

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Presley S7338

Transcribed by Will Graves

f52SC

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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.]

[p 3]

State of Georgia, Henry County }

On this the 18th day of December in the year 1832 personally came into open Court before the Inferior Court of Henry County, John Presley [sic], a resident of Henry County and State of Georgia – aged – about Seventy six or seven years – he does not recollect the date of his birth – who after being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7, 1830 2 – viz. -- That he volunteered and entered the service in the County of Edgefield South Carolina under Captain Jno Carter [John Carter] – Lieutenant – Thomas Carter. This company marched to ninety six [the star fort at Ninety Six District, now Cambridge] in S. C. to meet the Tories – Col Hammond [LeRoy Hammond] and Genl Williamson [Andrew Williamson] were some of the highest officers. Col Drayton [William Henry Drayton] from Charleston, a recruiting officer was then in his recruiting service in Edgefield he thinks the first of November 1775 prior to what was called the Snow Camps. He was three months in this service – was discharged by company. In the month of July 1776 – Deponent under the same Captain & Lieutenant – Carters, he went into the Cherokee expedition¹ under Genl Williamson – Colonel Pervis [sic, John Purvis] – LeRoy Hammond -- & Major Hammond [Samuel Hammond] -- & ___ Tutt [Benjamin Tutt] – he was with these officers in the Army under their command and then marched through the Cherokee Nation into Tennessee & back again to South Carolina – in this march, he was in a Battle at the Cumberland Mountains -- & was in hearing distance of the Battle of Sixty Volunteers – with the Indians – this company of volunteers was commanded by Captains Andrew Pickens and Robert Anderson-- there were three or four other Captains in said company – Deponent has heard the statement of Thomas Ramsay² a Petitioner read in relation to this service and it the same in which Deponent was engaged and knows to be true – he returned from the service the last of November 1776 – 5 months. He continued in service against Tories and Indians until he was drafted under Lieut. Carter marched after ___ Cameron & his company of Tories – to Tennessee River – returned home after about a month's absence. Major Pickens & Genl Williams [sic, Williamson] had a quarrel and the former enlisted him. Then he Deponent was drafted and sent to Stono in South Carolina under Col Hammond in the company of Lieut. Carter. Deponent was at head quarters near Stono as a guard when the battle of Stono³ took place. He then went on and was drafted under some officers to go to Florida – but hired Jacob Havarlind as a substitute who went in his Deponent's place. He was next a volunteer under Captain John Carter – and

¹ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

² [Thomas Ramsay \(Ramsey\) S31922](#)

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

Major Huke Middleton [sic, Hugh Middleton] to meet the British then marching from Savannah to Augusta – they met them at Briar Creek⁴ and retreated to Augusta to head quarters in S. Ca. opposite to Augusta – threw up Batteries and remained there (in S. Ca.) until a reinforce [sic, reinforcement] from Upper Georgia arrived. The forces of S. Ca. crossed the River & united besieged the Fort of Grayson [sic, Grierson] & Brown took it⁵ – and then engaged in guarding the Frontiers of Georgia & S. Ca. – was permitted to make a visit home for a day – was taken by two Tories – and released because his slender delicate & youthful appearance indicated nothing dangerous –and upon his saying he was hunting cattle – upon his release he gave information to others & followed them though unsuccessfully – he was again taken prisoner & fell under the command of a Tory Captain Delaughter [sic?] commanding a company of 50 or 60 men which increased to two or three hundred – deponent confessed his past and promised to serve King George faithfully (under compulsion). An express from Col Cruger [John Harris Cruger] stationed at ninety six informed them the mountain Boys were coming upon them & to make speed to meet him & with him marched to Charleston in the darkness of the night, on the march, he halted until the rest had advance before him when he made his escape – returned home and joined a scouting dragoon party of 21 under Captain Jesse Johnston, Thomas Harvey -- recruiting officers in the regular Army – following a company of Tories of about 70 or 80 – who in their march had cut & harried an old man almost to death – stripped naked an infant just out of the small Pox and scattered feathers & clothing in every direction – this enraged the Company of 21 – which being near the enemy the question was put by Johnston, who is unwilling to attack the Tories – one man from prudential consideration said it was madness to attack a force so superior in number – he was asked if he would give up his gun to a 22nd unarmed man-- who said he was willing to go – he gave it up, and promised upon pain of death to answer when called by Johnston when the fight should be over which he did. The 21 divided into three divisions and advanced upon the enemy which had dismounted & stacked their arms – the men were engaged feeding their horses and refreshing themselves – Johnston ordered the divisions to advance at full speed & as loud as their lungs would let them hollering – [“]Rush dragoons, rush dragoons[”] the moment the approach was discovered (a prisoner taken said he conceived that hundreds were attacking them) the enemy scattered and precipitously fled—leaving horses – clothing -- ammunition and Guns – together with a considerable quantity of plunder taken from the Whigs. Captain Harvey⁶ was killed & another man George Rogers was wounded and died in two weeks at his home in S. Ca. This exploit took place near Edgefield Court House shortly after the evacuation of 96 by Colonel Cruger – This Deponent's brother now living near him on his land was one of the Twenty one. This Deponent continued in the service until the war closed – he never received any written discharges – he went into service when a mere boy (his father was dead) – has never been at school a day in his life, is wholly illiterate – was in the war from the commencement to the end -- of course had no time to acquire the slightest education. These circumstances must account for Deponent's inability to give times or dates – does not know when he was born, his mother informed him the record of his age was lost in removing from Fort to Fort to escape the Indians – he was born in Virginia – raised & lived in S. Ca. till the war closed – moved in to what is now called Putnam County Georgia & then to Henry County Georgia. He knows Richard Pace, minister of the Gospel in S. Ca. where he lived until the war closed, was known to Daniel Hardin & Micajah Brooks now of Henry – Captain White now of Gwinnett – late of Putnam and to Col Solomon Strickland, David Johnston, John Anderson – Thomas Smith,

⁴ Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

⁵ Siege of Augusta (second/Clarke) [May 22-June 6, 1781] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

⁶ Thomas Harvey was killed at Rogers' Plantation 6/18/ 1781.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rogers_plantation.html

Postmaster. The Reverend Ephraim Strickland in the County of Henry who is his neighbor.

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 and subscribed this 18th day of December 1832.

S/John Presly, X his mark

[p 6]

Georgia Henry Inferior Court December Term 1832

In person came Thomas Ramsay who after being duly sworn says he was not personally acquainted with John Presly in the service, But, from a number of minute circumstances a part of which are set forth in Deponent's own declaration, in which we have talked over between us he is so certain he, Presly, was in the Cherokee Expedition as the sun shines -- he is confident he was in the other services mentioned because of the minute description of men and circumstances -- he has given this deponent & which he could not have done without having personal knowledge of the facts he recites -- a detailed statement of the Cherokee service he has given in his own declaration to which reference may be had. He knows said Presly's family to have been considered Whigs -- and to have served their Country Bravely.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th December 1832

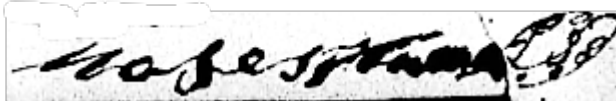
S/ Thomas Ramsay, X his mark

[p 6]

In person came Moses Presly⁷ into open Court who being duly sworn says he is a brother of John Presly aforesaid -- lived with [him] in South Carolina -- and knows he was [in] the Cherokee expedition was with him in the attack of the 21 men on the Tories[,] at the siege of Augusta, and in scouting parties until the close of the war, he will give a detailed statement of his own services and mention the particular services in which his said brother was with him -- this is done for want of time now to state more fully.

Sworn and subscribed this 18th December 1832

S/ Moses Presly



[Ephraim Strickland, a clergyman, and Solomon Strickland gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8]

Georgia Henry County } Personally appeared before us Thomas Thaxton & Eli K. McCutchen Justices of the Peace for said County John Presly of like residence who after being duly sworn saith 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 & in the following grades. For six years as a private -- & for such service I claim a pension. This term is inclusive of time lost from the service at home.

Sworn to & subscribed before us this first day of June 1833

S/ Eli K. McCutchen, JP

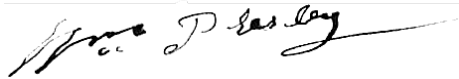
S/ John Presley, X his mark

S/ Thos Thaxton, JP

⁷ Will Graves cannot find anyone by this name who filed for a federal pension for service in the Revolution. This may be the only record of this veteran's service.

[p 11: June Wright [also appears as "Jane Wright"], a child and heir of Thomas Presley, and her husband Randal Wright appointed an attorney to pursue her claim for pension rights as heir of the veteran. The power of attorney was executed in Spalding County Georgia on October 22, 1852. She signed with her mark.]

[p 13: William Presley filed in Carroll County Georgia on December 15, 1853 claiming any pension due his father John Presley during his lifetime for his services in the revolution; that his father died in Henry County on July 27, 1837 leaving surviving him Marthy Presly his widow and relict to whom he was married in the year 1828 and who died in the year 1847; that his father left surviving him Mary who intermarried with Robert Nixon, Moses Presly, William Presly the present declarant, Jane who intermarried with Randal Wright, Elijah Presly, Charles Presly and Matilda, who intermarried with S. Williams,⁸ his only surviving children and heirs at law.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Presley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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[Facts in file: Veteran's first wife was named Elizabeth and he married her in Edgefield County, SC where there is no record of their marriage; veteran then married Martha Nichols about 1828 who bore the veteran no children; that Mary Nixon was deceased by November 27, 1854.]

[Veteran was granted a pension at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending upon his death August 27th, 1837. His pension was calculated on the basis of 13 months service in the South Carolina Continental line.]

⁸ He is identified in a later document as being named Shepherd Williams.