

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Peasley (Pastley, Paisley) S3646

A¹50NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/8/17

[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.]

[I 74]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County} August Sessions 1832

On this 29th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting for said County John Pastley, aged Seventy-five years who after 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 in the year 1778, he was a resident of Gilford [Guilford] County North Carolina, he Volunteered in the service of the United States for the term of three months under Colonel Pastley [sic, John Peasley a/k/a John Paisley], the Captain and Lieutenant he does not now recollect, inasmuch as he was ordered to take charge of and drive a baggage Waggon, which Team he had charge of and drove during the whole Tour, he states that he was marched to Camden South Carolina and remained there until discharged after having served a three months Tour, he states that if ever he heard the number of the Regiment to which he belonged he does not now recollect it, he states that some months after he returned home from said Tour, there was a company of what was then called New Levies raising in the County of Guilford North Carolina where this applicant resided, in which Company he Volunteered for the Term of nine months under the command of Colonel Alexander Martin Major John Nelson and Captain David Cowan, he states that all those who would served nine months as above stated and procured a discharge for the same would be exempted from serving any other Tour for the term of three years. He states that he Volunteered as aforesaid and rendezvoused at Guilford Court-house in said County and was marched on North as far as Moons Creek in the State of North Carolina, near the Virginia line, there he states the troops were all furloughed until a further call, with orders to hold themselves in readiness to march immediately when called he states that he remained at home about six months on said furlough when he with others were called on to march to South Carolina he states that the troops again assembled at Guilford Courthouse under the same officers as of before stated with the exception of Colonel Martin and Lieutenant Clark, Colonel Archabald Litle [Archibald Lytle] took the command in the room of the said Colonel Martin and Lieutenant Clark in the room of Lieutenant ___ whose name he does not now recollect, he states they were marched through North Carolina & South Carolina to a small Village on Savannah River in South Carolina called Puratisburgh [Purysburg?], where he Joined head Quarters or the Militia of South Carolina under the command of General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter], where there was a company of light Infantry called for to march up the Savannah River, on the South Carolina side, to prevent the British from crossing over the said River into South Carolina, and he states he was marched up

¹ Ancestry.com version is complete: Fold3.com version is missing the first 4 pages of the application. References are to image numbers on the Ancestry.com website.

said River as high as opposite Augusta where the British camped for about the space of two weeks, when they left that place & marched back down the said river again then he states that the American troops, Crossed the River at that place, Archibald Lytle being his Colonel & John Nelson being Major & Lieutenant McCalley the captain not recollected, Captain David Cowan having resigned previous to his march up the river, he states that General Ash [John Ashe] took the command of his Regiment in Augusta and marched down the river after the British to the mouth of Bryor Creek [Briar Creek, March 3, 1779], we had the British had crossed on a Bridge – and after crossing burned it down and marched up said Creek recrossed and attacked the American Troops in the fork between said Creek and Savannah River, where there was a battle fought between the Americans and English in which the Americans were defeated, the Americans recrossed said River at Mathesis Bluff [Matthias Bluff ?]² and Joined General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln] Cover of Regulars at or near said Bluff he states that he was then placed under the command of Captain William Goodman, Colonel Malmade [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] a French officer – Colonel Lytle was also continued under General Lincoln, Major Dickson took the command in place of Major John Nelson, and his former Lt. Thomas Clark was also continued. He was then marched in various directions under the command of said officers until the army was halted at a small creek called Edisto, near Stono. Then the American army to which he belonged under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] attacked the British in their entrenchments at Stono, which battle [Battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779] lasted near two hours, a close engagement. He states that he was then a sergeant [under] Capt. Goodman, which afforded him an opportunity of ascertaining the number of killed and wounded. He states that in said engagement the Americans lost 64 killed and 96 wounded. The American army retreated in order to draw the British out of their entrenchment, but they being reinforced, the American army did not make a second attack. The British then left their entrenchment the next day after the battle, and the Americans buried their dead, he does not recollect whether the British were commanded by General Haw [Howe] or Clinton; from which place he was marched to Ashley River near Charleston, South Carolina, where he remained some time, then they were marched to Charlotte, North Carolina, where a part of the men were discharged from there. A part of the men were marched to Salisbury, North Carolina and discharged and others were marched from Salisbury, to Hillsborough, and discharged so as to suit the convenience of the soldiers. He states that he was discharged at Hillsborough by Col. Archibald Lytle, after having served the full nine months subsequent to the furlough above named. Subsequent to the furlough above named and, he states that previous to his receiving said furlough, he served three weeks under said [illegible word, looks like "enroutment"] at the time spoken of when he was marched to the North and furloughed under which enroutment [?] he served nine months & three weeks – he states that he made his home after he left said service at Colonel John Pastley's in Guilford County North Carolina where he had said discharge and also his state oath certificate was house. Said house was burned with said discharge and certificate, he states that his discharge bore date the last of August, the year not recollected. He states that in the March following [he served as a Substitute?] for James Lett of Guilford County, North Carolina for three months under Capt George Stuart, Lt. George Nicks, 1st Lieutenant, & George Denny, 2nd Lieutenant and was marched near Fayetteville to what was called the Raft Swamps against a body of Tories which was infesting that section of the country. He remained at that place some time, until they were marched in pursuit of Col. Fanning [David

Mathesis Bluff.

Fanning], a Tory commander, whose company we dispersed and returned home, after having served a Tour of three months. He states he was verbally [? looks like “verbaty”] dismissed that Tour. Shortly after his return home to Guilford County North Carolina, under Capt Forbis [Arthur Forbis] & General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], to go against Lord Cornwallis, whose army at that time was in Guilford County, North Carolina. He was then marched to Guilford Courthouse, where the American Army fought a battle [March 15, 1781] with the British. The Americans were commanded by General Greene, in which we were defeated. We again rendezvoused at Buffington's Ironworks on Troublesome Creek, the fork of Haw River, where he was dismissed after he served a Tour of six weeks. He states that his said Captain Forbis was wounded in said battle, who afterward died of his wound, but previous to his death he received his dismissal from him. He states that he was in actual service during the Revolutionary War seventeen months and a week, exclusive of the time he was on furlough, which was six months, which in all would make twenty three months and one week. He states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He also states that there is no resident minister of the Gospel in his neighborhood whose statement he can procure. 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. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Pastley, X his mark

[Beverly Ford and Samuel Vaughn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Additional Statement of John Pastley made before me John Shough a Justice of the Peace for Dawkins County in the State of Tennessee in order to obtain the provisions of the Act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832 said Pastley being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement.

He states that he was born in Philadelphia County Pennsylvania on Schuylkill [River] about one mile from Indian Creek as he is informed and believes and at about the Age of seven years he was moved to Orange County North Carolina by his uncle William Pastley (the father and mother of this Applicant having died in Pennsylvania) And he lived in Carolina until he entered the service in the War of the Revolution and he has lived in Burke and Wilkes Counties in North Carolina and in Hawkins County since the revolution to this time.

He states that he served first three months a Volunteer under Colonel John Pastley then he volunteered for nine months under Colonel Alexander and James Martin and marched to the North and after three weeks was furloughed and remained on furlough six months and then entered the service Again and Served out the nine months. Then he Substituted in the room of James Lott and Served three months under Colonel Henry Dickson [Henry “Hal” Dixon].

He again Substituted for John McDaniel for six weeks under Colonel James Martin and served out the time.

Then he volunteered whilst the British were in Guilford County North Carolina under Captain Arthur Forbis in General Greene’s Army and was then in the battle of Guilford in which action his Captain was wounded and died of his wound. He served at that time three weeks and which makes in all seventeen months and one week’s service exclusive of the time he was on furlough in all his service he was a private except during the nine months service he acted as Corporal part of the time.

S/ John Pastley, X his mark

[I 99: In a letter dated November 10, 1837 the correspondent makes reference to Milly Pastley making claim for the portion of the pension due the veteran from September 4, 1835 to

November 7, 1836 at which time the veteran died. She is mentioned in the file as the widow of the veteran.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$47 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months and 3 days in the North Carolina militia.]