Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Henry Ayres W445 Susan Ayres VA Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 Feb 2017.

State of Tennessee On this 14th day of August 1832 personally appeard in open Court before County of Robertson } the Court of Robertson County now sitting Henry Ayres a resident of the State of Tennessee in the County of Robertson aged about 79 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 7 1832 that he enterd the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I entered the service of the United States in Bedford County in the State of Virginia in the year 1775 in the month of September and remained in the service twelve months the company to which I belonged was commanded by William Campbell. I entered the service as a volunteer – subsequently I entered the service as a regular soldier under Captain Harry Terrill [Henry Terrill] of the 5th Virginia Reg't for the term of three years and remained in service during the three years and was regularly discharged by Major Henry Lee which discharge I have not now in my possession during the last term of service I was in a skirmish with the British on the 3rd September I think 1777 at red clay creek I think in Pennsylvania [sic: probably Battle of Cooch's Bridge near White Clay Creek near Christiana DE]. I was also in the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] under Lt Colonel Richard Parker in the state of Pennsylvania. I was also in several skirmishes the place and time not now so well recollected, the last general engagement I was in was at the Battle of German Town [Germantown PA, 4 Oct 1777] then under the command of Col Josiah Parker and Lieutenant Col. William Davis [sic: William Davies]. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I do declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to & subscribed in open Court on the sixteenth day of August in the year afforesaid

State of Tennessee } This day personally appeared James Mitchell [pension application S2836] Robertson County } before me Milton Bourne an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law that he is well acquainted with Henry Ayres the within applicant who now resides in this county. I also knew the said Ayres in the United States army and that he remained in said army for three years and believe he was under the command of Gen'l. Mulinburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] and further believe that the statements in the foregoing declaration to be true. Sworn & subscribed to before me September 10th 1832

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[The following are from bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia indexed as Ayers, Henry.]

Washington County [KY] Sct.

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Henry Ayers and made oath that in the fall of the year seventeen hundred and seventy six he enlisted as a Lt in the continental Service under Captain Henry Tyrell and was attached to the Virginia line, that he served faithfully for the space of three years, that he has lost his discharge, & that he has never received the land to which he was entitled as a Soldier and he further states that he has not received any thing for the depreciation of the money he was paid [undeciphered word]

Given under my hand this 13th October 1817 John Lancaster J. P. W. C.

I do hereby certify that I served as a Lieutenant in the same division with the above named Henry Ayers and that he served the time above stated and do not believe that he has ever received any more compensation than is above stated Given under my hand this 14th October 1817

[Andrew Rodgers S35635] Lt in the VR[?]

Ind hodgers

To the Honourable, the Speaker, and Members of the Congress of the United States — The petition of Henry Ayres, of Robertson County, & State of Tennesee. Humbly sheweth, that your petitioner Enlisted at the first commencement of the Revolutionary War for the term of Twelve month, in the state of Virginia, and was placed under the Command of Capt. William Campbell, who was attached to the first Virginia Regiment, which term he faithfully served, and found his own gun, & shot bag for which he was to have been paid for But has not received compensation, only his [undeciphered word] wages. Your petitioner futher states that in the fall of one Thousand seven hundred and seventy six he Enlisted in the Continental service for three years, under Capt. Harry Tyrrell, of Bedford County, Virginia, who was attached to the fifth Regiment, and acted in the capacity of Sergeant, and about Twelve months after his enlistment, was Transfered to the Artificers, from which he was transfered to Majr Henry Lees, Troop of Cavalry, where he continued during his said Term of enlistment. For which service he has rec'd no compensation, only his monthly pay – Your petitioner begs leave further to represent to your Honourably body, that after he had Truly, & faithfully served the Term for which he enlisted, and obtained his discharges, he set out to see his Parents & relations, who had removed from the county where he first enlisted, a considerable distance, and before he had an opportunity to make the necessary application, for his bounty, he unfortunately lost his discharges; And from his extreem indigent circumstances, together with the want of information, has never attempted to get that, which he considers Justly due him from his Country, for those services rendered which Happily, terminated in the establishment of Liberty, & Independence. Your petitioner Has now become old and infirm, and requires some pecuniary aid, for his subsistance, the remainder of his days, he is induced to make this application from a belief that many of the old Revolutionary Soldiers, simuliar situated, have obtained their full pay, & Bounty of Land, with an allowance for the depreciation of money which they rec'd – Your petitioner therefore prays that your Honourable body, will take his case into consideration and make him the same allowance, as have been made to others, and in duty bound he will ever pray &c &c Henry Ayres

NOTE: On 30 May 1843 Susan Ayres, age 81 on the following 7 Aug, applied for a pension stating that she married Henry Ayres in Surry County NC in Jan 1781, and he died 22 Sep 1833. She stated that they lived in South Carolina for 14 years before moving to Robertson County TN. The file includes a letter referring to their son, Lemuel Ayres.