

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James S Ferrel (Ferrell) S7697

f41VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/6/06 rev'd 2/3/15

[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 Ohio, Monroe County

On the fourth day of April A.D. 1837 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Monroe, now sitting, James S. Ferrel, a resident of Ohio township in said County of Monroe and State of Ohio, aged seventy three years, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, and doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832:

That he entered the United States service under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, to wit: In the month of May 1779, being a little upwards of sixteen years of age, he entered the militia as a volunteer in Captain David Scott's company of Virginia militia, Lieutenant Tipton [Abraham Tipton], Ensign Butler and Bazel Prator [perhaps Basil Prather] was also a Lieutenant in the company; Colonel Mackintosh [Lachlan McIntosh] commander of the Regiment. That before he entered the service, he lived on the spot where Morgantown now stands in Monongalia County, Virginia; that he volunteered for three months but eventually was detained much longer. That the troops rendezvoused at Fort Pitt That this declarant soon after marched under Colonel Mackintosh down the Ohio River to the site of Fort Mackintosh [Fort McIntosh], and this declarant helped to build that fort. That this fort consisted of four log houses eighteen feet square on each side, sixteen in all and the angles at the corners were secured by stockades. [He] remained there three months and then a detachment under Lieutenant Tipton, declarant being one of the number, marched in the night from Fort Mackintosh, crossed the river in bark canoes and arrived at Wheeling Fort some time the next night and garrisoned that fort until late in the month of December following, having been detained until other levies could be procured and was dismissed after the termination of eight months, and then returned home. That the troops in frontier service did not usually receive written discharges as the declarant believes (many of the officers could not write.)

Afterwards, he thinks it was in the month of April 1780, though he cannot be positive but that it was in 1781, he enlisted in the company of his father, Capt. Robert Ferrel for one year, at a blockhouse where Morgantown now stands, with Lieutenant Murphy, [&] Ensign Uriah Springer. They went down the Monongalia and Ohio Rivers to the mouth of Bear Grass Creek, built a fort on the same side of the river called Fort Defiance. This was just above the great falls of the Ohio. Soon after their arrival at the Fort Defiance, General Clark, the commanding officer went away, declarant cannot tell what became of him except

that he left the troops to themselves. About the time Clark went away, Colonel Philips was killed by the Indians, and the command devolved on Captain Ferrel. Declarant remembers that while Captain Ferrel was parading his men one day soon after General Clark left them, a man came up and hitched his horse near where the troops were parading. The Indians fired out of the neighboring canebrake and shot him through the ear. [T]he troops went in pursuit and searched the canebrake, but found none of them. On the same day, the Indians fired on six men in a boat at the mouth of Bear Grass Creek and killed them, one of whom was Captain Tipton [Abraham Tipton]. On the next day, Captain Ferrell moved his men across the Ohio and built blockhouses on Bear Grass Creek. Captain Ferrel soon after sent a detachment of two hundred men, declarant amongst [them], the rest to relieve a settlers' fort about ten miles off and bring away the inhabitants who were greatly harassed by the savages. [T]hey brought away the settlers who had taken refuge at the fort, and thus broke up the fort. Soon after this the troops were dismissed and the declarant and his father Capt. Ferrel returned home to the place where Morgantown now stands. This declarant was in the service at this time until the troops were dismissed being a period of seven months. He received no written discharge and believes that none of the troops received written discharges.

Afterwards, to wit, in the month of May 1782, though he is not positive but it was in 1781, he enlisted as a volunteer during the campaign in the company of his father, Captain Robert Ferrel at the blockhouse where Morgantown now stands in Monongalia County Virginia, where the troops under Col. Crawford [William Crawford] rendezvoused. The company under Captain Ferrel, to which this declarant belonged, joined Col. Crawford's army in which Colonel John Dark was an officer. They went down the Ohio River in bateaux to the mouth of Big Beaver and then proceeded by land to the head waters of the Big Sandusky, and there in the month of July of the same years they were met and attacked by the Indians. He thinks it was in the third night after the army had been attacked by the Indians, Captain. Ferrel, being officer of the day, came riding into the encampment just before daylight and stated to Colonel Crawford, that the encampment was surrounded by Indians, concluding his statement with this expression "Every man for himself and God for us all."¹ Shortly thereafter this, the Indians fired upon the army on all sides and the troops immediately fled in confusion, every man seeking his own safety. Soon after, this declarant had his horse shot [from] under him and he ran on foot until next morning, when finding a horse, he mounted him. This declarant traveled on through the wilderness in company with Captain Ferrel and a few others, subsisting on such game as chance offered and after enduring great hardship and distress they arrived at Fort Pitt. Thence this declarant and his father, Captain Ferrel, went immediately home to where Morgantown in Virginia now stands. This declarant arrived home in September of the last mentioned year, having been absent four months from the time of his joining Colonel Crawford's army.

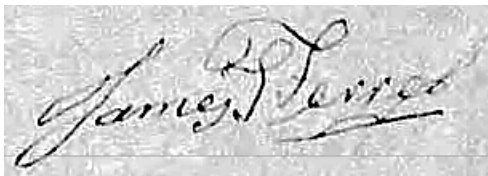
This declarant further states that since his arrival home after having been absent in Colonel Crawford's army, he has resided until ten years ago at his former residence in the place where Morgantown now stands; that he then removed to Ohio Township in the County of Monroe and State of Ohio where he has since lived and where he now lives. This declarant also states he was born in Berkeley County, Virginia where Winchester now stands on the twenty fourth of April, 1763; that he has a record of his age in his Family

¹ Veteran is describing the engagements which occurred during the Crawford expedition into Indian territory in May & June of 1782.

Bible taken from the Register of Dr Morgan an Episcopal Minister in the then Berkeley County, Virginia. This declarant states the names of Rev. Rezin White and Robert Longwell who are acquainted with him in his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and to their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, and he further declares that he knows of no documentary evidence of his services, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

This declarant 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/ James Ferrel

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James S. Ferrel". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/ James Gray, Deputy Clerk

Interrogatories propounded to the applicant, James S. Ferrel, by the Court with his answers thereto annexed:

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in the place where Winchester now stands in what was then Berkeley County, Virginia, on the 24th of April, in the year 1763.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have a record of my age at home in my Family Bible this record was taken from the Register of Dr. Morgan, an Episcopal Church minister in what was then Berkeley County, Virginia

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

Answer: When called into service I was living in the place where Morgantown now stands in Monongalia County, Virginia; and after I left the service, I lived in the same place until 10 years ago when I removed to Ohio Township in Monroe County, Ohio, where I now live

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

Answer: I entered the service as a volunteer.

5th 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.

Answer: the first time I entered the service, I served in Captain David Scott's company of Virginia militia, Lieutenant Tipton, Ensign Butler and also Lieutenant Basil Prator. I was also under Captain Mackintosh. The second time I served, I was in the company of Captain Robert Ferrel, Lt. Murphy, Ensign Uriah Springer. Afterwards he was under General Clark. The third time I was in the service, I served in the company of Captain Robert Ferrel, under Colonel Crawford; Colonel John Dark was an officer in Crawford's Army. The general circumstances of my service I have stated as minutely as I can recollect in my declaration. The officers above named were all officers of militia volunteers. I did not serve with any regular troops as near as I can recollect

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was lieutenant given; and what has become of it?

Answer: I never received a written discharge from the service. I believe it was not usual to give such to the troops on the frontier. I know of none among the troops with whom I served that ever receive such discharges, as many of the officers could not write.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I give the following names: Reverend Rezin White and Robert Longwell.

[Rezin White, a clergyman, and Robert Longwell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 11: John B Farrel gave an affidavit identifying the veteran as the person who made the above declaration. His relationship, if any, to the veteran is not stated. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 12: on December 18, 1838 in Ohio County Virginia, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Cincinnati agency stating that he has removed to Tyler County Virginia where he intends to spend the remainder of his life with his son (not named) who resides in Tyler County.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James S. Ferrel". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "James" is written in a large, flowing script, followed by "S." and "Ferrel" in a similar but slightly smaller script. The signature is underlined with a single horizontal line.

[p 25]

Tyler County to wit Va

This day personally appeared before us in our said County and after being duly swearing [sic] deposed and says Morgan Morgan and says he knows James S Ferrel and he said he never know [sic] said Farrel in the Revolutionary War nor in the Indian War as a soldier or as a Spy and he said he supposes said S. Ferrel age to be about Seventy or seventy-three years and saise [says] he was personally acquainted with him said Farrel through the whole war bouth [both] the revolutionary War and the Indian war.

Given under our hands and seals this February the 6th 1841

S/ Hezekiah Golliffe

S/ Alexander Lantz

Personally came before us in our said County and after being duly sworn deposed and saith Uriah Morgan and James Low and saith that they know James S Ferrel and he said James S Ferrel was never in the Revolution War yet in the Indian War and they the said Morgan and Low supposes said James S Ferrel to be about seventy or seventy-five years of age they the said Morgan and Low have been personally acquainted with the said James S Ferrel from a boy to this date. Given under my hands this 6th day of February in the year 1841

S/ Hezekiah Golliffe

S/ Alexander Lantz

[p 26]

Tyler County to wit Va

This day personally came before us in our said County Morgan Morgan Jr. and after being duly sworn deposed and saith that he knows James S Ferrel for about fifty years and says he the said James S Ferrel was not in the Revolutionary war yet in the Indian War to the best of his knowledge and further this deponent saith not. Given under our hands this February the 6 day in the year 1841

S/ Hezekiah Golliffe

S/ Alexander Lantz

Tyler County to wit

This day personally came before us in our said County David Low and after being duly sworn deposed and saith he has been personally acquainted [with] James S Ferrel for upwards of fifty years and the said James S Ferrel was not in the Revolutionary war in the Indian War to the best of [his] knowledge.

Given under our hands and seals this February the 6th day in the year 1841

S/ Hezekiah Golliffe

S/ Alexander Lantz

[Note: Evidently on the basis of the above affidavit, the veteran's pension was suspended by the Commissioner of Pensions. It is not clear from the documents in the file whether or not the pension was ever reinstated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia.]