

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Pierson W1993

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS
Union County }

On this 15th day October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two appeared in open Court before Daniel McKinney Lewis Greenwell & Joseph Hoy Justices of the county Court of Union County now sitting John Pierson a resident of the County of Union and State of Kentucky aged seventy 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 the 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. General Decalb or Decalb [sic: Gen. Baron De Kalb], General [Horatio] Gates, General Washington, Col. Charles Harrison of the artillery [1st Virginia Regiment of Artillery] & Captain Richard or William Dawsey [sic: Capt. Richard Dorsey]. That he entered the service of the United States the date not recollected, as a regular soldier, he resided in the city of Baltimore & State of Maryland and was an apprentice to one Isaac Dawson learning the Hatting bissness, when he inlisted under a man by the name of Smith, but whether he was a Captain Lieutenant or ensign he does not now recollect from his being very young. that after his inlistment; he & the other recruits was sent on to the eastern States, and there attached to the main army under the command of General Washington but at what place not now recollected, where he was stationary for a considerable time under the immediate command of Captain Dawsey. Col Harrison was the commander of the regiment to which he belonged, a considerable time after he was attached to the main army, portion of the army was detached, and placed under the command of General De Kalb, and the company and regiment to which he belong to formed a part of said detachment, and they were marched from head quarters to Philadelphia, & from thence to Baltimore, and from thence through a part of virginia to the State of North Carolina, and about the time we crossed the Roanoak [sic: Roanoke] River, or arrived at Hillsborough orringe [sic: Orange] County we was joined General Gates, who took the command, and from thence we was marched on through South Carolina to a place called Rugely's Mill [sic: Rugeley's Mill, 13 Aug 1780] about thirteen or fourteen miles from Camlin [sic: Camden] where the British was encamped under the command of Lord Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] (as he then understood), and the army under General Gates continued at Rugely's mill between a week and Ten days as well as he now recollects [sic], and was marched from thence in the night [of 15 Aug], in order as he was informed to surprise the british army at Cambin, but the american Army after marching six or seven miles was met by the British in the night on their march, and after a little firing between the advance gards of the two army, the two armies halted untill between day light & sun up, when, a general engagement took place. the militia give way & retreated first, & shortly after a general route took place in the whole of the american line & but few of the regular troops made their escape. General Decalb fell, and his Captain Dawsey got wounded in the thigh, the engagement took place sometime in the month of August [the 16th] 1780 as well as he now recollects. the artillery that was managed by Capt Dawsey fell into the hands of the British. this was all the general engagement that he was in but he states he was in some other small scrimages he states that on his retreat from Gates' Defeat he got seperated from the army, and was taken as a prisner by a gang of Tories, who released him after a short time detention, on his giving a pledge of Fidelity & a promise never again to take up arms against his majesty King George. he states that he was in actual service of the united states upwards of two years, and if he obtained a discharge he has lost it. he states that there is no person living by whom he can certainly prove the services rendered by him except Justinian Cartwright whose deposition is hereunto attached 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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[signed] John Pierson

State of Kentucky } This day personally appeared before me Wiliam Lander an acting
Caldwell County sct } Justice of the peace in and for said County and state aforesaid,
Justinian Cartwright and made oath that John Pearson (who is now
present) was a soldier during the revolutionary war of the Continental line that he the said
Pearson served in the Company of Capt. Richard Dorsey attached to Collonel Charles Harrison's
regiment of Artillery of General Henry Knox's Brigade belonging to the Virginia Line of
Continental Troops, and this affiant further states that he believes the said Pearson was Enlisted
"During the War" that he was well acquainted with said Pearson before the removal of the army,
or that part to which said Pearson was attached removed to the south before the defeat of
General Gates: said affiant states also that he himself was a Sergeant Major of the revolutionary
army and is now a Pensioner [application S30316] and aged about 80 years. Sworn to and
subscribed before me this 19th day of May 1832 [signed] Justinian Cartwright

State of Kentucky } SS
County of Union }

On this 19th day of August 1833 personally appeared John Pierson before R I B Gilchrist
Charles B Ross & Lewis Greenwell Justices of the peace of the Union County Court now in
Session at the Courthouse in Morganfield for the County aforesaid who being duly sworn
according to law doth on his Oath make the following declaration by way of amendment to his
former declaration made herein on the 15th day of October 1832 In order to obtain the benefit of
the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. He states that after the
defeat of General Gates in which action this affiant [was] in as stated & set forth in his former
declaration refered to, the american ArmeY became scattered and a goodeal deranged, this
affiant was attached to a Company commanded by Capt Daniel McFarlin (after his release from
the Tories as before described) and continued with him untill some time the winter following, he
got frosted in his feete and was left at a little river called eno in Orange County [now in Durham
County] & State of North Carolina, and was halled in a waggon from thence (waggoners name
Thomas Stunks) to a creek called Sargents Creek in Caswell County in said state & was there left
as unfit for duty at the house of one Thomas Black, this was on the rout or march of the armeY
to join the american ArmeY under the Command of General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene during
the "Race to the Dan"] then lying in Hallifax County State of Virginia [14 - 22 Feb 1781] this
affiant will state that he continued unfit for military duty from said frost bitten feete untill after
the Surrender of Cornwallace [19 Oct 1781] this affiant believes that he entered the armeY of
the United states in the regular service in the beginning of the year 1779 or perhaps before and
continued in the service untill sometime in 1781 as well as the recollection of this affiant now
serves him he was in the battle at Gates's defeat in 1780. this affiant (for want of recollection)
cannot state precisely the length of time he was in actual service of the united states. But
according to the best of his recollection he served not less than Two years. This affiant will state
that he drew no pay for his service from the Government except three or four Dollars in
Continental paper which was paid him by Captain Daniel McFarlin at the time he was left at
Sargents creek aforesaid as an invalid, as he has done heretofore, He hereby relinquishes every
claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declairs that his name is not
on the pension rolle of any agency of any state sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid
[signed] John Pierson

NOTE: On 4 July 1849 Elizabeth Pierson, 75, applied for a pension stating that she married John
Pierson on 6 Feb 1794, and he died 2 Sep 1838. With her application is a record of a license
issued in Person County NC on 3 Feb 1794 for the marriage of John Pierson and Elizabeth
Warren, as well as a copy of the marriage bond signed by John "Pearson" and John Goodloe
Warren. On 13 Sep 1849 in Hopkins County KY Frances Curneal deposed that she was present
when the marriage took place in the home of Goodloe Warren.