

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Patterson W10861¹ Sarah Patterson f61NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 8/1109 & 6/7/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[Pages in this file have been badly scabbled and are not in sequence.]

[p 15]

State of Illinois, Shelby County

On this sixth day of March in the year 1837 personally appeared before the County Commissioners Court of said County, James Patterson, a resident of said County of Shelby in the State of Illinois aged Seventy eight years on the 5th of July last, 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 in the year 1775 or 1776, he thinks in the year 1775, but cannot recollect for a certainty, in the month of July, he resided in the State of North Carolina in the County of Redeford (or Rutherford) and was at that time in the month [of] July aforesaid drafted in the militia of North Carolina for the term of three months—that the drafting took place at their place of muster about ten miles from the then county seat—that he, with his company, rendezvoused at Burke Court house three days after the draft—that his captain's name was James Wilson, Lieut. Hugh Montgomery, Ensign Thomas Clarke—that immediately after collecting at Burke Court house they set out for Ramsour's Mills [sic, Mill] in Lincoln County where the Tories had assembled under one Col. John Moore—that he and his company [p 16] arrived at said Mill in a few minutes after the battle [June 20, 1780] was over—he heard the guns as he approached the ground and joined in the pursuit of the Tories after their defeat as soon as he arrived and chased them some distance—a part of them having been driven in the mill pond and drowned—The chief officer commanding the American party was Col. Rutheford (or Redeford) [sic, Griffith Rutherford]—among the Captains in the party were J. Williams, ___ Knighton and Capt. Falls [Galbraith Falls], who was slain—Soon after the Battle of Ramsour's Mill they then marched to Salem where they remained some time and the most of the time during the term and have [sic, half?] the remaining time he was employed to keep the Tories in awe and from rising and at the end of his tour, was discharged and returned home—he obtained a written discharge from his Captain which has since been destroyed by fire in his father's house which was burnt up soon after the war—That upon returning home he acted as a minute man—he then living in a frontier county and in the neighborhood of Tories, he was called upon frequently and was often out with parties against the Tories and Indians—that he acted in the capacity of a minute man from his last tour until some time in the year 1779—that during this time he was

¹ BLWt30924-160-55

employed in many small skirmishes with the Indians and in frequent pursuit of them and the Tories and was continually on the look out to prevent them from doing mischief—that during this time he was [p 17] a great deal of his time at and near a fort in Rutherford [spelled Ruteyford] County called Greasy Cove Fort, employed in defending the fort and scouting around it—that [there were] many skirmishes during this time; he was with Captain (of the fort) Batey in retaking Captain John Goin[sic, John Gowen] (a captain of a station or fort) and his party who had been captured by one William Bates [a/k/a "Bloody Bill Bates"] with a party of Indians.

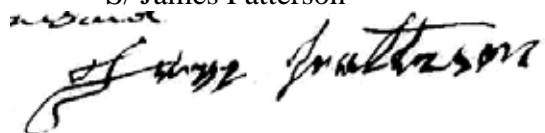
That in the year 1779 in the latter part of August or first of September (he cannot recollect the precise time), he volunteered under Captain Jesse Lytel (or Little) [sic, Lytle?] in Rutherford County at their muster place about ten miles from the then county seat. Col. Rutherford (whose first name was "William," he thinks [sic, Rutherford's first name was Griffith] was then Col.—Lieut. White[?]. Their object in volunteering was to join Genl. Lincoln in his attack upon Savannah. That he volunteered for three months—that he joined his company in Rutherford about the first of September aforesaid; thence marched towards Savannah passing by Ninety Six leaving it on the right and arrived at Savannah about three hundred miles from home about the first of October where the American and French force were assembled under Genl. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and Admiral D'Estaing [spelled "Destaign"] for the purpose of taking Savannah [Siege of Savannah September 16-October 18, 1779] —on his arrival thence, he with a small detachment was sent about one mile and a half below the town upon the bank of the river as a guard to watch and keep the British from coming down the river and landing—that he [p 18] remained below the town in this manner during the Siege—was not in the battle being below town aforesaid—when the siege was raised (which was in October), he retreated over the Savannah River and soon after returned home, his term of service of three months having expired—he thinks he was discharged on his route home, at a town on Broad River the then name of said town he cannot recollect, but thinks it is now called Columbia—he obtained a written discharge from his captain which has since been destroyed by fire with his then discharges & papers.

That from this time until some time in September 1780 he was at home as a minute man and in scouting parties—that in the latter part of September 1780 he again volunteered for three months as a militia man under Captain Williams [sic, Col. James Williams], Lieut. Wood; [&] Ensign John Singleton—he volunteered in Rutherford County [NC] at their muster place—he with his company a few days after joined the regiment under Cols Campbell [William Campbell] and Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] on Kings Creek about twelve miles from Kings Mountain—this was some time in October, he thinks in the first part of October—that immediately on joining the regiment they marched to Kings Mountain against the British and Tories under Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] —and was in that battle [October 7, 1780] where the British was defeated and Ferguson was killed. [p 19] His own captain ~~was slain~~ Williams was slain—being shot—he was near him at the time and caught him as he fell—From Kings Mountain they marched by Rutherford Court house and the Flint Hills where a number [of] Tories were hung—one Col. Chitwood among the number—thence to Salem where he remained there and in that vicinity during his term on duty and then again obtained his regular discharge from his captain which has been destroyed by fire and returned home.

That sometime in December 1781 [sic, 1780], about the last of December he thinks, he again volunteered as a militiaman in Rutherford County under Captain Jesse Lytle (or Knittle)—Major Reese Porter, Lieut. Thomas Whitesides, Ensign William Wilson—he soon after joined the army under General Morgan in the district of Ninety Six between Broad River and Saluda

River—and thence soon after marched with Morgan's forces to the Cowpens and was at the battle of the Cowpens; engaged in the battle some time near the middle of January—he was under Col. Rutherford in the battle with the militia who retreated in the first attack but he was wounded and cut down but afterwards recovered and joined the regular troops under Col. Howard [John Eager Howard] and assisted during the rest of the battle in defeating the British and joined in pursuit of the enemy—the Chief American officers were Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan], Col. Howard, [p 20] Col. Washington [William Washington] and Col. Pickens [Andrew Pickens]; the British [were] commanded by Col. Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] —after the battle at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] he went with the troops under Morgan towards Virginia through Salisbury [while] being followed by the British—was joined by Genl. Greene [Nathanael Greene] about that time with a small detachment—then crossed the Catawba—thence to Guilford Court house where the two divisions of the army joined—the other division being under Genl. Huger—the army under Genl. Greene soon after left Guilford Court house and crossed over the river Dan [Dan River] where he remained some two or three weeks in the neighborhood of the enemy and then again returned to Guilford Court house where an action took place in March [March 15, 1781] —our army under Greene and the British by Cornwallis with Tarleton. The Americans being defeated in the battle, he retired with the army from the field of battle—his term of service having expired about this time, the last of March he was entitled to a discharge and got his discharge but did not leave the army but immediately volunteered for another term under the same Captain Lytle (he thinks perhaps the name maybe "Knighten" instead of Lytle) and under Col. Grey—and left with the army under Genls. Morgan and Greene and followed the British [p 21] under Cornwallis toward Wilmington—stayed at Ramsey's Mill a short time—he afterwards followed the British under Cornwallis towards Petersburg in Virginia—About this time he was separated from the main army under Greene who went to the South—he thinks that he was under Morgan while following up Cornwallis into Virginia most of the time; that some of the time he was detached from the army in small parties to cut off scouting parties of the enemy—that they arrived in Virginia near Petersburg in about six weeks after the battle of Guilford Court house—where the army was commanded by Genl. Lafayette and sometimes, as he thinks, by Wayne [Anthony Wayne]. About this time, the last of June or first of August 1781, he was again entitled to his discharge which was given him, but he immediately volunteered again for another term of three months and continued with the army under the same officers as before—just before this time he thinks Cornwallis had left Petersburg for York Town and soon after the French troops joined the Continentals under Fayette [sic, Lafayette] at Williamsburg. In September Genl. Washington joined the Army at Williamsburg and then marched towards York Town where they arrived [p 22] about the first of October and commenced the siege—he was there during the whole siege and at the surrender of Cornwallis—he was still under Col. Grey and Captain Lytle (or Knighten)—in a few days after the surrender, the militia were disbanded and he obtained his written discharge from his captain which was afterwards destroyed by fire as all his other discharges had been. 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/ James Patterson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Patterson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ James Patterson".

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court.

[p 13]: Jacob T Swofford, a clergyman, Thomas Nazworthy and Reese Lee gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13]

Interrogatories propounded by the court to said James Patterson:

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

Answer: I was born in the year 1758 in Montgomery County, Virginia but left there very young to North Carolina.

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

Answer: He has no record of it.

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

Answer: I was living in Rutherford County in the State of North Carolina; from thence to the State of Kentucky in 1793—thence to Tennessee—thence back to Kentucky—thence to the State of [p 14] Illinois about nine years since where he now resides.

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: In the first term of service, I was drafted—in all the other terms I volunteered.

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.

Some of the regular officers under whom I served were Genls. Morgan, ~~Wayne~~, Greene—Washington, Lafayette, Col. Washington, Rutherford, Genl. Lincoln, Capt. Lytle (or Knighten), Capt. Williams, Col. Campbell, Col. Cleveland, Lieut. Whitesides, Capt. Wilson, Col. Howard—the particular names of many of the regiments he cannot recollect except Col. Rutherford's regiment; Genl. Morgan's regiment; Col. Howard's regiment, Col. Washington's regiment and some few others with which he served—the circumstances of his services were as stated before in his declaration, being drafted at first and during [it] was engaged with the Tories and to watch them and keep them back—that often, would he volunteer, was engaged in a number of actions with the British, sometimes with the Tories—and in number of skirmishes.

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

Answer: He received regular discharges at the expiration of each term of his service from his respective captains of his company, but all of his discharges were afterwards destroyed by fire in his Father's house which was burnt up soon [p. 53] after the close of the war --

7. The names of some of the persons in my neighborhood who know me and can testify to my character for truth and their belief of my services in the revolution, are Jacob T. Swafford -- Reese Lee, Thomas Norsworthy [?], James Crouch, Bryon S. White and many others --

[p 52]

Illinois Shelby County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County of Shelby, James Patterson who being duly sworn deposes 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: For 3 months I served as a private militia man being drafted for 15 months and a few days as a private volunteer making in all 18 months and a few days for which time of 18 months and for such service I claim a pension -- that during

all the residue of the war he served the most of the time as a minute man and was engaged in many skirmishes but for this last service he does not claim -- He further states that at the close of the war he did not expect any compensation for his services, nor did he ever intended to apply for enemy -- that he was activated by the principles of General Washington, that he did not fight for money but for his Country and not for the hope of reward -- he did not wish or expect any -- and since the passage of the law for the benefit of the revolutionary soldiers, he did not intend to avail himself of it his feelings of a soldier would not admit of it -- but that lately within a [p 42] few months back his circumstances compelled him to do what he otherwise would not do, to wit received the bounty which his government has awarded to her soldiers especially as he has heard that lately he Country, under Jackson's administration, is out of debt and has a surplus revenue on hand to distribute and reward her soldiers without detriment to herself -- under the these circumstances he has consented to comply with the wishes and in treaties of his friends and relations to received a pension, if the government should see fit to grant it -- he states these as reasons for his applying at this time for his pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 6th day of March A.D. 1837.

S/ James Patterson

[p 50]

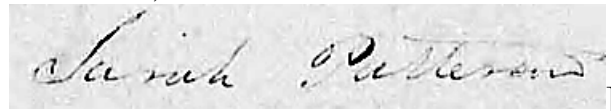
State of Illinois Shelby County

John White² being duly sworn saith that he was a revolutionary Soldier and at the time of the revolution was in North Carolina – that he knew the Patterson family of which James Patterson is a member – that at that time all the male part of the family were a brave and courageous people and were constantly engaged in the revolutionary war against the British and Tories – that he cannot recollect of seeing said James Patterson personally engaged in the service, but that he well recollects that he with all the Family were reputed to have been revolutionary Soldiers – that he has not seen said James Patterson for a great many years past to within a few months since and upon conversing together many things occurs to his mind which make him stronger in the belief that said Patterson was a soldier of the Revolution – and from some circumstances which occurs in his recollection he is firmly of the belief that he this affiant and said James Patterson were in a number of skirmishes together in North Carolina against the Tories.

Sworn to and subscribed this 6th day of March A.D. 1837

S/ John White, X his mark

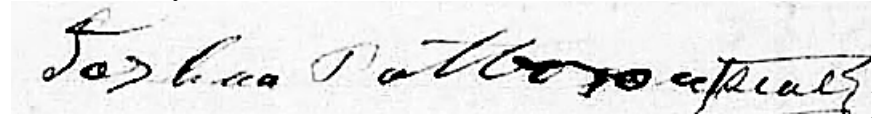
[p 9 & 24: On June 21, 1855, in Davis County Iowa, Sarah Patterson, 91, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of James Patterson; that she married him October 10, 1811: that her husband died December 3, 1838 and that she remains his widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Patterson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the mid-19th century.

[p 6: On April 4, 1856 in Davis County Iowa, Joshua Patterson, 43, filed an affidavit in which he states that he is the son of James Patterson deceased and the stepson of Sarah Patterson, widow of said James; that Sarah is the 2nd wife of James Patterson; that Joshua was born according to his father in the year 1811 and Maury County Tennessee; that his father married to Sarah and he

² This MIGHT be the same man as [John White S32593](#)

was quiet young; that they married in Maury County Tennessee; that he, Joshua, married when he was 21 years of age in Edgar County in the State of Illinois where his father and stepmother then lived having moved from Maury County Tennessee; that his father and stepmother lived in Edgar Illinois until the year 1834 when they moved to Shelby County Illinois where his father died December the 3, 1838; that he and his stepmother moved away from Shelby Illinois to Davis County Iowa some time after the death of his father.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joshua Patterson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name "Joshua" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, while "Patterson" is written in a smaller, more compact hand. The signature is enclosed in a simple rectangular border.

[Facts in file: p 10: Mark Noble, 72, and Rachel Noble, 50, testified that James Patterson and his 2nd wife Sarah had no children. P 28: widow died January 28, 1856. P 36: Letter (undated) from a David Patterson saying that he could not recollect the date of marriage (presumably of his father to Sarah) but that he, the correspondent has a brother (not named) who is 15 years older than correspondent who lives in "Martial (Marshall?) County Lewis Burg Tennessee" who might have that information. P. 37: certificate from the clerk of court of Maury County Tennessee indicating that he has made a search for the original license of the marriage between James Patterson and Sarah Davidson and found no such record in his office.]]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]