

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Pickens (Pickins) S3699

f29SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/22//09: rev'd 12/4/17

[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.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee Maury County SS.

On this the 16th day of September 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before James Hughes, John Mack & John C. Wormley Esquires Justices of said Court being the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting for the County of Maury in the State of Tennessee, William Pickens aged about eighty-four 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That about the first of August 1776 [1775] he volunteered in the State of South Carolina Abbeville District in the Company commanded by Thomas Langdon William Bows Lieutenant & the whole Commanded by Colonel __ Drayton [William Henry Drayton] he did not volunteer for any specific time -- they marched to Ninety Six at which place they were stationed or near that place until the 19th of November of the same year at which time the battle of Ninety Six [November 19, 1775] was fought & which battle this applicant was engaged after which time they were marched to the Long fork of Saluda River & were engaged in scouting &c until they marched to Reedy River [Great Cane Brake, December 22, 1775] & routed the Tories that were encamped there. This was about the last of December in the same year at which time they were discharged, the discharge was not in writing -- The following year the Indians committed frequent depredations and this applicant together with many families were compelled to erect a Fort for their safety & defense called "Fort Independence" they remained stationed in this Fort about 2 or 3 months, during which time this applicant was constantly engaged discharging the duties of a spy -- Applicant was marched in October 1777 to Seneca as a Guard at a treaty with the Indians remained there about a week no treaty was effected returned to Fort Independence & remained there until May 1778 when this applicant was marched to Due West Corner as a Guard at a Treaty with the Indians remained there about 2 weeks when a treaty was effected with the Indians, after which this applicant was discharged.

In February 1779 he volunteered in Abbeville District South Carolina, in the Company commanded by Captain Robert Anderson Colonel Andrew Pickens & General Andrew Williamson were the officers, were marched to Savannah River where a battle was fought with the Tories -- after the battle they pursued the Tories to Kettle Creek in Georgia where they overtook the Tories and defeated them [Kettle Creek February 14, 1779]. He was then discharged but not in writing & returned home the length of this tour was about one month

In the spring or early in the summer of 1780¹ as well as he now recollects this applicant

¹ Sic, 1781.

again volunteered under Captain Robert Anderson and joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at Ninety Six [Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781] at which place he remained until the siege was raised & Greene marched to Charleston. This applicant was transferred to a company of Rangers commanded by Captain Robert Carithers² Lieutenant Francis Carlisle,³ it was the duty of this company to range upon the frontiers which duty they performed for about 5 months when he was discharged & returned home the discharge was not in writing -- this was the last duty this applicant performed -- That he has no Documentary evidence of his services & he knows of no person living by whom he can prove his service. This applicant states that he was born in Virginia in Augusta County in 1749, but what time in that year he does not know, the record of his birth was destroyed by the Indians but from information from his parents & others he believes that he was born in that year. His father removed to Abbeville District South Carolina when this applicant was about 15 years of age at which place he resided until the year 1807, when applicant removed to Maury County State of Tennessee where he now does & ever since has resided. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ William Pickens, X his mark

S/ Thos. J. Porter, Clerk

[Andrew Smith, a clergyman, and Ashley Moore gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 28]

State of Tennessee Maury County }

This day personally appeared before me William Pickens a citizen of said County before me James Wright a Justice of the peace in & for said County & made oath as follows to wit, that he believes his original declaration is only deficient in not stating the time particularly, he therefore being duly sworn deposes & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service in each of his tours, But According to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: For four months in 1776 beginning in August & ending in December same year for four months in 1777 time beginning first July & ending in last of October -- in this last trip Captain John Pickens commanded William Bowls [?]⁴ Lieutenant. For one month in 1779. For 5 months in 1780. I served a private & for such service I claim a pension --

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 28th day of April 1834

S/ James Wright, JP

S/ William Pickens



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months in the South Carolina militia.]

² [Robert Carithers W23779](#)

³ [Francis Carlisle \(Carlile\) W10576](#)

⁴

militia or CL lieutenants.

Bonks? I could find no likely candidate for this officer among known SC