

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Pierce S3692

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/21/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee: October Term 1832 [Hawkins County]

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, personally appeared in open Court, before the Judge of the Circuit Court for the County of Hawkins in the State of Tennessee now sitting John Pierce a resident of Sullivan County and State of Tennessee aged about 75 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 as a volunteer, under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That he lived in Albemarle County in the State of Virginia when he volunteered in the service of his Country under Captain John Miller late in the fall of 1780 as well as this Declarant can now recollect. That his Regiment was commanded by General Nelson, Major John Martin & Colonel Cole but the latter officer left the Regiment after having gone some distance & returned home. That the Regiment to which this applicant belonged was marched by the above named officers, from Albemarle with the intention of proceeding directly to York-town & had on their march proceeded within a few miles of Williamsburg when they received intelligence that Lord Cornwallis with all his forces was coming across the Country into Virginia. That on receiving this information of the movement of Cornwallis they were induced to cut across the Country in order to annoy him. That they halted at a place situated on James River called Cabin-Point [Cabin Point] where they threw up Breastworks & planted cannon, that at this fortification he was stationed about two months to repel any assault that might be made on this point by the British forces.

The Declarant further states that the consternation into which the state of Virginia was thrown by the arrival, within her borders, of such an enemy as Lord Cornwallis, caused the militia to be marched from place to place with the greatest rapidity, as though they knew not what to do, that in the confusion he was marched from Cabin Point through the Country to Petersburg, that at this place his Regiment was detained about twenty days waiting for any demand that might be made for its services but none came & they were marched back to their homes in Albemarle County that on their return home they took in their way Richmond where the Regiment broke up some leaving it and returning home as they could & the others remaining & were marched home by their respective captains.

This Declarant further states that in the hurry & confusion of returning home & the probability that in a short time he would again be called into service, he did not apply for nor get a discharge that his term of service in this campaign were a few days over six months.

This Declarant further states that when he returned home the condition of his Country did not suffer him to remain long in active, but he again volunteered his services in its defense. That in the latter part of August or the first of September in the year 1781 he volunteered as a soldier

in the United States service, under Captain Benjamin Harris and served in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Reuben Lindsay, that his Regiment was marched from Albemarle to Williamsburg where they remained a short time & were driven there from in great confusion, by a British force under the command of Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton], that Tarleton pursued the retreating Militia as far as Albemarle Courthouse from which she was driven by Captain Wheeler. This Declarant further states that in their retreat, before Tarleton, from Williamsburg they became scattered some fled as far as Albemarle County & others disbursed in the adjoining counties that this Declarant United with his company in Louisa County & was marched from there under the command of Captain Harry Burk [probably Henry Burke], Captain Harris having returned home, that they proceeded on through Williamsburg to York-town where they joined the Grand Army under the command of General Washington, that he or they siege Lord Cornwallis about 30 days and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1781 he was forced to surrender all his forces into the hands of the Americans & French, that after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis this Declarant was detached as one of the guard to take some prisoners to Richmond that they lodged the prisoners safely in Richmond jail & this Declarant without applying for his discharge on getting it, returned home, that he served 2 months & about 20 days in this expedition making in all the time he served as a volunteer 8 months & about 2? or 23 days. That he never got any discharge for his services, because he never applied for one as was the case with a great many that served in the Militia line.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State, or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of Virginia.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ W. B. Mitchell, Clerk

S/ John Pierce, X his mark

I William Thurman<sup>1</sup> residing in the County of Hawkins & State of Tennessee do hereby certify that I have been acquainted with John Pierce who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration about fifty years, that I believe him to be about 75 years old, that he lived in the same neighborhood with me in Albemarle County in the State of Virginia when he volunteered in the services of the United States under Captain John Miller that same Captain under which I volunteered. That the said Pierce volunteered with me in the latter part of the year 1780 or the first of 1781, that he marched in the same company with me, in the Regiment commanded by General Nelson, Major John Martin & Colonel Cole, that the Regiment marched from Albemarle on towards Yorktown but turned across the Country from Williamsburg to a place on James River called Cabin Point that here we threw up breastworks & remained two months, that from Cabin Point we marched to Petersburg where we remained about twenty days, that from Petersburg we marched to Richmond & from Richmond back to our homes in Albemarle County, that during this whole expedition the said Pierce served in the same company with me, that this term of service was as stated by the said Pierce in his declaration a few days over six months.

I further certify that the said John Pierce again volunteered in the service of the United States under Captain Benjamin Harris, the commander of the Company in which I served, that it was about the time stated in his Declaration, that he was marched in company with me from Albemarle to Williamsburg, that we remained at Williamsburg but a short time when a British force under the command of Colonel Tarleton caused us to retreat thence from, that in the retreat I became separated from the said Pierce & did not see him again till on our March back to

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<sup>1</sup> [William Thurman W169](#)

Williamsburg, that he was then in one Captain's Company & I was in another his Captain was then Henry Burke, that the said Pierce was in the service at the siege of York. That I do not know about the said Pierce going to Richmond with some prisoners, for I was called off in a different direction but I am induced, from my long acquaintance with him, to believe that he has stated that what the said Pierce has stated about his discharge I believe to be truth, for such was the case with all those that volunteered from Albemarle as far as I knew, that the said Pierce reached home about the time I did & that this tour of service lasted as stated by said Pierce 2 months & about ?? days, making in all eight months & about 22 or 23 days the said Pierce served as a volunteer to my own knowledge.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ William Thurman, X his mark

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County John Pierce who being duly sworn deposed & saith that by reason of old age, & 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 and in the following grades,

For 6 months & 10 days I served as a private soldier,

For 2 months & 20 days I served as a private Soldier, and for such service I claim a pension.

The reason I did not make my declaration in the County where I resided at the time I made it, was that I had but recently moved to Sullivan having previously lived in Hawkins County for a long time & the witness, William Thurman, residing in Hawkins who has testified to my services, I was obliged to make it out in the latter County & there is no clergyman residing in the neighborhood I am acquainted with the said William Thurman also with John M. Vaughan & Jacob Wills who have testified to my reputation below.

I was born in the City of London in England near St. Paul's Church, and came to America when I was a boy.

I have no record of my age.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833

S/ Jasper Smith, JP

S/ John Pierce, X his mark

[John M Vaughan & Jacob Wills gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia service.]