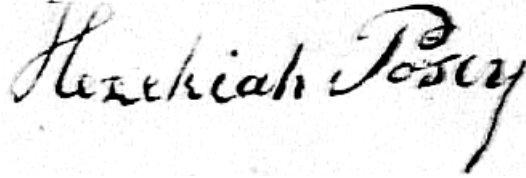
He states that he has been a professor of religion & a member of the Church of Christ ever since the year 1773.

² [Moses Liddell W7698](#)

He further states that he never was commanded by any of the officers of the regular Army of the United States, but was a private in the militia.

As to some of the persons in his neighborhood to whom he is known & who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution he can name George Weir who knew him in Tennessee & also in this County for 35 years, __ Wright a minister of the Gospel, William Morrison minister of the Gospel, __ Coal also a minister, Adam A. Lackey, Isaac Young, Joel Burden, Reuben Philips and many others if it were thought necessary.

S/ Hezekiah Posey

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hezekiah Posey". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court

S/ William Arnold, Clerk

[William Morrison, James L. Wright, James Cole & James M. Hutchinson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 15: on January 8, 1840, Hezekiah Posey filed for a transfer of the place of pavement of his pension from Mobile Alabama to Huntsville Alabama for the reason that Huntsville is only about 100 miles from his home whereas Mobile is 350 miles from his home.]

[fn pp. 33-36]

State of Alabama Benton County

Be it known that on this 17th day of January in the year 1835 personally appeared before me C. A. Green Judge of the County Court for Benton County Hezekiah Posey in open Court, a resident citizen of the County & State aforesaid, being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to his Declaration in order to obtain a Pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. In amendment of his Original Declaration made on the 9th day of June in the year 1834 and return from the war department Marked No. 31,653—

This his said amendment as aforesaid shows that he was born on the 20th day of March 1751 in Charles County Maryland and has a record of his age. From thence he removed to Ninety Six District South Carolina that in the July 1776 he entered the Army of the United States as a soldier for 3 months and served faithfully under the officers as stated in his original Declaration one month over his time making for that term of service for four months –

2. Then in 1778 he served as he positively swears 3 months as stated in his said original Declaration under the officers therein stated.

3. Also in 1778 he served as stated in his original Declaration in manner & form as therein stated 3 months under the officers therein named.

4. Then also again in 1778 he has stated in his original Declaration he served 3 months under the command of the officers therein stated.

5. Then in March 1780 he as he has stated commenced a tour of service and served truly and faithfully the same under the officers in his original Declaration named for 3 months.

6th As he heretofore by reference to his Declaration will be found served 2 months in the year 1780, as is there said.

7th In October '80 he served 14 days as stated in his said Declaration

8th In or about the last of March 1781, Applicant as stated in his original Declaration volunteered under the command of the officers therein named and was in constant and actual service from that time until the 8th day of December of the same year when from a wound received as he is therein as aforesaid stated he was entirely disabled from service, & the time from March until the 8th of December being 8 months and 8 days & he now here states that during the different periods which he claims to have served that he did positively served them, was called into service by competent authority, was in the engagements in his original Declaration stated was for the times therein named engaged in no civil pursuit whatever, & was as therein stated wounded and disabled and has and still is and ever will have while living the scars of the said wound inflicted by the Tories.

He again states that he has no documentary evidence by which he can establish his services but that alone by his own oath & reputation he knows of no living man who can testify to the same. And he now submits to the department, whether and aged soldier of the revolution, who fought & bled in the defense of his County [sic, Country] who is now old and infirm both physically and mentally who has been lingering under the blooms then received for near half a century is to be entitled to the provisions of the laws of his County [sic, Country].

He deems it improper to say anything more in addition to what has been said in his original declaration and in this has to his relinquishment of any pension except the present & states only that he served 2 years 2 months and 22 days for which he claims a pension.

S/ Hezekiah Posey

Subscribed and sworn to the 17th day of January 1833 [could be 1835]

S/ C. A. Green, Judge CC

[fn pp. 37-48: On February 28, 1839 in Benton County, Alabama, Posey filed for an increase in his pension giving another detailed description of his services substantially the same as his previous account, adding this paragraph relating to services rendered before the war:

"In the fall of the year 1774, He was a citizen of Abbeville District South Carolina when the Cherokee Indians commenced their depredations on the lives & property of citizens of that frontier. And in, he thinks, the month of October, He was ordered, in common with others to form a company for the protection of the frontier by General Andrew Williamson, which was accordingly done, and duly organized by the election of proper officers. John Cameron was elected Captain. It was a horse company. He was then ordered to a place called [illegible word, looks like "Lerharbour"] in that District where they immediately built a Fort. He was then in service two weeks, actual & then the company was dispersed until further orders."

[fn p. 56]

Georgia Fayette County: Personally appeared before me Jesse Ward who being an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County Mary A. W. Shepherd and after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that she was personally acquainted with Hezekiah Posey for two or three years before he was wounded and that he was a private Soldier under General Pickens it being about the latter end of the year 1781 and that the said Hezekiah Posey was shot through the left arm and body & shoulder blade which was in South Carolina Abbeville District near long Cain Creek and was brought to my Father's House and I saw the wounds dressed which was thought to be mortal but the said H. Posey is alive.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th July 1832

S/ Jesse Ward, JP

S/ Mary A. Shepard

Mary A. Shepard

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$65 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year service as a private in the infantry and 6 months service as a private in the cavalry of the South Carolina militia.]