

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Pitts S7316

Transcribed by Will Graves

f34SC

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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.]

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State of South Carolina, Laurens District: In the Common Pleas

On this Sixteenth day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court His Honor Richard Gantt one of the Judges of the Court of Common pleas now sitting, Henry Pitts, a Resident of Laurens that District and State aforesaid, aged 73 years 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1832 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He was born in Newberry District and there lived when he first entered the service—He first served 10 months as a volunteer under the command of Captain Laughlin Leonard, commencing in November or December and concluding in September or October the following year 1780. Col. Joseph Hays [sic, Joseph Hayes] commanded at this time. He commenced his second term of service immediately after the death of Captain Leonard which was near the close of 1780 under the command of Captain Tinsley [Isaac Tinsley] and served under him until his death, and he was [indecipherable word, looks like “warning”] in the men on the day that Hay's Station [sic, Hayes' Station] was taken by the Tories under William Cunningham which was in the close of the year 1781 [November 1781]. He does not know the exact time he served under Capt. Isaac Tinsley, but knows that his death occurred after the defeat at Hayes' Station and that it must have been at least one year. During his term of service under Captain Leonard, Col. Hayes was the Colonel in Command and was murdered at Hayes' Station.

After the death of Captain Isaac Tinsley, he served under Captain James Tinsley,<sup>1</sup> who succeeded him. This term of service commenced 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1782 & lasted until the end of the war which was after the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1784, during which time, more than two years, he was a sergeant. This whole term of service was in ninety six district. During his whole term of service he was chiefly engaged in opposing the Savages and incursions of the Tories. H has no documentary evidence but he knows of no one but Capt. James Tinsley who can testify to his services and he has made a certificate under oath as to his services, the particulars of which are set forth in this declaration. His whole term of service was three years & ten months.

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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

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<sup>1</sup> [James Tinsley S21426](#)

S/ Henry Pitts, X his mark

S/ John Garlington, Clk

We William Henderson a clergyman residing in the District of Laurens and State aforesaid and Joshua Smith – residing in the same – hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Henry Pitts – who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be 73 years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

S/ William Henderson

S/ Joshua Smith

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South Carolina Laurens District } Personally appeared Henry Pitts before me John Garlington Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Laurens District who being duly sworn says that he has amended his Declaration made in this Court on the 16th October 1832 by certain interlineations marked No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 & 8. That in making these amendments he has been under the necessity of reducing the term of service to such periods as would authorize him to swear certainly to them and that in doing so he is confident that the length of service claimed by him to wit 3 years & 10 months is under the true time. That interlineations No. 1 2 & 3 fix the length of his first term of service at 10 months which according to his best recollection & belief was near or quite a year. Interlineation No. 4 states that the time of Hayes defeat "in the close of the year 1781." This is as precise as this Deponent can be without substituting the recollection of others & is the language used by Ramsay in his History of South Carolina. In interlineation No. 7 makes the end of the war to be after the first of February 1784 & the fact was this, Deponent says, in this State, for that long after peace was made men were kept in Service and he among them.

This Deponent further states that being during the whole of his Service in the upper part of South Carolina within the Section of Country then called Ninety Six District & being principally engaged in scouting parties as they were called, his tours were not marked by such circumstances of notoriety as could enable him to designate them particularly. But says that his Services were not the less active or meritorious. That he discharged his services to the best of his ability & went wherever his officers ordered him.

S Henry Pitts, H his mark

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South Carolina Laurens District } Personally appeared Henry Pitts before me Robert Cunningham a Justice of the peace for State & District aforesaid ~~John Garlington clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Laurens District~~ who being duly sworn says that he has amended his Declaration made in this court on the 16th of October 1832 on the following points, and as near as possible in conformity with the directions prescribed by the War Department last received. In making his amendment he has carefully compared his papers with the rules laid down and particularly with the "subjoined notes" viz. the parts in the margins included within the brace.

In relation to the period or periods of the War during which he served he thinks he cannot be more definite than he has been.

He has heretofore stated that he was confident that the whole term of his revolutionary service could not be less than 3 years & 10 months. He is still convinced of this fact. As it regards the exact duration of each Term of service he can make but little amendment. As already

stated he commenced his second term of service under the command of Captain Isaac Tinsley -- this was in the capacity of a volunteer, indeed throughout he was a volunteer. During the whole period of his service he was under the command of Colonels Hayes & Williams [James Williams] the latter of whom fell at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780].

The greater portion of the time he was under the command of Colonel Hayes, but when not so, under Colonel Williams, Colonel Hayes being sometimes absent to Virginia. He was a Sergeant during the whole period of his service. As it regards the tours he performed he can only say as before -- that they were entirely in Ninety Six District in excursions against the Tories and he cannot say distinctly as to the tour for he traversed the Country -- in all directions by night & day -- wherever his officers believed the [indecipherable word] of danger required. He is not able at this time to specify any particular engagements for in fact the nature of the service did not call for it further than occasional skirmishes at places not sufficiently noted to become a matter of historical record and never in large bodies of men as regular armies, on either side, but eminently useful in protecting the lives & properties of the citizens.

Applicant has already stated [he] volunteered and served under the officers above mentioned and such to the best of his recollection was the case all the men in the company in which he served -- as to the fact whether [the] different corps in which he served were called into service by competent authority -- he knows that that were not -- Regular Troops but in the service under & by the authority of the State. During the most of the time of his service he was marching over the Country and recollects distinctly being stationed at Hayes Station, not less than one month previous to the defeat at that place for in fact he was warning in the men on the day of the defeat --

"For the time during which his service was performed, he was not employed in any Civil pursuit."

He observes that the answers to the prescribed interrogatories<sup>2</sup> are substantially embraced in the declaration, but he will by way of amendment set forth his answers distinctly --

He was born in Newberry District SC in June 1759 from a record of his father -- this is in his possession. When he entered the service he lived in Newberry District & there lived after the revolution until he removed to Lawrence District.

He volunteered. He was not under the command of any regular officer and none were with the troops where he served -- He never received any written discharge -- he was discharged by Captain Isaac Tinsley at the close of the war who he supposes did so by order of his superiors.

He never received any Commission.

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<sup>2</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

He has stated the length of the first term of his service at 10 months -- his 2nd term under Captain Isaac Tinsley he is certain was not under one year & the residue under Captain James Tinsley.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 29th day of November 1833

S/ Henry Pitts, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the South Carolina militia.]