

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Ayres W4120

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 2 Mar 2011.

State of Virginia Buckingham County to wit.

On this the 17th day of June 1842 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the county and state aforesaid Jane Ayres a resident of said county and state aged eighty one 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 July 4, 1836. and the joint resolution of July 7, 1838. That she is the widow of the late John Ayres of the said county and state, who was in the Continental and militia service of Virginia in the War of the Revolution; she declares that she recollects his being draughted twice. The first tour he marched to the south, was at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and the other tour was in the eastern part of Virginia and was at the Battle of Little York [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], her marriage having taken place prior to the period at which he entered the service. She has often heard him speak of the country through which he marched, while in service and having been engaged in several battles and suffered & endured many hardships and privations; all of which she honestly believes. That from bodily infirmity, old age and the consequent loss of memory, she can not call to recollection the particulars of her husbands services as to time, places and duties; she therefore prefers to depend on the statement of competent and credible old soldiers who served with him, to any statement that she could make on the subject. That for the same reason she can not state precisely, how long he was in actual service altogether, but supposes, that he served at the least six months for which length of time, she claims a pension. She further declares, that she was married to the said John Ayres on the 4th day of Dec'e'r 1777; that her husband the aforesaid John Ayres died on the [blank] day of Nov. 1828 [8 written over 9] That she was married to him prier to his leaving the service, and that she has remained a widow ever since the death of her aforesaid husband John Ayres, as will more fully appear by refference to the proof hereto annexed.

Jane herXmark Ayres

The affidavit of Stephen Chastain of the County of Buckingham Virginia) aged seventy seven last Nov) taken to establish the Pension claim of Mrs Jane Ayres widow of the late John Ayres of the said County in the same neighborhood in which the said John Ayres was borned & raised the said Ayres being a few years older than this affiant The s'd Ayres was married in the year 1777 as stated in his widow's Declaration (that having been read to him) he was at the wedding but did not go with them to the parsons. he was at old Mrs William Sally's when the said John Ayres and his present widow returned from Parson Peasley by whom they were married, his present widow was the daughter of said William Sally and has lived within one mile of said John Ayres ever since to the time of her death, now lives in the same distance of his widow they were recognized by every person as man & wife, sustained all the relations in society as such, he wrote the will of said John Ayres in which he recognized her as his wife and provided for her in the said will as his wife The said John Ayres died some time in Nov'r 1828. This affiant and said John Ayres mustered in the same company, Captain Robert Cary was their capanitain, the said Carys company was ordered to meet at the Court House of this county, and a certain number of men were draughted from Capt R. Carys company leaving some behind among the Number that were taken was John Ayres, this affiant being left behind This was a draughted three months tour, he does not recollect the month precisely when the call was made but it was either in the latter part of the year 1780 or the first part of the year 1781 – but he is pretty certain he John Ayres returned from that tour to the South some time in the month of April. The said Ayres had two children before he entered the service The said Ayres was again draughted some time in the year he returned from the South & marched to the eastern

part of Va. and was in the Battle at Little York upon a tour of three months and marched to guard the prisoners from Little York to the Barracks [at Winchester VA] and was there discharged honorably. this affiant has seen his discharge which he received at the Barracks and read it He further states that during the absence of said Ayres on the tour to the South, he attended to the family of said John Ayres.

[signed] Stephen Chastain

The affidavit of Charles Howell [Charles Howel, pension application S5561] of the County of Buckingham Virginia (aged Eighty one years) who states, that he was acquainted with John Ayres Decd. whose widow Jane Ayres is and now claiming a pension for Military services rendered by her late husband in the Revolutionary War he and the said John Ayres marched from the county aforesaid under capt. Thomas Miller about the first of the fall in the year 1781 and were at the Seige at Little York and the said John Ayres went as guard to the Prisoners to the Barracks [at Winchester] this was a tour of three months: and that his widow Jane Ayres has never married since the death of her said husband John Ayres – and he always understood that he served a three months tour in the South, but was not with him in that tour

[signed] Charles Howel

NOTE: With the application is a record of the births of the children of John Ayres, certified by Olive S. Ayres and transcribed as follows:

Names.

Magdalen Ayres. Was Born the 16 day August 1778

Ann Ayres was Born Febuary The 20 day 1781

Edmond Ayres Ditto Feby 4th 1783

Salee Ayres Ditto May 25 day 1791

Elizebeth Ayres D'o Feb'y 9 day 1794

Susannah Ayres D'o. March 26 day 1796

Patsey Ayres D'o August 11 day 1798

John H. Ayres D'o May 3 day 1801

Jane Ayres D'o June 9 day 1803

Olive S. Ayres D'o Feby 3 day 1806

Children of John Ayres