

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Pence W5511

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, Rockingham County to wit,

On the 20th day of August in the year 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before Jacob D. Williamson, David Hinton, Reuben Moore & Augustus Waterman, Justices of the Court of the County of Rockingham, now sitting, John Pence Sr. a resident of the said County in the sate of Virginia, age upwards of 76 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 benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, (to wit)

I John Pence Sen'r. of Rockingham County in the State of Virginia do make the following declaration Viz I was born in this County (then a part of Augusta) on the 23 day of November in the year 1755 according to our family record (which is now in my possession) and was raised in this county in which I have always lived ever since it was formed. I served three tours of Militia duty in the service of the United States during the war of the revolution. I first entered the service in the month of September in 1776 under Capt. William Nall of this county (then Augusta) and served three months in an expedition in the North western part of this state against the Indians (who had done some mischief in that part of the state, some time before. The service was confined principally to that part of West Augusta, now forming Randolph, Harrison, Monongalia (&c.) counties - we were stationed a part of the time in Tygarts Vally [sic: Tygart Valley in present WV] and part of the time at a fort called 'West Falls' fort [sic: Fort Westfall a quarter mi S of present Beverly]. I know of no other person now living who served in that company in that expedition except Robert Harnsberger of Augusta, & Thomas Lewis [pension application S7138] of Rockingham, whose testimony is hereto annexed [not found]. We were engaged in a separate command & had no connexion with any regular troops or officers. My second tour was in a company commanded by (Colo, then) Captain John Rush [R9090] whose testimony is hereto annexed. We then entered into the service in the month of October (I believe it was) in the year 1780 and were discharged in the month of December (some short time before of the expiration of three months) at an encampment near 'Bacon Branch' near Richmond. We formed a part of the command of Col Sampson Matthews [sic: Sampson Mathews] of Augusta (who with that part of the militia under his command who were from Augusta county encamped below Richmond. No part of the British troops being then in that part of the country we were discharged as I have before stated a short time before our time had fully expired, and had credit for a tour of duty. - My next tour was of twenty days service under the command of Capt John Rush in the summer of the year 1781. This service which was a very arduous one, was performed in he neighborhood of Williamsburg principally. I was never in any action with the enemy. At the time of the battle at Hotwater [Hot Water Plantation 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 Jun], the company to which I belonged had lay about 12 or 14 miles off, and having heard that a battle was expected, the company being 'Mounted men" immediately set off and arrived just after the affair was over - and our company assisted in covering the retreat of the American forces who had been engaged. In addition to these services I was also drafted in the year 1779 and hired one Henry Brady to serve as a substitute in my place.

I do not think that I ever received any written discharge from the service. If I did, I do not remember although I am positive that I served each tour, untill I was discharged by my commanding officer.

If any further testimony is desired as to my credibility I beg leave to refer to Colo Jos Mauzy, Dr. George W. Kerper, Dr. Peachy Harrison, Arch'd. W. Huston, or to any other respectable man in my neighborhood. - and

I do hereby relinquish all claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present, and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

August 15, 1832

NOTE: On 19 Aug 1839 Nancy Pence, 65, applied for a pension stating that she married John

Pence on 6 May 1793, and he died 10 Jan 1834. Other documents in the file state that she was the daughter of John Swisher or Swesher, and that she died 15 Mar 1854 leaving the following children: John Pence, 54; Eleanor Pence; Polly, wife of Henry Harner; Katharine Kyger, widow; Eliza Pence; Margaret, wife of Samuel Shaver; and Henry Pence.