

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Pitt S31305

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/9/09: rev'd 12/8/17

[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 3]

State of Kentucky County of Muhlenberg Sgt. }

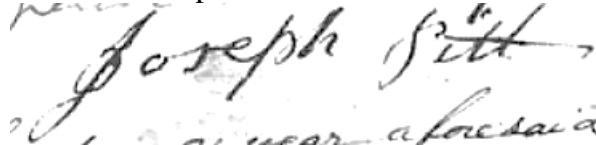
On this 31st day of December personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Muhlenberg County now sitting Joseph Pitt a resident of said State of Kentucky and County of Muhlenberg, aged Seventy years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That this declarant was born in the State of Virginia, removed in childhood to Edgecombe County North Carolina where he resided until he removed to the Western Country which was in 1803. He first moved in 1803 to Sumner County Tennessee, from which place in 1816 he removed to Muhlenberg Kentucky where he has since resided. He states that in 1779 he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated. He first entered in 1779 into the militia service and served a Tour of 5 months under Colonel Benjamin Sowell [sic, Benjamin Seawell], Lieutenant Colonel Brickle [William Brickell?], Major Enloe, Captain James Barrow commanded this declarant's company of which ___ Owens [Etheldred Owens] was Lieutenant and John Smith Ensign. He states that during this Tour he was in no considerable engagements, but was constantly in the Army during the whole period marching from point to point, and frequently employed in scouting parties. During most of this Tour the troops to which he was attached served in South Carolina. During this service General Gates defeat took place [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. The declarant was not in the battle, as the troops to which he belonged did not arrive in time though a forced march was made for the purpose of arriving in time. This declarant understood that General Sumner [Jethro Sumner] commanded the Militia of which declarant was one. He states he volunteered in this service as a common Soldier, served throughout it as such until the expiration of the Term of five months when he was lawfully discharged, but that he has lost said discharge believing it could avail him nothing to take care of it. That he reached home from this service in October or November 1779 and in January following entered the service as a volunteer for a 3 months Tour -- Colonel ___ Reed [James Read] commanded the militia to which this applicant belonged as a private Captain G. Cofield [Gresham Coffield] commanded the company of which Frank Williamson was Lieutenant. That they joined the Army as soon as the Junction could be formed under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] -- During this 3 months this declarant was in no engagement except slight skirmishes, while out on scouting parties. His company was actively and variously employed in scouting, reconnoitering & beating up parties of Tories. He did not share in the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], being then out scouting, and the express sent with them not

finding them in time to warn [?] them in -- That he served out this 3 months and was again lawfully discharged but has not preserve his discharge.

This declarant states that in October 1781 Troops were raised to suppress the Tories, who were very troublesome in South Carolina and a part of North Carolina and put them down Troops were raised, which were called 12 months troops & by some State Troops. In the part of North Carolina where declarant lived, the men were classed for this service and one of every twenty which was the number of the class had to serve. This declarant's class did not stand a draft, as declarant rendered it unnecessary by volunteering. Colonel __ Lewis [Joel Lewis] commanded the Regiment to which declarant was attached, Samuel Crafton was Major, Swan Trouton Captain, and Morris Raford [Maurice Raiford] Lieutenant. During this Tour said Troops were employed on the Borders of North Carolina & South Carolina in quelling & exterpatig [sic ?] the Tories who were plundering & committing constant depredations. That he had many skirmishes in this service and assisted in quieting the country & killing and driving off the Tories. That he was out & employed during the whole 12 months at the expiration of said time he was fully discharged but has not preserved his discharge. His first discharge was signed by Colonel Sowell, the second by Colonel Reed & the lastly [sic] Colonel Lewis. He states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.
Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Joseph Pitt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Pitt". Below the signature, there is some faint, illegible handwriting that appears to be "Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid".

[Ezias W. Earle, a clergyman, and Larry Stringer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 18]

Commonwealth of Kentucky Muhlenberg County

Joseph Pitt, this day personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, who being duly sworn deposes and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear more especially as to the nature of his military services, officers under whom he served in the exact periods of the year when his services were rendered, that he has already done in his foregoing declaration to which this is attached by way of amendment, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades -- in 1779 I served as a private militia man five months in North & South Carolina under the officers in the original declaration named. In 1780 I served as a private militia man in the same states, & as named in said declaration -- Beginning in October 1781 or 1780 I served as a private militia man twelve months in the states of North & South Carolina and under the officers named in said declaration -- and for these services I claim a pension. During the whole of said 3 terms of service this affiant states that he was regularly & constantly employed in military duty and not engaged in any civil employment. This affiant was born in 1762 in the State of Virginia but has no record of his age -- He lived in Edgecombe County North Carolina when called into service -- he knows no person by whom he can prove his services, but would refer the Department to William Worthington, Reverend William

Kincheloe, Colonel John Morgan, Willis Morgan and Peter Shaver, his neighbors as individuals who would testify in favor of his veracity and as to the traditional evidence of his being a revolutionary soldier. Given under my [hand] this 26th day of September 1833

S/ Henry W. Black, JP

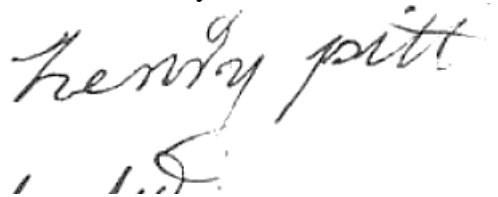
[p 21]

State of Tennessee Sumner County }

Henry Pitt Senior personally appeared before me Charles Watkins an acting Justice of the peace for the County and after being sworn the truth to speak as to what he might know relative to the service of Joseph Pitt in the Revolutionary War deposed and saith as follows, that is he states, that Joseph Pitt mentioned in the declaration did serve 12 months in the United States Army but does not recollect the time he entered the service.

And when Joseph Pitt entered the service he resided in Edgob [sic, Edgecombe] County State of North Carolina and returned again to the same County.

S/ Henry Pitt¹

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Pitt". Below the signature, there are some faint, illegible markings that appear to be initials or a date.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 6th day of January 1834

S/ Charles Watkins, JP

[Facts in file: Henry Pitt was a resident of Sumner County Tennessee in 1834 (but his relationship, if any, to Joseph Pitt is not stated); the file contains no information regarding the wife or children of this veteran.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 20 months in the North Carolina militia.]

¹ I believe this is the same man as [Henry Pitt S3689](#)