

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Fearson (Pherson, Pherson) W24186 Elizabeth Fearson f58MD

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/25/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5]

District of Columbia, SS

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 1819, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court for the Said district, personally appeared Joseph Fearson aged 59 years, resident in Alexandria in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision of the late 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:" That he, the said Joseph Fearson enlisted in Port Tobacco in the state of Maryland in the year 1779 in the company commanded by Capt. Edward Prawl [Edward Prall or Praul] of the first Maryland Regiment commanded by Col. Smallwood [William Smallwood]; that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the United States until the year 1783, at the end of the War, when he was discharged from service in Annapolis in the State of Maryland, that he was in the battle of Elizabeth Town in the year 1780 and was there taken prisoner by the British and exchanged in the same year, That he was also at the Siege of York [surrender of Cornwallis occurred on October 19, 1781]; that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services; and that he never had a written discharge. Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid

S/ W. Cranch

[p 31]

District of Columbia, to wit

On this sixth day of April 1819 before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States for the said district personally appeared Joseph Fearson aged 58 resident in Alexandria in the said district 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 and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" –

That he the said Joseph enlisted in Port Tobacco in the State of Maryland in the company commanded by Capt. Edward Praul in the year 1779. That he continued to serve in the said Corps or in the service of the United States until the year 1783 when he was discharged from service in Annapolis in the State of Maryland. That he was in the battles of Stony Point [July 16, 1779], and at the siege of York & at the capture of Cornwallis – and that he is in

reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except the certificate of Capt. William Bruce hereto annexed and that he has never had a written discharge.

Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid  
S/ W. Cranch

[p 6]

District of Columbia, Washington County to wit

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 1820 – personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record for the County aforesaid Joseph Fearson aged about sixty-one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows, a private in Capt. Edward Prawl's Company of Maryland Regiment commanded by Col. William Smallwood; that his original declaration is in the War office: the date of his pension Certificate 10,217.

And I do further solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

Schedule

Sarah, a Negro woman, value	\$200.00
Lyhester, Negro boy, value	300.00
John, Negro boy, value	300.00
One horse and cart value	40.00
Household furniture value	30.00
Merchandise in my ship value	150.00
One Cow	<u>10.00</u>
	\$1030.00

There are between 6 and 700 dollars due to me in small debts a great part of which I never expect to recover.

I have a wife about 42 years of age who contributes nothing to my support, Charles my son a boy about 10 years old contributes nothing to my support, Joseph my son about 23 contributes nothing to my support: I am by occupation a ship-keeper and from age and incapacity am unable to procure my living without the aid of my Country

Sworn to and declared in open Court this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1820

Test: S/ Wm Brent

[p 4]

Auditor's Office, Annapolis, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1819

I hereby certify, that it appears from the musterrolls remaining in the Auditor's Office, that Joseph Phearson [sic] enlisted as a Private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Regiment, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July 1779 and in January 1780 Prisoner

S/ Thos. Karney

Aud. S. M.

[p 29]

Charles County, to wit

I hereby certify that Joseph Fearson enlisted with me and Capt. Samuel McPherson as a soldier of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland in the year 1779 for the war in the Revolution, and that the said Fearson joined Capt. Edward Prauls company in the said company and was discharged in the fall 1783 when the Army was disbanded, given under my hand this 25 day of March 1819

S/ William Bruce, late a Capt. of the 1<sup>st</sup> MD. Regt.  
on Continental establishment

Charles County to wit, I hereby certify that Joseph Fearson  
 enlisted with me & Capt. Samuel McPherson as a soldier  
 in the first Maryland in the year seventeen hundred  
 & twenty nine for the War in the Revolution  
 & that the said Fearson joined Capt. Edward Prauls  
 company in the said company and was discharged in  
 the fall seventeen hundred & eighty three when the  
 army was disbanded given under my this 25 day  
 of march 1819  
 I witnessed Prauls  
 in the State of Gaathers  
 William Bruce late a  
 Capt. in the first Maryland  
 Regt. of Continental Troops

[p 37: In an application dated June 3, 1828 seeking to gain the benefit of the act of May 15, 1828, the veteran referred to himself as being a Sgt. in Capt. Edward Prawl's Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland line.

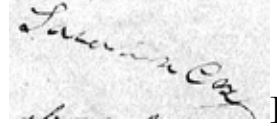
[p 11: On December 15, 1834 Samuel S. Fearson, Joseph N. Fearson and Charles S. Fearson executed a power of attorney in which they empowered their attorney to pursue the bounty land claim of their late father Joseph Fearson who was a soldier of the revolution.

Samuel S. Fearson  
 Joseph N. Fearson  
 Charles S. Fearson

[p 8: On October 22, 1848 in the District of Columbia County of Washington, Elizabeth Fearson a resident of George Town in the County of Washington, age 61, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Fearson, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in the month of April or May in the year 1791; that her husband died on or about the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 and that she remains a widow.

200 →  
Elizabeth Fearson ]

[p 9: On October 24, 1838 in the District of Columbia Washington County, Sarah N. Cox, 55, gave testimony that she is the sister of Elizabeth Fearson whose name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth Shaw; that her sister married Joseph Fearson then of Charles County Maryland in the spring of the year 1791.



Sarah N. Cox ]

[p 15: certificate dated September 14, 1838 given by the clerk of court of Charles County Maryland that the records in his office show that a license was issued April 11, 1791 for the marriage of Joseph Fearson and Elizabeth Shaw.]

[Veteran was initially pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1819 for service as a private for 4 years in the Maryland Continental line. Because he possessed too much property to qualify for a pension as an indigent under the 1818 act, he was stricken from the pension list. He was restored to the pension list under the provisions of the 1828 act. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum.]