

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Pendergrass W18730

Mary Pendergrass f48NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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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 7]

State of North Carolina -- to wit --

On this 8th day of June A.D. 1818 before me Thomas Ruffin one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Courts of Equity for said State, personally appeared John Pendergrass (the elder) aged sixty-eight years resident in said State who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late Act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War:" That he the said John enlisted in the spring of the year A.D. 1776 in Hillsborough in said State in the company commanded by Captain __ Moore [Roger Moore] of the 4th Regiment of the North Carolina Line on the Continental establishment commanded by Colonel __ Clarke [Thomas Clark], that he continued to serve in the said Corps or in the service of the United States until 20th day of May 1779 or thereabouts, when he was discharged, from service in the State of New Jersey by the said Colonel Clarke: That he was in no battle: and that he is in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support:

Sworn to & declared before me the day & year aforesaid at Orange County

S/ Thomas Ruffin

S/ John Pendergrass, M his mark

[John Sparrow a neighbor and friend gives a supporting affidavit.]

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North Carolina: to wit -- William Pendergrass being first duly sworn deposeth & saith that he is the brother of the within named John Pendergrass & that in or about the year 1776 they both resided in Orange County in said State & that in the Spring of that year the said John enlisted in Hillsboro as before is set forth in his declaration for the term of 3 years in the 4th Regiment of North Carolina line on the Continental establishment -- that shortly after he marched with his company for Wilmington in said State & thence moved with the Army for Halifax -- He further saith that said John returned home from Halifax, with a sick brother, on furlough for a short time; but rejoined the Army again in a few weeks & went to the Northward with it, as this deponent believes, upon the ground of the general reputation of that fact then existing because he received several letters from his brother during the 2 or 3 succeeding years written from Pennsylvania & New Jersey. He further saith that the said John again returned home after his discharge from the Army, in about 3 years & a half or 4 years from the time of his enlistment. -- he further saith that

he now resides about 6 miles from said John & is well informed of his circumstances: that the said John is a very poor man, not being worth in any worldly substance, the sum of \$50.

Subscribed & sworn to before made this 20th day of August A.D. 1818 at Orange County
S/ Thomas Ruffin

S/ William Pendergrass, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Chatham County } Superior Court of Law September Term 1820

On the Twenty fifth day of September A.D. 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the County of Chatham -- John Pendergrass aged seventy-one years the Second of August last past, a resident of the County of Chatham and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as a private Soldier as follows viz.: he served three years in the fourth Regiment of the North Carolina line of Continental Soldiers, that he was enlisted by John Estis on the 20th day of May A.D. 1776, and was attached to Colonel Moore's Company in the aforesaid Regiment which Regiment was commanded by Colonel Thaxton [sic, James Thackston] and that he was regularly discharged -- that he has received a pension of \$8 per month under the Act of Congress passed the 18th of March A. D. 1818 -- that the number of his pension Certificate is 4538 and bears the date the 24th day of November A.D. 1818 -- And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, viz., -- one mare aged 5 years of the value \$25, one hog, one iron pot, one loom and one cotton wheel, and that I am by occupation a farmer and am unable to pursue that occupation to any considerable extent being much worn down by age and infirmity -- That my family consists of the following persons, viz., Molly, my wife, aged about 60 years, my daughter Bersheba aged 39 years my daughter Mima who is deaf and dumb aged 23 years my daughter Candis aged 14 years, my grandson Westly aged 8 years, one granddaughter Tilda aged 2 years, all of whom do contribute in some considerable degree towards their own support, except the 2 last named children -- Sworn to and declared on the 25th day of September 1820 before

S/ William Scurlock, CCC

S/ John Pendergrass, M his mark

[p 13: On November 16, 1837 in Chatham County North Carolina, Mary Pendergrass, 80, filed for a widow's Pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of John Pendergrass; she states that in addition to his Continental service he served six months in the North Carolina light horse after their marriage; she says that she married him in the month or two before the Battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] but that she has no recollection of the month or year; that her husband died June 4, 1830 and that she has remained his widow. p. 15: on July 27, 1838 in Orange County North Carolina, Mary Pendergrass, 80 years of age, filed an amendment to her declaration in which she states that she was mistaken in saying her marriage took place in 1781

that it took place in October 1780 on the last Thursday in that month; that her first child James Pendergrass was born in the latter part of February 1781; that her 2nd child Basha was born September 18, 1783; that they were married in Orange County North Carolina by John Hogan, Esquire; that her husband's served one tour after their marriage as a private in the dragoons in a company of which William Douglass [William Douglas] was Captain, under Brigadier General Butler [John Butler]; she thinks this tour began in October 1781; that her husband served a second tour in the spring of 1782 as a private of dragoons in a company commanded by Roger Griffith of Chatham County and William O'Neal as Colonel of the Regiment that they met at Luttrell's barracks in Chatham County and that her husband was stationed at a place called "Grassy Island."]

[p 33: on April 7, 1838, Luke Riggsbee testified before Joseph Bynum and John Riggsbee, JPs, in Chatham County, NC that he recollects they were married during the Revolution by John Hogan, Esq. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 19: On July 28, 1838, Ezekiel Brewer, 73, testified in Orange County, NC, that he was present at the marriage of John Pendergrass to Mary Rigsby by John Hogan, Esq.]

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State of North Carolina Orange County }

On this the 12th day of September 1838 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, John Dolly¹ aged 84 years, who being first duly qualified according to law, maketh oath that, in the fall of 1781, he served a tour in the militia in the United States Service, in attempting to rescue the Governor [Thomas Burke] and others that had been made prisoners by Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] at Hillsborough – and on this Deponent's return home, at Deep River Camp, fell in with a Company of Light Horse under Captain Douglass and came in Company with them greater part of the way home. This Deponent remembers of a private in Douglass' Company by the name of Pendergrass, and that he remembers of getting permission to go home with said Pendergrass, and this deponent's impression is he stayed all night with said Pendergrass, who was a married man – and had Served out his tour as private of Dragoons under Captain Douglass.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year 1st above written before me
S/ G. Hurdle, JP

S/ John Dolley, X his mark

[p 5: On September 8, 1854 in Orange County North Carolina, Edward Pendergrass, son of John and Mary Pendergrass, executed a power of attorney in which he states that the pensions paid to his father and mother were not reflective of his father's service as a Lieutenant in the war of the revolution from Chatham County. He empowers his attorney to pursue the proper amount due his parents. He signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing June 8, 1818, for service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

¹ [John Dolley S6802](#)