

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abel Pearson S3661

Transcribed by Will Graves

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rev'd 2/11/09 & 9/17/17

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

[p 4]

State of Tennessee, White County} SS

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Honorable Judge of the Circuit Court for White County, now sitting, Abel Pearson a resident of White County in the State of Tennessee, aged about Sixty Eight 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and Served as herein Stated.

The first tour he served was as a volunteer commanded by Colonel John Sevier, Major Jesse Walton and Major Jonathan Tipton and Captain James Stinson, he entered the service some time in the latter part of the summer or first of the fall of the year 1779 but cannot tell the day of the month or the month, he was discharged by being mustered out of the service not having been discharged in writing; by the commanding officers in a short time after Christmas in the same year he thinks he served three months this tour. During this Campaign and as is believed in the month of September, he was in the battle of Boyd's Creek<sup>1</sup> in what is now East Tennessee and in Sevier County he thinks. The Indians consisting of the Cherokees were defeated and about eighteen of them killed and many wounded. The field officers who commanded during the engagement were Colonel Sevier, Majors Walton & Tipton. He then lived in Washington County in what is now the State of Tennessee; and marched from that place through a wilderness Country or nearly so to the place of the engagement he was not in any other engagement during this tour; but was actively engaged in the enemy's Country, and burned the towns of Tellico, Chota & Chilbewa [?].<sup>2</sup> He can prove this tour of service by Thomas Gist<sup>3</sup> who served with him and he knows of no other person in his power by whom he can prove this tour.

This applicant again entered the service of his country as a Volunteer under Captain Jacob Brown, he thinks in September in the year 1780, and marched to the Greasy Cove on Chucky River where Colonel Campbell [William Campbell], Sevier & Shelby [Isaac Shelby] met, they marched across the Allegheny Mountain, fell in with Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] on the way and overtook the British and Tories on Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780],<sup>4</sup> and on the seventh day of October in that year it is believed, the enemy were defeated,

<sup>1</sup> December 16, 1780 <http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/boydscreek.html>

<sup>2</sup> 

<sup>3</sup> [Thomas Gist S1762](#)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

with a loss it is believed of about 400 killed on the ground, the loss so far as he knows on part of the Americans was not near to a great – Col Williams [James Williams] received a wound of which he afterwards died. Captain Robert Sevier shared the same fate. About six or 700 Prisoners were taken & applicant guarded the prisoners to Salisbury and was marched to Turkey Cove on Catawba River, and there mustered out of the service, without a written discharge, by Colonels Campbell, Sevier, Shelby & Robertson [Lt. Col. Charles Robertson a/k/a Charles Robeson]. He then returned home having served something like four months this tour. Applicant could prove this tour by Abraham Sevier<sup>5</sup> & Samuel Hand,<sup>6</sup> if he could procure them, but he is not able to procure their attendance they not living residents of this County.

In the early part of the year 1781, this applicant again entered the service of his country under Captain Luke Boyer, commanded by Col Sevier & Col. Robertson, and if any other field officers he has forgotten them. We met in the Greasy Cove, he was marched across the head of French Broad River and to what was called the middle settlements or Overhill Towns in the Cherokee nation. Seventeen or eighteen prisoners were taken by the whites and five or six Indians were killed – on part of the whites Captain Davis & John Bond were killed – a few of the Indian towns were burned by the troops. He was then marched home to Washington County and mustered out of the service having received no written discharge. This was a three months tour and applicant served about that time, perhaps a little over or under, he cannot say.

This applicant thinks it was in 1778 he served as a guard six months commencing in October under Captain John Trimble, and was stationed at Sherrill's Station [Sherrill's Station] on Chucky River [Nolichucky River] and at the expiration of the above tour he was disbanded but received no written discharge from Captain Trimble. He was a volunteer in this tour and in that served under Captain Boyer [Luke Boyer].

In the month of September in the year 1781, as he thinks he again entered the Service of his Country as a volunteer under Captain George Dougherty [George Doherty]. The field officers under whom he was placed were Colonel John Sevier, Colonel Charles Robertson, Major Walton, Major McNabb [John McNabb], Major Jonathan Tipton. He entered the Service in what is now Greene County. He was marched through the Turkey Cove, passed through Burke County in North Carolina, thence to Ramsour's Mill, thence to Tuckaseegee Ford on Catawba River, thence to Camden, from thence to the high hills of Santee where we were attached to the Brigade commanded by General Marion [Francis Marion]. He assisted in taking a British Hospital and Eighty four prisoners, this was near Moncks Corner [October 16, 1781].<sup>7</sup> He there became acquainted with Col Maham [Hezekiah Maham] Col Lea [sic, Henry "Light horse Harry" Lee] & Colonel Horea.<sup>8</sup> He then continued with Genl Marion until he served out a three months tour of duty and was mustered out of the Service by his officers at Nelson's ferry on the other side of Santee and returned home at his own expense. This tour applicant can prove by Thomas Gist.

In each and every of these tours applicant furnished his own horse, and his understanding is that he served as a volunteer to avoid the necessity of a draft or when orders came for men to be called out he went voluntarily. This applicant cannot state accurately the dates of each of his tours, and has referred to a historical account of some of the transactions for dates.

Interrogatories propounded to the applicant by the court.

1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer: I was born in Carroll's Tract Pennsylvania in the year 1764, May 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

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<sup>5</sup> [Abraham Sevier S1589](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Samuel Hand W10](#)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_moncks\\_corner\\_4.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_moncks_corner_4.html)

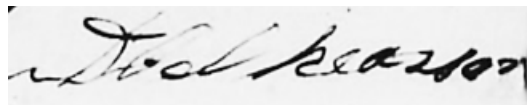
<sup>8</sup> I think this is a mistaken attempt to name Lt. Col. Peter Horry who served under Maham toward the end of the war.

2. Have you a record of your age, and if so, where is it? Answer: I have a part of my father's family Bible in which the record of my age appears; it is now in possession I suppose of my daughter in Bledsoe County, Tennessee.
3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live? Answer: In Washington County in what is now the State of Tennessee, since that time I lived in South Carolina twelve years in Union County in that State – about 30 years ago, I moved to Carter County Tennessee and five or six years after that I again removed to Washington County Tennessee – about nineteen years ago, I removed to Lincoln County Tennessee where I entered the service in the late war – and when I quit the Army I came to Bledsoe County Tennessee and about seven years ago I removed to White County where I now live.
4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute, for whom? Answer: I cannot State any more on this Subject that I have already stated in the foregoing declaration.
5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service. Answer: I have stated the names of General Marion, Col. Maham, Colonel Lea [sic] & Colonel Horea, and as to the balance of the question I have stated the most material circumstances relating to my Service as well as I can recollect it.
6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service; and, if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer: I never received a written discharge – nor have I any documentary evidence of my service.
7. State the persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution? Answer: The Reverend John Scoggin, Jesse Scoggin, Esq., Archibald Cannon, Captain John White, Isaac Plumley and William Drury, Esq.

He the said Abel Pearson 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/ Abel Pearson



S/ Anthony Durell, Clerk

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Thomas Gist makes oath in open court that he served at the same time & in the same tours that Abel Pearson did as stated in the foregoing declaration when said Pearson was under Captain Stinson and under Captain George Dougherty the first of which tours the battle of Boyd's Creek was fought and the last we were attached to General Marion's Brigade, and the said Pearson did serve in said 2 tours as he has set forth in the foregoing declaration, to the best of his knowledge recollection & belief.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid

S/ Anthony Dibrell, Clerk

S/ Thomas Gist, X his mark

[John Scoggin, a clergyman, and Jesse Scoggin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee White County} April Sessions of the County Court 1833

Personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for said County Abel Pearson, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below. He served as a private whole time of his service. 1st the first tour mentioned in his Declaration was not less than 3 months -- and he is satisfied it was that long. 2nd -- His 2nd tour mentioned in his Declaration, he can very safely say was as much as 4 months. 3rd -- as to his 3rd tour, although it is mentioned in his Declaration, with considerable uncertainty, his best recollection now is that he was in the service at this time, 3 months and 8 days: But he feels able to speak with full assurance, that the tour was not less than 3 months -- 4th -- on reference to his Declaration it will be seen that his 4th tour is mentioned with certainty at 6 months -- 5th -- it will also be seen that his 5th tour is stated with sufficient certainty at 3 months. He therefore states that he served in all, 19 months, for which he claims a pension under the act of June 7, 1832.

S/ A. Pearson

Sworn to in open Court night April A.D. 1833

S/ Jacob A. Lane, Clerk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$63.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 19 months in the North Carolina militia.]