

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Presley S3738

f7NC

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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Marion County } Circuit Court S. S. 1833

On the 4th day of December 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Charles F. Keith, John Presley, a resident of said County & State aged 83 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, 1833 [sic, 1832].

That he was born in Rowan County North Carolina in the year 1748 -- He has no record of his age. He was living in McLenburg County [sic, Mecklenburg County] North Carolina when called into service, where he lived about 20 years afterwards; then moved to within six miles of Camden South Carolina and lived about 14 years -- then moved back to Rowan County, where he lived several years, then moved into Tennessee, and has ever since lived about among his children -- living sometimes in North Carolina and sometimes in Tennessee.

In December of the year he thinks, 1779, he entered as a substitute for John Cole who had been drafted for he supposes 6 months. Drury Ledbetter was his Captain who marched the company (about 30) to Camden: and from there with another company under Captain Hart to Charleston S.C. There they went under command of Colonel Lock [sic, Francis Locke] and under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]¹. He remained at Charleston some weeks, then marched under General Greene to the Savannah River, was stationed some time on the River, an express came from Greene's forces to go up to Brier Creek, and Greene -- Colonel Lock and most of the troops went, applicant with Captain Ledbetter's company was left to guard some ford, on the Savannah. He was stationed at some other place this campaign where there were regular Troops under General Greene; but he cannot recollect the name of the Station, nor can he recollect much of importance that occurred, as he was in no battle, and was in winter quarters most of the time. He served 5 months and received a discharge from Captain Ledbetter and Colonel Lock's name was to it, he thinks. The discharge is lost. He understood that he was in the militia of North Carolina.

Shortly after his return, in the month of May 1780, he was drafted he supposes for the term of 3 months. Charles McKee was his Captain. They joined General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] near the Rocky Mount, there remained some time, then went under Sumter down into South Carolina against the Tories, and at the hanging rock had a battle² with Tories & British, and succeeded in destroying & routing them. Word soon came for Sumter to go and assist

¹ The veteran has confused Nathanael Greene and Benjamin Lincoln. Lincoln was the commander of the American Continental forces in South Carolina at the time referenced by this veteran.

² Battle of Hanging Rock, August 6, 1780

