

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Verner S21550

Transcribed by Will Graves

f44SC

rev'd 2/11/17

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

[p 4]

State of South Carolina, Anderson District

On the fourth day of March 1834 personally appeared David Verner in Open Court before the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas now sitting for Anderson District a resident of the said State and District aged Seventy four years 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. When in the seventeenth year of his age, in the Fall (September or October) of 1777 under the command of Captain Robert Anderson and Colonel Andrew Pickens Regiment as a private he did a tour of duty of seven months against the Cherokee Indians and in guarding the Frontier of South Carolina against their incursions.

In the Fall of 1778 (this Deponent is pretty confident from circumstances it most have been the first part of October) he joined General Jack's Regiment of Minute Men intended to serve in the upper part of Georgia & South Carolina. He and his brother united themselves to the command of their Mother's Brother Captain James Pettigru [James Pettigrew] for three years if they liked the service, but were not to be marched off without their consent and attached to this Battalion or Regiment commanded by Major Michael Dickson and with those troops he served seven months and procured a written discharge which has been long since destroyed and immediately volunteered in a Mounted Rifle Company under Captain McCaw [sic, James McCall]¹ in Col Pickens Regiment and started (May 1779) on the Florida Expedition, marched beyond St. Mary's in the direction of a Fort garrisoned under one Brown² who evacuated and burnt it and retired to St. Augustine. The troops becoming sickly, they were marched back and disbanded, this Declarant having been on this two or three months.

In the Winter of 1779 in Captain William Harris' Company under Major Alexander Noble and Col Andrew Pickens Regiment with three companies of Militia marched to Beach Island and engaged in scouring the Country about Edisto S. C., he was on another tour of service for three months and having returned home in March he is well satisfied in his own mind this tour concluded in December.

1 References to this same officer in later portions of the application correctly identify him as being named "McCall."

2 Thomas "Burnt Foot" Brown

In May 1780 under the same commanders was marching to the relief of Charleston when on their way [they] heard of the Fall [of Charleston on May 12, 1780] and returned having been out one month. The Country being overrun and dispirited he and his brother were on the eve of flying the Country but by the advice of their Col (Andrew Pickens) in whose Regiment they lived and the entreaties of their Father were enticed to engage in combination with their neighbors to suspend hostilities and await better times.

In the Fall of the same year having received some injuries from the Tories with forty of his neighbors they embodied under the command of a Captain Prince [Francis Prince] for self protection-- they marched Northwardly and having frequent occasions to thin [?] numbers they numbered about three hundred and under the command of a Col Few [Benjamin Few] were engaged in scouting parties and partisan engagements, when they fell in with a Detachment of the enemy from Ninety Six commanded by Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger], were defeated and again dispersed – this Deponent having been out this tour at least three months.

In May 1781 again in Captain James McCall's Rifle Company he joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] – was with him at the Siege of (96) Ninety Six – marched with him towards North Carolina and having been out three months, was taken sick and permitted to go to an aunt's in that neighborhood, whence he returned home, his company having preceded him. He served a tour of one month under Col Pickens against a Tory Major (name not recollected) who was embodied in the neighborhood of Bull Swamp & who was wanted by them and retired into the Indian Country.

They returned by home and in a few days followed on into the Indian Nation and was in service this tour also at least one month which from the best calculation he can make must have been October as he recollects well they gathered Peas to forage their horses.

In '82 he went with Col Anderson over the Oconee & Ogeechee [Rivers] in Georgia and various towns in scouting against the Indians & Tories between the terms of service here to sit forth their duration or any particulars connected with them cannot be called to mind. He resided during the War in the neighborhood of Andrew Pickens and in a Whig Country and belonged to a Whig breed and was himself actively engaged as often as opportunity offered.

He frequently served as a sergeant and once as an adjutant to the Regiment but his appointments to these offices were never in writing. He claims only for services ranking as a private and was always a volunteer having specially attached himself to some of the commands mentioned all belonged to companies which had volunteered or were lotted off in divisions. He never had any discharge in writing but the one from Jack's Regiment which has been long since destroyed. He has no knowledge of any surviving witness who served with me during the War though he thinks the reputation of his having been a faithful soldier of the Revolution is universal in his neighborhood founded principally on a character derived from those with known he served but who are long since dead. For answer to first interrogatory of Department says he was born in Virginia on the 20th of February 1760.

Answer to second interrogatory: He has a record of his age taken from a Family Record by his Father but does not know where the original is.

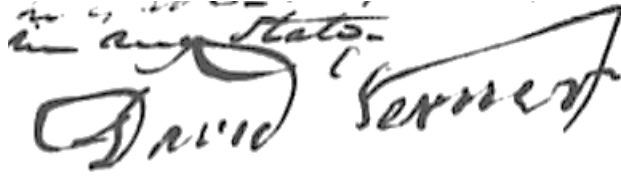
Answer to third interrogatory: He was living in Abbeville District this State when called into service where he had removed in his 14th year and where he continued to live until he removed into this adjoining District (Anderson) where he has lived for 48 years.

Answer to fourth interrogatory: Already stated.

Fifth & sixth & seventh interrogatories: -- already answered as far as he is able. – Was never placed on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court day & year aforesaid.
S/ Van A. Lawhone [?], C. C.

S/ David Verner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Verner". Above the signature, there is a faint, partially legible phrase that appears to be "in any State".

[David Humphreys, a clergyman, and James Gilmer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8]

The State of South Carolina, Pickens District

John Verner appeared personally in open Court being the Court of Sessions & Common Pleas for Pickens District and being duly sworn declares that he is now seventy-one years of age being a few years younger than his brother David Verner who has subscribed a Declaration for a Pension at Anderson Court House [on the] 4th March 1834. This Declarant knows that his brother was actively engaged during the Revolutionary War and having heard his Declaration read declares his entire belief in the Statement there made though he did not serve during every of the tours set forth with him.

He recollects his having gone off against the Cherokee Indians under Captain Robert Anderson.

Knows that he enlisted under his uncle Captain James Pettigru & served some time and shortly after discharged from Jack's Minute Men, he joined Captain McCall and went off on the Florida Expedition. After the Fall of Charleston this Deponent was frequently out himself and was occasionally in company with his brother. Recollects especially serving with him in the tour when he was at the Siege of 96 and very frequently when they had been out and after they are returned often talked their services over and this Deponent is well assured in his own mind that his brother must have been in actual service more than two years.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court.

S/ John Verner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Verner".

S/ B. J. Earle

Presiding Judge

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The State of South Carolina Anderson District

David Verner of the State and District aforesaid appeared personally before me and made oath in due form to the following Declaration by way of Amendment to his original Declaration made in open Court 4th March 1834 in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832.

This Deponent feels it due to himself to explain an error contained in the dates of his three first terms of duty as set forth in his original declaration. He kept no journal and he was able to fix the year of his entering the service principally from a knowledge of the year of his birth and the age at which he was when he first turned out as first stated he entered the service

going on his seventeenth year but it was in 1776 and not 1777 and the inaccuracy advances the succeeding service one year too early as he knew it was rendered the next year after his first and his attention was principally directed to the character of the Service and to persons with whom he served and the relative dates that each tour bore to the other that preceded of the error in the year first set down he became very soon satisfied on reflection though his Declaration being forwarded to the Department it was beyond his control to make the correction.

The three first tours of duty all correctly set forth except as regards the year – that under Captain R. Anderson having commenced in 1776 – Captain Pettigrew in 1777 and with Captain McCaw in 1778.

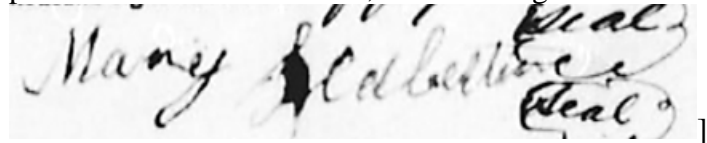
The department having returned the Deponent's original Declaration for "further explanation" of his engagement under Captain Pettigrew he can only add that he and his brother being quite young and their uncle James Pettigrew engaged in recruiting them with the consent of their Father they enlisted under said Pettigrew for three years being promised a bounty of 200 acres of Land their father Stipulating however that they should be at liberty to substitute or be discharged if orders were ever received for them to march to any distant country. They were called Minutemen and were principally in service on the Frontiers of South Carolina & Georgia until the expedition was undertaken against Florida – orders being received for this Detachment to march and this Deponent's Father being apprehensive from the character of the service & the season of the year that we might not be able to undergo the fatigue of so long a march on foot claimed of Captain Pettigrew a fulfillment of his promise who accordingly gave to this Deponent a written discharge as before stated and he therefore immediately (May 1778) joined the mounted rifle company commanded by Captain McCaw as by this change he secured the advantage of riding. The service alluded to was to join General Robert Howe and in this same tour now shown to him for the first time he has been impressed of it being recorded in history in Ramsay's History of United States to Volume, page 272 – His tour of service with Pettigrew was for seven months and with McCaw for three months as stated –

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency of any State though he has been in the receipt of a pension from the State of South Carolina for a number of years. He was once furnished with some indents which he exchanged with the State for Granted Lands and which if preserved may testify to some of his service.

Sworn to & subscribed October 27th, 1834 before me
S/ Joseph in Whitner, Not. Pub. & Q.U.Ex.Off.

S/ David Verner

[p 10: Power of attorney dated May 22, 1856 executed by Mary Ledbetter who states she is one of the children of David Verner deceased late of Anderson District and a revolutionary war pensioner who died June 10, 1852 leaving no widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Ledbetter". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "Mary" is on the first line, and "Ledbetter" is on the second line. There are some additional scribbles and a small mark below the name.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$75.83 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant for 15 months and 5 days in the South Carolina Continental line.]