

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Pressley (Pressly) W24917 Ann Pressley f64SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 7/26/09 rev'd 12/21/13

[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. 5]

State of South Carolina Abbeville District

On this second day of April in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-three personally appeared in Open court before the Honorable Josiah J. Evans presiding Judge of the Courts of General Sessions & Common Pleas for the District and State aforesaid now sitting David Pressley a resident of Anderson district in the State of South Carolina aged sixty nine 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 at the age of thirteen years as a volunteer under Captain Andrew Hamilton early in the autumn of the year 1776 in the District of Ninety Six / now Abbeville district/ in the State of South Carolina that he was marched in this company to the Cherokee nation where a large body of troops all under the command of Major Williamson [Andrew Williamson] gave battle to and equal or superior force of Indians who in number were considered two thousand strong and who occupied the mountain heights above Major Williamson's Army in the Valley orders were given to gain the heights above the Indians which were promptly done & executed and the Indians being hard pressed were put to flight, their settlements laid waste and destroyed by Major Williamson's Army and the Army discharged or disbanded in October of the year 1776 the applicant's term of service during this Indian Campaign he estimates at least six weeks as well as he can recollect. --

The Applicant's subsequent service commenced in September in the year 1780 when volunteered as a private in Captain John McCawley's [sic, John McCauley's] company under the command of General Marion [Francis Marion] in Williamsburg District in the State of South Carolina and continued in Captain John McCawley's for the term of thirteen months and attached to General Francis Marion's Brigade maneuvering, marching, fighting, annoying & surprising the enemy from place to place on Black River in this State and elsewhere in that section of the country not now recollected under that able and energetic General, the Applicant was with General Francis Marion when he surprised and defeated Colonel Tynes [Lt. Col. Samuel Tynes] a Tory officer who was more dreaded than any other enemy in that part of South Carolina where he carried on his military operations in the lower part of the State this surprised battle and defeat took place before day break between Georgetown & a place called Black Mingo the Tories were in number by report one hundred & fifty strong, thirty or forty of them were killed and wounded and the greater part of them taken prisoners including Colonel Tynes this surprise battle & defeat was in the year 1780.¹ The applicant was subsequently detailed with a few others under Captain

¹ Skirmish at Tearcoat (or Tarcoat) Swamp Oct. 25, 1780. <http://gaz.irshelby.com/tearcoat.htm> and

Snipes [William Clay Snipes] & Sergeant McDonald to reconnoiter and spy out the situation of the enemy near Georgetown this detachment way lay a rode all night, next morning went to the Whigs house to get refreshment & while there our sentinels fired and a body of British horse made their appearance Snipes detachment mounted their horses drew their swords & gave battle the British horse were defeated most of whom were killed, not a prisoner taken.² The applicant was not in any other battle or skirmish in the revolutionary war, but was actively engaged in General Francis Marion's brigade in Captain McCawley's company, and annoying the enemy until the close of the war, & that his whole term of service during the revolutionary war including his Indian Campaign he computes at fourteen & a half months service which he actually performed during the revolutionary war in defense of the United States of America.

Answers to certain Interrogatories

Answer to 1st Interrogatory -- The applicant says he was born in the City of Glasgow in Scotland on the 12th of January 1764 and brought from thence to America when he was an infant in the nurses arms.

Answer to 2nd Interrogatory -- The Applicant says the record of his age was in the Bible belonging to his cousin Davis Pressley Senior who is dead, and does not know where that Bible is.

Answer to 3rd Interrogatory -- The Applicant says he was living in Ninety Six, now Abbeville District when he volunteered into the service and ranks of the United States, since which period he has lived & resided in the District of Abbeville up to the first January 1832 when he removed to Anderson and adjacent Captain district about half a mile from the line where he now lives and resides --

Answer to 4th interrogatory -- The Applicant says he always volunteered, that he was never drafted, neither did he ever substitute for any man whatever.

Answer to 5th Interrogatory -- The applicant says he does not recollect so as to answer correctly this interrogatory.

Answer to 6th interrogatory -- The Applicant says he never received a written discharge that he was always verbally discharged by the Officers of his Company, & that this was the usual practice --

Answer to 7th Interrogatory -- In Andrew Giles Esquire, Matthew Young, Major Twining Hamilton, Frances Cunningham and George Chambers all persons to whom I am known in my present neighborhood and who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

The Applicant also 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 to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in Open Court
S/ Jas Wardlaw, Clerk

S/ David Pressley Se^f



[James Moore, a clergyman, and James A. Black gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_tearcoat_swamp.html

² Skirmish at Snipe's Plantation, June 3, 1781.

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_snipes_plantation.html

South Carolina

I Andrew Hamilton³ a resident of Abbeville District in the State of South Carolina do solemnly swear, that David Pressley whose declaration as an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, accompanies this affidavit was a revolutionary soldier, that he entered the service of the dates as a volunteer and was enrolled a private in my company in the fall or of the year 1776, and that he was marched under my command to the Cherokee Nation where a battle was fought by the combined force of whites under Major or Colonel Williamson [Andrew Williamson] in number about two thousand, against an equal or superior force of Indians, and after a severe contest, and hard fought battle with the Indians, they fled and were wholly defeated, their settlements laid waste, and the Army disbanded, that the said David Pressley was in this battle, under my command, that he acted the part of a good soldier, fought bravely and always sustained that character in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War. And that I personally know his declaration of this Indian battle to be correct & true & that I believe the Declaration of his after service as he has stated to be also true; and that he now sustains the character of an honest, just, & upright man.

Sworn to & subscribed this 2 November 1832 Before
S/ Moses Taggart, J Q

S/ A. Hamilton



[p. 9: On March 18, 1845 in Anderson District South Carolina, Ann Pressley, 82, filed for a widows pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of David Pressley, a pensioner at the rate of \$48.33 per annum for his services in the revolution; that her husband died May 11 1834 in Anderson District South Carolina; that she married him November 16, 1784 in Abbeville District South Carolina; that she has no documentary evidence of her marriage other than the family Bible record; that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 11: On March 18, 1845 in Anderson District South Carolina, Easter Pressley, 69, gave testimony that she was not witness to the marriage ceremony of David Pressley and Ann Pressley but is credibly informed that they were legally married by Esquire Hamilton in Abbeville District South Carolina in 1784; that she, the affiant, was a guest at the wedding dinner; that the Bible record is a true record of the marriage of said David and Ann Pressley and the births of their children. She signed her affidavit with her mark. Her relationship, if any, to the veteran or his widow is not stated.

[p. 13: Bible Record]

David Pressley and Ann Edmiston was married November the 16th in the year while Lord 1784
David Pressley Junior was born January the 29th 1786

and died March the 21st Insuing

James Pressley was born August the 7th 1787

Mary Ann Pressley was born June this 26 1789

David Pressley Junior was born March the 26th 1791

Alexander Edmiston Pressley was born January 27th 1793

Esther Brown Pressley was born May the 1st 1795

³ [Andrew Hamilton S18000](#)

Jean Pressley was born December the 8th 1796
and died October the 9th 1797

Jean Miller Pressley was born March the 15th 1798

Elizabeth Pressley was born April the 3rd 1800

Agness Pressley was born March the 17th 1802

Rachal Miller Pressley was born December the 10th 1803

David Pressley and Ann Edmeston was married Nov^r the
Sixteenth In the year of our Lord — — — 1792
David Pressley Jun^r was born January the 29th — — — 1796
And died March the 2^d of the Infueing
James Pressley was born August the 17th — — — 1797
Mary Ann Pressley was born June the 26th — — — 1799
David Pressley Jun^r was born March the 26th — — — 1791
Alexander Edmeston Pressley was born Jan^y 27th 1793
If this known Pressley was born May the 1st — — — 1795
Jean Pressley was born Decem^r the 9th — — — 1796
And died October the 9th — — — 1797
Jean Miller Pressley was born March the 15th — — — 1798
Elizabeth Pressley was born April the 3^d — — — 1800
Agness Pressley was born March the 17th — — — 1802
Rachal Miller Pressley was born Decem^r the 10th — — — 1803

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$48.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 14 ½ months in the South Carolina service.]