

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Pittman S7317

GA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 Sep 2015.

[Punctuation and capitalization partly corrected]

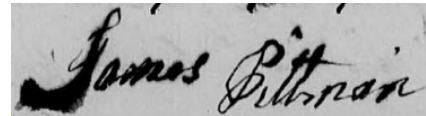
State of Georgia } Court of Ordinary
County of Madison } Adjourned Term
October 2nd 1832

On this Second day of October in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before James Anderson Noah W. Pittman and James Long Justices of the Inferior Court now sitting as a Court of Ordinary James Pittman a resident of Capt. Higginbothams Company District of Georgia Militia in the County of Madison & State of Georgia aged Seventy Six 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 and Served as herein stated. to wit. he entered as a Volunteer under Capt. Greer & Served as Lieutenant in said Company Col. Marbury's [Leonard Marbury, pension application W27446] Regiment of Militia and served a tour of about Two Month the next was a tour of duty in building Forts and guarding the Frontiers of Georgia from the depredation of the Indians a term of Service of Four Months as Lieutenant aforesaid in the year 1776 and 1777 the next was a term of service of five Months as Lieutenant in Captain William Greers Company under Maj'r. Gardner. Col. Cark [sic: Elijah Clarke] the whole the Command of Governor Houston [sic: John Houstoun] in an expedition into the Floridas. after crossing the St. Marys the Troops under the Command of Col. Clark had an engagement with the british in which engagement the Col. was wounded [Alligator River, 29 Jun 1778] this expedition was for the purpose of taking [St.] Augustine in which attempt they failed. the next was a tour of duty as soon as he returned from the Floridas in guarding and protecting the Frontiers against the depredations of the Indians as Lieut. a tour of Six Months. the next was a tour of duty of Two Months as Lieutenant aforesaid under Col. Few [William Few or Benjamin Few] the Troops marched to Burke County in Georgia when they met a part of the British army on their March from Savannah to Augusta an engagement ensued [skirmish at Burke County Jail, 26 Jan 1779]. Col. Few retreated to Augusta. the baggage was sent across the river into South Carolina. when Col. Few and the principal part of the Troops returned to their homes in Georgia. Immediately on his return home he Crossed the river into South Carolina – a number of refugees collected Col. Marbury with a Troop of horse Intended to attack a party of the British. this deponent Joined him when they crossed over into Georgia and attacked a Capt. Weekly and twenty two privates British who Immediately surrendered as prisoners [probably surrender of Capt. Moses Wheatly at Middleton's Ferry GA, 9 Feb 1779]. this was a tour of two days duty. he then entered as Volunteer in Capt. Sinkfields [probably Francis Sinquefeld's] Company and joined the troops under General [Andrew] Williamson. this was a tour of Four Months he served with Gen'l. Williamson until the Torys became troublesome in South Carolina when capt. Sinkfield was ordered to raise a Company of Volunteers – when he went under the said Capt. against the Torys and served until the Surrender of Charleston [12 May 1780]. he was then released from said service the Capt. considering the force not sufficient to effect any thing. he returned to Georgia but immediately Left[?] as a refugee to Virginia considering South Carolina & Georgia under entirely in the possession of the British. he then entered as a Volunteer under Maj'r. Waller & Maj'r. Hearn to guard the prisoners taken at the Cowpens in 1781 [17 Jan]. this was a tour of service of about two weeks. he was living in Columbia County Georgia and served as before stated. he has lost or mislaid his commission and never received any discharge he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no evidence he can procure who can testify to his services. in answer to the Interrogatories presented by the War Department and propounded by the Court he answereth as follows to wit

Answer to first Inter. he was born in Amelia County Virginia March 4th 1756
 Answer to Second Inter. he has a record of his age at his own house
 Answer to third Inter. he was living in the bounds of Columbia County Georgia when called into Service and remained there until he went to Virginia as a refugee where he remained until after peace he then removed to Columbia County Georgia. thence to Wilkes County thence to Franklin County which is now included in Madison County Geo. where he now resides
 Answer to fourth he Volunteered
 Answer to fifth he has related in his declaration all he recollects on that Subject [names of Regular officers, regiments, general circumstances of his service]
 Answer to Sixth he received a Commission from Governor Houston which he has lost – and never received a discharge
 Answer to Seventh he refers you to John Meroney – John Williams – James Anderson – Hinchin Strickland, James Long &c.

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



Executive Department Ga/ Milledgeville 22^d June 1833

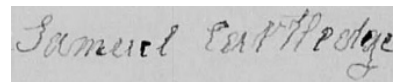
Sir [Col. John G. Pitman]

On the reception of yours of the 19th inst. I have diligently searched the records of this Department, and have not been able to succeed in finding any record of the commissioning of your Father, James Pitman, as Lieutenant, about the commencement, or during the continuance of the Revolutionary war. This however is no evidence against his having been commissioned as he states, for it is well known, that our records embracing the events of those times, chiefly fell into hands of the Enemy, and have never been regained. Our records are very defective indeed in every thing relating to Revolutionary times – which I fear will cause many (of the few) remaining heroes of our revolution, who resided in George during the perils of that war to fail in establishing their just claims against the Government. Old Mr. Fort, the Father of Dr. Fort, is still living, and has the most perfect recollection of the gallant and active services of your Father, during the Revolutionary War.

I am Sir, with great respect, yr. obt Serv't. [signed] Wilson Lumpkin [Governor]

Georgia } I Samuel Cartledge of Edgefield South Carolina aged Eighty four years was
 Jackson County } well acquainted with James Pittman in the County of Columbia Georgia from the commencement of the Revolutionary War untill he went of as a Refugee (I think he went away) in the year 1779 or 1780 he was an active Whig and a subaltern officer in Capt Greers Company George Malitia was Frequently in the service of the Country against the Indians Torys and British I think he Vollenteered I at that time Resided in an Ajoing District

Sworn to and subscribed this 17th of April 1834
 John G Pittman J.I.C.

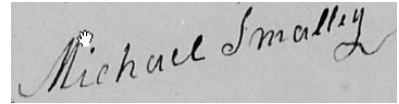


Georgia } I Michael Smalley of the County of Columbia Georgia aged Seventy nine years
 Jackson County } was well acquainted with James Pittman in the County of Columbia Georgia before and in time of the Revolutionary War untill he went of as a Refugee as well as I Recollect he went away in the year 1779 or 1780 or 1781 he was said to be a very active Whig was a Lieut. in Capt Greers Company Ga. Ma [militia] I know he was generally in the service of the Country untill he went away I think he was in the Floridy Expedition and at the Battle at Burk Goal and some times out guarding the

fronteers and building Forts and Frequently in Scouting Parties against the Tories and british

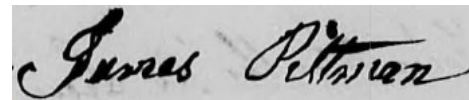
Sworn to & subscribed 17th of April 1834

John G Pittman J.I.C



State of Georgia } Amended Decleration of James Pittman
Madison County }

personally appeared James Pittman in Open Court at an adjourned term of the Inferior Court of said County Sitting as a Court of Ordinary this third day of June in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and thirty four who after being duly Sworn on Oath saith by way of explanation of the original annexed Decleration that the first term of service as therein stated through Mistake was stated to be under Capt. Grier – when it should have been under Capt. Germany and in the year 1776 and was a tour of two months as a private Altho stated in said decleration as being about two months which he prays may be so corrected – the next being a tour of Four Months as Lieut. in Capt. Griers Company – in 1778 the next a term of Service of five Months as Lieut. in Capt. Griers Company in [interlined: “1777 or”] 1778 – the next was a tour of duty of Six Months as Lieutenant in Capt. Griers Company in the latter part of the year 1778 and first of the year 1779 – the next a tour of duty of two Months as Lieut. aforesaid in Capt. Grier’ Company in 1779 – the next was a tour of duty of two days as a private in 1779 – the next a tour of duty of Four Months under Capt. Sinkfield in 1779 – as a private – the next under Capt. Sinkfield was a tour of two Months as a private – the year not recollected – the next under Maj. Waller a tour of two weeks was in 1781. Making all his services as private eight Months & Seventeen days and as Lieutenant One year and five Months for which services he Claims a pension – he has since making the original decleration Obtained and annexed the Affadavits of Samuel Cartledge [R1790]and Michael Smalley and the letter of his Excellency Wilson Lumpkin Governor of Georgia which he prays may be taken as a part of the Amended Decleration – Old Mr. Frost Departed this life last year which will account for not procuring his Affadavit – and further this deponent Deposeth and Saith that by reason of old age and 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 to wit One year and five Months as Lieutenant and Eight Months and Seventeen days as private and for such services I Claim a pension
Sworn to in Open Court this 3^d day of June 1834



Monroe Walton County Ga/ June 16th 1845

Dear Sir [James L. Edwards, Pension commissioner]

I dislike to address you in matters of so little importance with so little hopes of success. But being so often and strenuously urged by the claimant and his friends I wish to throw it off myself and leave the reply with you I am requested to enclose you your last requisitions with the following remarks. That they have searched the records at Millidgeville [sic:] and find them destitute of any services rendered by the malitia and find the Commissions of no malitia officers on record. That when he was in services as Lieutenant he was insulted by the Barbarity of his Capt on the soldiers and resigned his command, and tore his Commission up through [page torn]tempt and joined in the service again as private That about the time of his leaving service he left as a reffugee and went to the State of Virginia to his relatives where he remained for [illegible] years and on returning has never seen but one man that was in the same service with [interlines: “Marbury in the state of georgia”] him and he has been dead this 20 years He has formerly been able to support himself But recently has misfortunes and is now wholly stript of the means to support himself and asks if any part of his claim can be allowed by relinquishing the remainder.
very respectfully your &c/ John H Kilgore

Georgia } Court of ordinary ajourned Term 17th of July 1849
 Madison County } Personally appeared in open Court Before Noah W. Pittman Richard H.
 Bullock Willis Strickland Justices of the Inferior Court in and for said County
 of Madison and now sitting as a Court of Ordinary, James Pittman a Resident Citizen of Captain
 Stricklands District Company Ga. M[ilitia]. in the said State and County first above written aged ninety
 three years who after being Duly Sworn in Terms of the Law Doth on oath make the following amended
 Declaration (as answered from the Pension office the Thirteenth Day of June 1834) It appears that he has
 claimed in four Several Tours of Duty Ending in Seventy Seven. Seventeen months as a Lieutenant
 whereas it was intended to be as follows from an examination of his original Declaration which is now
 present as first drawn up in his own house that he claimed first as a Volenteer in Captain Garmanys
 Company two months service as a Private this was in the year 1776 said Company being marched to Col.
 Marbarys Regiment & marched to Ninety-Six in South Carolina, his next Tour of Duty in building Forts
 & Guarding the frontiers of Georgia against the depredations of the Indians four months as a Lieut. in
 Captain Greers Company the Captain not present & to the best of deponants recollection by order of Col.
 Few this tour ended in 1778 again a Tour of five months as a Lieut. in Capt. Greers Company under Col.
 Clark & Maj. Gardner the whole under the command of Commander in Chief Governor Houston of the
 State of Georgia in & expedition into the Floridas with the intent of reducing Augustine which attempt
 failed this service as well as recollected was also in the year 1778 and upon his return from Florida he
 served another Tour of Duty as Lieut. under Major Gardner Capt. Greer not present this service was for
 the purpose of guarding & protecting the frontiers was then in service six months this Tour as well as
 recollected was in the latter part of the year 1778 & commencement 1779 again a tour of two months as
 Lieut. under the command of Col. Few Captain Greer not present they marched to Burk County Georgia
 there met a part of the British army on their march from Savanah to augusta an engagement ensued &
 Col. Few retreated to Augusta sending his baggage across the River into South Carolina Col. Few & the
 greater part of the Troops returned to their homes in Georgia this service was performed in the year 1779
 and immediately upon his return home deponant crossed the Savanah River into South Carolina a
 number of refugees ware then & there collected Col. Marbery with a Troop of horse intending to attack a
 party of the British deponant joined him as a Private recrossing the River into Georgia attacked a Captain
 Weekley a British officer with Twenty two Privates who immediately surrendered as Prisoners of War
 this was a tour of two days only & also in the year 1779 he then joined Captain Sinkfield as a Private in
 the State of South Carolina & was attached to the command of General Williamson in Camp near
 Augusta but in the State of South Carolina (viz) on the north side of the Savanah River this was a tour of
 four months duty in the year 1779 the Tories yet being troublesome in South Carolina Captain Sinkfield
 was ordered to raise a Vollenteer Company to annoy them on their pasage to & from the British army
 Deponant vollenter in said Company & served a tour of two months as a Private & was released from the
 said Company when Charleston fell into the possession of the British the Captain thinking his force
 insufficient to effect any thing Deponant then returned to Georgia & immediately started as a refugee to
 Virginia considering South Carolina & Georgia entirely in the possession of the British he then entered
 as a Vollenteer under Majors Waller & Hearn to guard the Prisoners taken at the Battle of the Cowpens
 in the year 1781 this was a tour of fifteen days as a Private he was a resident citizen of Columbia County
 in the State of Georgia & never received a writen Discharge & has lost or mislaid his Commission & has
 served as before stated he has no documentary evidence that he knows of & no other evidence that he
 now knows of that can testify to his services more fully than what is herewith annexed & stated by him
 together with the testamony & certificates annexed to or enabled in a former Declaration made by the
 Deponant & forwarded to the Pension office in the year 1834 by reason of old age & the consequent loss
 of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of
 his recollection he served not less than the periods in the following grades one year and five months as a
 Lieutenant Commandant & eight months & seventeen days as a Private In Answer to the Interogatories
 Presented by the War Department & Propounded by the Court he answers as follows (to witt) [Answers
 are virtually identical to those in the first declaration except to the seventh interrogatory he referred to

“Wilson Lumpkin James Long & others.”

James hisXmark Pittman

State of Georgia } Before me John Stewart a Justice of the peace in & for said County personally
Heard County } appeared John Dukes who being duly sworn deposed & saith that he was
personally acquainted with James Pittman of Madison County in time of the revolutionary war & knew
him to be an active Whig of 76, & that he volunteered in company with him & voted for him when he
was almost unanimously Elected by said company, as a Lieutenant, he saw his commission from
Governor Houston & heard it read before the company which was as well as recollected in the beginning
of the year 1778, & when the company was ordered into service Capt Grier was confined to his bed &
unable to go & Lieutenant Jas. Pittman took the command & led the company into service & remained
about six months, about 2 months after entering the service deponent got badly crippled in building a fort
which unfortunately rendered him unfit for service during the War, and he was sent back home in a hack,
he knows of Lieut Jas Pittmans being called into service as commander of his company in several other
tours of duty but the precise length of each tour deponent can't recollect, But believes he served precisely
as he claims in his declaration and about the last of the year 1780 or in the Beginning of 1781 he left as a
refugee going to Virginia and deponent saw no more of him until after peace was made.

John hisXmark Dukes

Sworn to and subscribed this 25th of October 1849 before me John Stewart JP

NOTES:

On 10 April 1850 Pittman was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year for two years
service as a Private.

A document by three Justices, including Noah W. Pittman, dated 6 Jan 1852, states that James
Pittman died 25 Dec 1850, leaving the following children and heirs: John G. Pittman; Noah W. Pittman
(Administrator); Timothy Pittman; Wilson Strickland and wife Teresa Strickland; Abner Wells and wife
Martha Wells; Benjamin W. Cash and wife America Cash; Sampson Lay and wife Sarah Ann Lay; Henry
Harris and wife Lucinda Harris; the children of Pleasant O. Pittman, deceased; the children of Sir James
Pittman, deceased; the children of Nancy Smith, deceased wife of Silas Smith; Elizabeth Barnett, widow
of Samuel Barnett.