

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Archibald Pleasants S5939

f8VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/27/12

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

State of Virginia County of Goochland: SS

On this 15th day of October 1832 personally appeared before R W Pleasants one of the justices of the peace in and for the County of Goochland, being one of the judges of the County Court of Goochland, in the said County, Archibald Pleasants Senior, a resident citizen of the said County of Goochland and State of Virginia, aged eighty-five years, who is from age and bodily infirmity unable to attend the Court of Goochland County to make his declaration: 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 and served as herein stated. The length of time that has passed by render his recollection very imperfect as to dates, when he was in service and the minutia attending each tour he was called to perform, But he well remembers that in the year 1780 in the County of Goochland he was drafted as a militia man to guard the British prisoners into different tours at the Albemarle Barracks in the County of Albemarle, each a month or more, for which tours, he hired a substitute: in the winter following at the time that was called Arnold's invasion [Benedict Arnold's invasion of Virginia in 1781], he was again drafted & put under the command of Captain Gideon Hatcher, and after marching to & fro in the lower counties for about three weeks, was then stationed for some time at Cabin Point in the County of Surry, where a part of the Militia from Goochland County were discharged: he was then put under the command of Captain Edward Smith in Colonel Charles Fleming's Regiment which was then under the command of General Muhlenberg; after serving out the tour for which he was drafted, the length of which he has no distinct recollection of, he was discharged: – in the month of May or June following he was again drafted under the same Captain and marched to Richmond, where the troops were organized and he was attached to the 4th Regiment commanded by Colonel John Pleasants, and marched down to near Osbornes, where the Americans shipping was taken by the enemy, & where he saw one of the vessels on the; soon after that time he was made quartermaster Sergeant & his Regiment was joined by three other Regiments, and were continually marching to & fro as the movements of the enemy, rendered it necessary: General Thomas Nelson had the chief command of the troops till he the said Archibald Pleasants was discharged near Richmond: he served out this time for which he was drafted, but cannot say what was the length of the tour last mentioned or the one previous thereto; but he is certain that in the various tours that he actually served, the time, when united, amounted to at least six months. He was again drafted to go to little York at the time Cornwallis was besieged there, and after marching one day on the expedition towards York, was taken sick, and permitted to return home, and in about a week was ready to March again, and would have followed own & joined the Regiment, but was ordered by

Colonel Nathaniel Morris, not to go, but to hold himself in readiness for the next tour of duty, & was never called for afterwards: he never received any written discharge. He was born in the County of Henrico on the 11th day of June 1746, 7 old style: he has no record of his age: except the family Bible – lived in the County of Goochland when called into service; and has resided in the said County of Goochland since the Revolutionary war till this time. He is known by almost every person in the County of Goochland; particularly by James Pleasants late Governor of Virginia; the Reverend Matthew Webber; Doctor Thomas Curd, William Miller, clerk of the Courts in Goochland County; John Satterwhite, Francis W Royster, David Royster, Colonel William Bolling, Colonel William Gray, Colonel Benjamin Anderson, Colonel Joseph S Watkins & Colonel John Guerrant who can testify as to his character for veracity &c. He has no documentary evidence; & he knows of no person whose testimony he can now procure who can testify to his services except John Woodson & James Pleasants late Governor of Virginia. He 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.

S/ Arch'd Pleasants



[Matthew W. Webber, a clergyman, and Thomas Curd gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Virginia Goochland County SS

On this 15th day of October 1832 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid James Pleasants Esquire a citizen of said County and as appears to me a credible person who being first duly sworn deposes that in the time of the Revolution he was a boy and lived very near to Archibald Pleasants who has made the above declaration and perfectly recollects that said Pleasants was several times in the Militia service of the state (though on account of his youth he does not recollect the officers) particularly during Arnold's invasion – And also John Woodson¹ a citizen of the County of Hanover and a credible person who being duly sworn also deposeseth – that Archibald Pleasants who has subscribed the above declaration served with them on several occasions in the Militia service during the revolutionary war, particularly the tour at Arnold's invasion at which time he served the whole tour, and also another tour in the same part of the country officers not recollected at which time he verily believes he served the whole tour also – given under my hand this day and year aforesaid

S/ Benj. Anderson

Commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]

¹ [John Woodson S6434](#)