

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Israel Pearce S3660 NC Sea Service
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 June 2015.

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Beaufort County } February Term 1832

On this 23^d day of February, 1832, personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of Record for said County) towit Israel Pearce, resident in said County, aged about Sixty eight years who being duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit or provision made by the Act of Congress of the 18th March 1818, and of the 1st of May 1820; that he, the said Israel Pearce, enlisted in the Naval Service of the United States, on board of the Ship Caswell Capt Wilson, in the early part of the War of the Revolution, but does not at this day recollect the exact period of his enlistment or of his discharges from said ship – as he is entirely an unlettered man & has no memorandums or writings whereby to refresh his recollection: but he states that the said ship was a Guard ship, mounting thirty six Carriage Guns and was stationed off Ocracok [sic: Ocracoke] and that the period of his service on board of her under his enlistment was about twelve months. He furthermore states, that soon after his discharge from the said Ship, he enlisted in the Army of the United States (but does not recollect the exact date of his enlistment) under Captain Hall, and was afterwards transferred into the Company under the Command of Captain [William] Goodman in the Regiment Commanded by Colo. [Robert] Mebane under whom he fought at the Battle of Eutaw Spring, in which Battle his Captain was killed – and with his said Colo. was at the Siege of Charleston & at Gates’ defeat, at the Hanging Rock & also at Polaskis defeat at Savannah. [See endnote.] He does not at this day recollect the dates of any of his enlistments in the Army, nor the date of his discharge from the service, but states that that under his several successive enlistments his whole period of service in the Army was about five years. He was discharged at the High hills of Santee about six months before peace. His first enlistment was in the County of Tyrrell [sic: Tyrrel] & state of North Carolina, under the Captain & Colo aforesaid, on the Continental establishment. Gen’l. Green Commander in Chief – and that he was honorably discharged from the service at the place & time aforesaid.

And the said Israel Pearce hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension, except the present – and that his name is not on the Roll of any State except that of North Carolina, unless his service on board the said Ship has caused it to be upon some other one belonging to the Naval Service. And he states the following to be the reasons wherefore he has not made an earlier application for a Pension – viz that he resides & has for a great many years resided in a thinly settled and uneducated part of the County and was not aware until within two or three years past, that any provision had been made for the relief of indigent Revolutionary soldiers & sailors: – and since he heard of it he has never been able until lately to find one of his associates in Arms by whom to establish his services or any part of them – and can only do so now by the Deposition of his old Comrade James Willie [sic: James Wiley, pensioin application S42075] of Washington County in this state – and by his own oath.

And in pursuance of the Act of the first of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was born in the County of Tyrrell in the State of North Carolina, and was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818; and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress, entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War – passed the 18th day of March 1818. – and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, or contracts, or debts due to me: nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule following – that is to say. one old plough Horse, one Cart, two Beds with a little Bedding & A few plantation tools – & a few old articles of Household furniture.

His Occupation through life has been that of a Farmer but has farmed in a very small way on Rental land.

He is now old & nearly past labour – and subject to the many afflictions of age. His family consists of his son, named Newton Pearce, a lad nearly grown & his grand child Sinea Pearce, the latter aged Twelve years. That since the 18th day of March 1818, no other change has been made in his property than such as wear & tear of his few articles has experienced & the gradual consumption of his stock of Cattle & means of supporting his family. Sworn to & declared by the said Israel Pearce the 23 day of Feb’y 1832
Israel hisPmark Pearce

State of North Carolina Secretary of State’s Office
I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Contiental line of this State, that Israel Pearse a private soldier in Capt. Bailey’s Company of the 10th Regiment enlisted on the 2nd May 1781 for 12 months, and left the service 2nd May 1782. Given under my hand this 1st April 1833. W. Hill

Raleigh 25th 1833 [sic]
Dear Sir The name of Israel Pearce is twice on the rolls, once for 18 months, as the Certificate herewith sent shows, and once for 12 months, an d when I made a certificate some time past, I happened to find the place where he enlisted for 12 months first, and not knowing that his name was to be found any where else on the rolls made out a certificate for the 12 months service Yours &c W. Hill

State of North Carolina Secretary of State’s Office
I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Israel Pearce a private in Capt. Ballards Company of the 10th Regiment enlisted on the 15th day of June 1779 for 18 months, that nothing is said of his discharge from this enlistment.
Given under my hand this 25th April 1833 W. Hill

NOTES:

The following is a correct chronology of events mentioned in the declaration:

- 4 Apr 1778 British attack at Ocracoke prompts NC to purchase row galley *Caswell*
- 9 Oct 1779 Battle of Savannah; Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski mortally wounded
- 12 May 1780 Siege of Charleston ends with surrender and imprisonment of Continentals, including Lt. Col. Robert Mebane and troops under him
- 30 Jul 1780 Skirmish at Hanging Rock SC
- 6 Aug 1780 Battle of Hanging Rock SC
- 16 Aug 1780 Gen. Horatio Gates defeated at Battle of Camden SC
- 2 Dec 1780 Gen. Nathanael Greene takes command of Southern Army from Gates
- 8 Sep 1781 Battle of Eutaw Springs SC
- 15 Apr 1783 Provisional peace treaty ratified

In a letter dated 30 April 1833 Pearce’s agent stated that “His head & face & body bear the marks of his service.”

The 1830 federal census for Log Cabin, Beaufort County NC lists Israel Pearse as a “Free Colored Person.”