

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Mahlon Pierson (Pearson) S3663

f47SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

The State of Ohio Warren County Court of Common Pleas of the term of September 1832. SS

On this 3rd October 1832 before the court aforesaid personally appeared in open court Mahlon Pearson aged 72 years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Bucks County Pennsylvania on the 7th April 1761. That since the revolutionary war he resided in South Carolina till 29 years ago when he removed to Warren County Ohio where he has lived ever since. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as hereinafter stated. That in Union County South Carolina in the summer of 1777 [sic, more likely 1779 based on the events he describes], he volunteered under Captain George Avery [sic, George Aubrey] for 3 months to go to the siege of Savannah in Georgia, that Colonel Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon] commanded the Regiment to which his company was attached at Savannah Georgia, where he joined it under the said Captain Avery -- that about 4 weeks after he joined the Army at Savannah, an attempt was made to storm the place under command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln].<sup>1</sup> He remembers that the Count d'Estaing a French officer was there cooperating with the American troops & that Count Pulaski with his Legion of horse was there & was killed in the assault of the place. The American troops were repulsed with considerable loss deponent was in said engagement but received no wounds of any sort. After this day remained at Savannah about 8 weeks & were then marched to Brier Creek in Georgia where he was discharged verbally having served 3 months. In the spring of the next year & he thinks in the month of March he was drafted in Union County South Carolina for 3 months under Captain Avery & was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Brannon, that Chandler Avery [sic, Chandler Aubrey] was Lieutenant in said company they were marched to guard what was called the Bull Pen a prison of [indecipherable word] in which a number of Tories were confined between Broad & Saluda Rivers in South Carolina, they were marched under the officers & remained on the duty of aforesaid 3 months at the end of which time he was again discharged verbally. After the British had taken possession of Charlestown [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], & occupied almost the entire State of South Carolina, with their troops deponent left the State & went [to] North Carolina & hearing that General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] was mustering troops in that State at a point on the Catawba [River], he went to him and volunteered without any definite

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<sup>1</sup> Siege of Savannah September 16-October 9, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

engagement as to time. He remained with Sumter about 8 weeks when he got a furlough to go home & get clothing being almost naked, on his way home he was taken by the Tories & carried to Ferguson's camp [Patrick Ferguson's camp] in South Carolina, where he was detained a prisoner about 6 weeks & was paroled with privilege to go home & not travel further than 3 miles from home. After he returned being abused by the Tories who were numerous in the neighborhood, he concluded he was not safe out of the Army & again joined the American troops at a camp commanded by Colonel Brannon near Union Court House in South Carolina, with this Regiment he remained in active service during the remainder of the War -- said Regiment was sometimes commanded by Brannon sometimes by Lieutenant Colonel Fair [sic, William Farr] & sometimes by Major Benjamin Jolly under the latter officer, he went in said Regiment after the Indians assembled in force after the surrender of Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] & before the close of the War. They overtook the Indians at a place called the Big Bend of Tennessee River where they had a sharp engagement & he remembers a British officer by the name of Henry Crittleton who commanded the Indians was killed by the American Cavalry commanded by Colonel Hammond, General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] was the commander of this expedition, after the close of the War he was discharged verbally in South Carolina at a place called Paris' near the Saluda Mountain, That he has no documentary evidence of his service & he knows of no person who can prove any of the aforesaid services except John Cain whose testimony is accompanied here with, that he hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn & subscribed in open Court this 3 October 1832

S/ J. K. Wilds, Clerk

S/ Mahlon Pierson, S his mark

[Jacob Pearson, a clergyman, and John Satterwaite gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Indiana Wayne County: Be it remembered that on this day to wit the 31st day of August 1832 personally came before me Wm M. Dunham an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County John Cain<sup>2</sup> of lawful age and a resident of our said County, who after being by me duly sworn according to law depose and saith, that he has been acquainted with Mahlon Pierson of Warren County Ohio since the year of our Lord 1777, and he (Cain) further saith on his oath as aforesaid that he the said Mahlon Pierson served in the militia of the United States during the revolutionary War between Great Britain and the United States from the year 1777 until the close of said war, and he (Cain) further saith that he and said Mahlon Pierson served several tours of duty together in the Army of the United States during the said Revolutionary war and further saith not.

Affirmed to and subscribed before me the date above written

S/ Wm M. Dunham, JP

S/ John Cain, X his mark

[Cain gave the exact same affidavit again on May 11, 1833—p 38]

[p 40-41 Pierson made a supplementary statement but the digital image of it is of such poor quality that I did not attempt to transcribe it. It appears to be dated May 17, 1833 and given in Warren County, Ohio. In it, Pierson appears to 'affirm' (as opposed to 'swear to') the length of the various tours he served as set forth in his original declaration but qualifies his statements with the

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<sup>2</sup> [John Cain W3510](#)

standard qualification that due to old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot recall precise times or lengths of service but states same to the best of his recollection. From what little I can make out of the contents of the documents, Pierson does not appear to add any references to different officers or tours of duty than those set forth in this first declaration.]

[pp 43-47 is an almost equally poor quality digital image of an additional declaration made by Pierson. Use the following transcription with great care.]

The further declaration of Mahlon Pierson explanatory of his original and supplemental declarations heretofore by him made, the one before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas within and for the County of Warren and State of Ohio on the 3rd day of October 1832, the other before William Sellars Esquire a justice of the peace within and for said County and State on the 17th of May 1833 for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. Be it remembered that on this 6th day of September 1833 personally appeared before me the Subscriber one of the acting justices of the peace within and for the County of Warren and State of Ohio Malhon Pierson a resident of said County, who being by me duly affirmed according to law doth upon his solemn affirmation make the following statement amendatory to and explanatory of the declarations heretofore made by him at times and in the manner particularly stated in the above caption – Said Mahlon Pierson saith that he is still a resident of Wayne Township in the County aforesaid and he is at this time in his 73rd year of age -- That by reason of old age his memory has become very considerably impaired, that Georgia, in which state a British officer by the name of Colonel \_\_ Campbel [Archibald Campbell], it was said, had landed, that said Captain Avery [sic, George Aubrey] with his company joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon] at Bagets [?] old field on Bagets [?] Creek South Carolina where we remained 4 weeks during which time he served as a common soldier and at the end of which. The entire Regiment was dismissed in consequence of some communication received from the Governor of said State but deponent received no written discharge. Deponent stated that in making his former declarations he confounded the above mentioned service with the that by him rendered at the siege of Savannah, and in that was mistaken the date of the Siege of said Town -- Deponent further states that such is the frailty of his memory that it is impossible for him to state with precision the month the day thereof when he again entered the Service, he believes however that it was the latter part of July or forepart of August 1779, [indecipherable word partially obliterated by an ink blot], that he again volunteered under the aforesaid Captain George Avery, for 3 months, that said Captain Avery and his company joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Brannon at Fairforest in Union County South Carolina, in which County said company was raised -- that said Regiment from there marched and crossed the Savannah River at Augusta and from thence through the pine woods to or near Savannah where we joined the Army -- about 4 weeks after we joined the Army, an attempt was made to storm said town, under the command of General \_\_ Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] -- he remembers that Count d'Estaing cooperated at said Siege and was said to have been wounded -- that Count Pulaski with his Legion of horse was there & he was there killed -- Our Army was repulsed with considerable loss -- deponent was actually engaged in said Siege but received no wounds. After the American Army was repulsed it was marched to Brier Creek in Georgia where we remained for 4 weeks and Colonel Brannon's Regiment was there & then discharged but this deponent received no written discharge. He positively states that he served actively the full period for which he volunteered, being 3 months, during which time he served as a common soldier -- In the spring of the next year and he thinks and believes in the month of

March (but of this he cannot be positive) he was drafted in said County of Union South Carolina for 3 months under the aforesaid Captain George Avery and was marched to the Bull pens where we joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Brannon Chandler Avery [sic, Chandler Aubrey] was Lieutenant of said company we remained at the Bull pen (a prison in which a number of Tories were confined) for the period of 3 months, during which time we were employed in guarding said prison -- deponent here received a verbal discharge having served as a common soldier 3 months --

After the British had taken possession of Charleston (which he is informed was in 1780) and occupied almost the entire State of South Carolina deponent left said State and went to North Carolina & hearing that General Sumter was mustering troops in that State at a point on the Catawba [River], he went to him and volunteered, without any definite engagement as to time, he remained with Sumter at this place being engaged in scouting parties after the Tories at the least eight weeks if not longer -- General Sumter then gave deponent a furlough to go home and get clothing, being almost naked, on my way home and near to my father's plantation in Union County South Carolina deponent was taken prisoner by the Tories and taken to Ferguson's Camp at Folars [?] Ford on Pacolet River, from thence he was taken by said Ferguson to Rutherford Court House in North Carolina, from thence Ferguson retreated to said Folars' Ford where he paroled deponent who had been prisoner at the least six weeks if not longer. Deponent then went home, and being abused by the Tories who were numerous in the neighborhood of his father's residence, he again joined the Army in the summer of 1780 and he thinks in July but on what day he cannot say, at a camp near Union Court house South Carolina commanded by Colonel Brannon from thence I was marched in a company commanded by Major Benjamin Jolly to Fair Forest at Fletcher's old mill [sic, Fletchall's old mill] where there was stationed and where he remained under the command of said Jolly for three months he believes longer from thence I was allowed to go home to my father's who had then removed to Broad River in Union County aforesaid, where I remained one week & then joined Colonel Brannon at his camp upon Brown's Creek which empties in Broad River where I remained a week when Colonel Brannon sent me as an express to General or Colonel Pickens upon the Savannah River above Augusta, from thence I returned to Colonel Brandon's camp who in a few days sent Captain Young with his Company to which I was then attached upon a scouting expedition between [indecipherable name, could be 'Enoree'] and Tyger rivers and upon Duncan's Creek at which place the Tories were committing depredations upon the Whigs and their property, in this service I was engaged six weeks or more, when we returned to Colonel Brannon's camp, and was dismissed and went home and there remained until the spring of the year 1781 in the month of March there was a draft and Colonel Brannon's Regiment was drafted into three divisions & numbered first, second & third. Deponent was drafted into the first division. In the month of May following we were called into active service under Colonel William Fair [sic, William Farr] of Colonel Brandon's Regiment and marched to Pinckney County or district and there joined Colonel Henderson's Regiment and were marched to Hugh Nails mill upon Little River where we encamped and were engaged in scouting parties after the Tories -- in August we were discharged having served for the full period of 3 months -- Deponent did not receive a written discharge -- in the last service he was a common soldier that Again in the year 1782 in February deponent volunteered in Union aforesaid under Major Jolly -- -- our Captain Joseph Hughes -- and joined General Pickens at Paris old place near the Saluda Mountain -- Colonel Hammond commanded the dragoons -- at this place they beat up for volunteers to go in advance of the Army to see if any sign of the Indians could be discovered. I volunteered for that service under the command of Major

Benjamin Jolly and continued in the service until May following when I was verbally discharged having served for the term of 3 months as a common soldier after this I occasionally was engaged in scouting parties after Tories but am unable to state particulars -- Deponent further states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot state with more particularly than he has heretofore done the precise length of the different periods of his service - - deponent also states that he was not employed in any civil pursuit during any part of the time he has above stated himself to have been engaged in the service and further saith not.

S/ Mahlon Pearson, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$67.77 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for one year, eight months and ten days in the South Carolina militia.]