

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Pierce Powers W24264

Mary Furber

Navy NH

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of New Hampshire }

County of Strafford } Ss. Farmington April 7<sup>th</sup> 1842

On this seventh day of April A.D. 1842 personally appeared before George L. Whitehouse a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County and State, Mary Furber, a Resident in the County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire aged eighty five years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed this July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836 and the act explanatory of said act passed March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1837. That she was married to Pierce Powers of Dover in said County and State, who was a Midshipman on board the Continental Ship of War Ranger Commanded by Captains John Paul Jones and Thomas Simpson and that the said Pierce Powers served as Midshipman on board said Ranger from October 1777 to May 1780 inclusive. That in March 1778 the said Pierce Powers had his right arm shot off in an engagement with the Enemy.

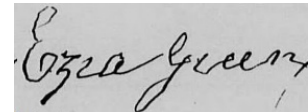
She further declares that she was married to the said Pierce Powers in Dover on the twenty fifth day of October one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine and that her said Husband the Pierce Powers died, in Boston on his way home from Charleston South Carolina, where he had been taken prisoner by the enemy [12 May 1780] on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1780 of yellow Fever, and that she was afterwards married to Richard Furber on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 1786 with whom she is now living and that she was not the Mother of any child or children by the said Pierce Powers and that she has two children now living by the said Richard Furber

[signed] Mary Furber

In presence of Richard Russell/ John W. Furber

I Ezra Green [pension application S4303] of Dover in the County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire ninety five years old depose & say that in 1777 I entered as Surgeon onboard the Continental Sloop of War Ranger. John Paul Jones Commander and sailed in October of the same year and continued as Surgeon onboard said Ranger untill 1780. That I was acquainted with Pierce Powers, who was a Midshipman onboard the said Ranger during the above mentioned time from October 1777 to 1780 and that in the month of March 1778 the Ranger Captured the English Sloop of War Drake in the Irish Channel and that the said Pierce Powers had his right hand shot off and I amputated his arm above the elbow. The Ranger returned to Portsmouth New Hampshire in the fall of 1778 [15 Oct] under the command of Captain Thomas Simpson & he continued her Commander untill she was taken at Charleston South Carolina, and that I understood that the said Pierce Powers died in Boston on his way home from Charleston after the said Ranger was taken.

[31 March 1842]



[The file includes a copy of the following extract of a letter by John Paul Jones in France to the Continental Congress:]

Brest May 27 1778

I lost only Lieutenant Wallingsford and one seaman (John Dougal) killed and six wounded among whom are the Gunner (Mr Falls) and Mr Powers a midshipman who lost his arm. One of the wounded Nath'l. Wills [Nathaniel Wills] is since dead. The rest will recover.

NOTES:

For further details of the *Ranger* see *Memoirs of Andrew Sherburne: A Pensioner of the Navy of the Revolution* published in 1831. Andrew Sherburne (pension application S42275) was a waiter for Powers on the *Ranger*.

On 12 June 1848 Daniel Fowler, 85, stated that in 1780 he was hired to work on the farm of John Wingate of Madbury NH, and while there John Wingate's sister, Molly "Mary" Powers lived with him. He also stated the following: "Not long before I commenced work with Mr Wingate he and his sister, Mary Powers, had been to Boston on account of the sickness of Mr Powers and when they came back, they said that Powers was dead. There were military clothes hanging in my chamber at Wingates which had belonged to Powers I was informed. The widow Powers had goods to sell which I understood fell to him Powers from Prizes which he had been engaged in Capturing from the enemy, among the articles were Rum Spice & tea."

The file includes a record of the marriage of Pierce Powers and Mary Wingate on 25 Oct 1779 officiated by Rev. Jeremy Belknap of Dover.

The file includes a copy of a petition to Congress for a pension, signed by Mary Furber when she was 85 and her husband was still living. It adds the following: "... in June 1780 your Petitioner was informed that her Husband was dangerously sick of Yellow Fever in Boston and that she imediatly set out on horse back, there being no other mode of traveling at that earley day and rode to Boston, it being eighty miles distance and when she arrived in Boston her Husband the said Pierce Powers had been dead two days and was buried."

On 4 April 1848 John W. Furber reapplied for a pension on behalf of his mother, Mary Furber, 92, "whose mental faculties are destroyed by her age." He stated that Richard Furber died on 14 March 1848.

The file includes a note book with the family register and other items transcribed below.

the age of my parents by afinity

Mr John Wingate Born Dover May the 5 1720 old Stiel [old style: Julian Calendar] Departed this Life  
March the 15 1776 New Stiel

Elizabeth Wingate born Dover january the 5 1727 Old Stiel and Departed this Life December 8 1811  
New Stiel

Betsy Furber Was Married to Docter Meynils[?] March 15<sup>th</sup> 1826

John W. Fuber Moved from Gilmatown March 16<sup>th</sup> 1826 to my house in Farmington

Prince P. Furber Moved his Famley From Farmington to Dover in the State of Main in May 17<sup>th</sup> 1827

Received his first letter 4 day of June 1827 the second and third 20 of August 1827

Richard Furber Ju'r. Born Newington September the 20 1753 On thursday

Alice Furber Born Newington May the 18 1756 on thursday

Newington June 18 1780 On Sunday morning Nine Clock we Was Married

Rochester October 4 1780 When we moved on Our farm from Newington

Alice Colman Furber Born May thursday the 10 1781 at two Clock in the after Noon

Alice Furber My first Wife Departed this Life May the 28 1781 Monday morning Braeck of the Day

Madbuary October thursday 12 1786 Six Clock in the After Noon I Was Married to Marry powers Who  
is my Second Wife and her Second Husband

Pirce powers Born Dover 1846 and Departed this Life June 29 1780 at Boston

Mary Wingate Born June the 26 1756 Madbury Sunday after married Powers

Rochester October the 31 1786 When I moved My Life from Madbury on to Our farm in Rochester

Richard Furber Born June the 11 1787 Monday morning ten clk and Departed this Life March the 3

Monday morning [possibly 1788] one Clrok With the Quinsey

Perice Furber Born Wensday August 20<sup>th</sup> 1788 Eight Clock in the Afternoon

Richard Furber third child Born Apriell the 3 1790 on Satday at one Clock in the morning – Departed this  
Life July the 18 1790 on Sunday After noon 5 Clock With the Bloodey pirgen [bloody purging?]

Elizabeth Furber Born May Sunday the 22 1791 two Clock in the Morning

John W Furber Born April Tuesday the 3<sup>d</sup> five in the after Noon 1798

~~Elizabeth Furber my Mother~~ Departed this life September the 12 1793 Aged 64 years Eight month and 20 days the Cause of her Dath was by the prick of a fork in her instape [instep]

Temprance Furber Born otober 5 1741 at Portsmouth Which is the second Wife of Richard Furber Sener April 1796 When I Raised our New House and mooved into it in October 1796

The Town Of Farmington Wasse Incorporated the 1 of December AD 1798 at Concord by my undertaking the Business

Peter Akerman Killed by the Litting [lightning] in my field June the 13 1799 Aged about 21 years

Elizabeth McCrillas Departed this life December the 20<sup>th</sup> 1832 and has five Children having by her side the oldest about four years Eight or nine mounth old She Was the Wife of Foster McCrillas

Pierce Furber Married to Methable Winkley October 12 1811 and mooved her hom November 28 1811 the ages of P. Furbers Children

Mary W. Furber born September 11<sup>th</sup> 1812

Joseph W. Furber born augest 29<sup>th</sup> 1814

Theodore Furber born March 15<sup>th</sup> 1817

Samuel W. Furber born May 2<sup>th</sup> 1819

Olive W. Furber born January 21<sup>th</sup> 1822

Richard Furber born December 20<sup>th</sup> 1824

Methibal Furber born Dover December 24<sup>th</sup> 1827 in the State of Main

John P. Furber born September 1830

Richard Furber Departed this life Febuary 6<sup>th</sup> 1832 had ben liveng With his Gaind [sic] parents about 16 moth his father com after him but he was buried two days before he got to Farmington this was the first tiem he returned after he moved to Dover which was all most five years

Pierce P Furber and Wife came to Visit us the first tiem shee cam to see us after they moved to the Estard got heir in in October 20 day 1834 and stayed tel the 2<sup>d</sup> of November

The Revend Joseph Adams of Newington Departed this life May 2<sup>th</sup> 17[??]in the 35 year of his age

Deacon Benjamin Adams Esq'r of Newington departed this life March 24<sup>th</sup> 1803 in the 75 of his age

The Reved Joseph Haven[?] of Rochester born May 14 1747 [two or three illegible words]

Mrs Mary Haven born April[?] the first 1753 and Depted this life January the 7 1814

September 1811

Their was a blazing Star [Great Comet of 1811, C/1811 F1] Rose at first in the East and Set in the northeast but Kept moving to the Left the Light Was seen for three month or more

September 23<sup>th</sup> 1815

When their was a hurracin [Great September Gale of 1815] from the provieance of Main to Providenc and to the State of Vermont which distroed a vaist number of shipping orchards groth of all kinds fances blown down a vast number of buildins and a grait number of Lives both of men woman & cattel Said winds was from the South East

May the 19 1780

there was a unversail Darkness over all North america [sic: New England's Dark Day] for 24 howers

October 22 1785

When there wase a Delouge of Waters Over this Land or a freachett uncommon

July the 5 1803 When Farmington Metting House was Raised

October the 9 1804

When their was a Snow Storm [great 1804 "Snowicane" in the Northeast] said to be one feet deep in Sum

Places attended with Thunder & litting to a Great Degree and a uncommon winds and did a Grait deal of dammage by sea & land

Said Snow said to be four feet in the State of Vermont

December 26 1802 When their was a conforlagation by fier Dartsmouth [conflagration by fire at Dartmouth]

December 24 1806

When their was another fier in Dartmouth

December 22 1813 their was the gaties fier in portsmouth that Ever was known consumed about three hundred buildens

January 12 1814 another fier burnt the Rop walk

January the 19 & 20 1810

Was a colder tiem of Wather Ever Known and the hight wind blowed down many buildens or Rought many more and many people Parished and was frozen

June the first when 1811 their was a Grait fier [illegible word] as Ever Was Kown in this Countary in Newbury Port consumed near three hundred buildens of all Kinds

Rochester May the 14 1783 When Theodore Furber Returned from London and Was gone Eight year and ten Months

May the 10 1790

When Ca't [Capt.] Thodour Furbers Wife Mary Departed this Life at Saint Johns on bord the Ship Thomas

December 9<sup>th</sup> 1839 2½ of snow fell in 36 hours