

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Pettigrew: File No. W5522 Jane Pettigrew f92SC
Transcribed by Nell Hurley [supplemented by Will Graves 11/16/17 in italics]

[James "Long Jim" Pettigrew was the eldest son of John Pettigrew and grandson of James Pettigrew, all living in Abbeville SC during the Revolution. "Long Jim" married Jane Harkness in Abbeville SC on 3 Nov 1785.]

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STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF GREENE } SS On this 22nd day of September 1832 personally before the Judge of the Circuit Court of the County and State aforesaid, Anderson Grisham now sitting, James Pettigrew of the age of about 71 years a resident of the County of Greene and State of Alabama who being first duly sworn and according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832.

That he entered the services of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated He states that he has no record of his age and the only circumstances by which he recollects it is this: his grandfather told him on his, this applicants, return from the engagement at Stono or Stone Ferry [June 20, 1779] that he, this applicant, would be seventeen years old in the November following this engagement. [Estimated birth November 1761.] This applicant entered the service as a substitute for his father, John Pettigrew, on the Indian Line in Abbeville District, South Carolina against the Cherokees under Captain William Baskins [William Baskin] in 1776 in the summer or fall. Sometime after this he was drafted and served a tour in Georgia but the date or officers he cannot recollect as the Enemy, the Seminole Indians, could not be found He thinks that Joseph Calhoun as Lieutenant commanded the company he was in. This was but a short tour. The first engagement he was in was the Battle of Stono or Stone Ferry on Ashley River under General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] and Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] or Johnson. Lieutenant Arthur Gray commanded his company. This was the second tour in which he was drafted. At this engagement Colonel Roberts [Owen Roberts of the fourth South Carolina Regiment of artillery] who commanded the Artillery was killed by having one of his thighs shot off by a cannon ball. The next battle he was in of any note was at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. General Pickens, Col. Anderson [Robert Anderson], Colonel McCall [James McCall], Major Noble, Lieut. Carlile [perhaps Francis Carlisle?] were in that engagement and most of them, if not all, were under the command of General Pickens and from Abbeville District. He recollects that Colonel Washington [William Washington] with his cavalry was there and saved the militia from inevitable destruction. James Caldwell commanded this applicant's company and was cut almost to death by Tarlton's [sic, Banastre Tarleton's] horsemen so much so that he had to be borne from the field. He was also at the Battle at the haw-fields where Col. Piles [sic, John Pyle] was defeated [February 25, 1781] and the Tories were defeated There were nearly 300 of them killed and wounded mostly. General Pickens and Col. Lee [Henry ["Light Horse Harry"] Lee] commanded here. The next engagement of much notoriety was at Ninety-

Six. We besieged [May 21-June 19, 1781] this place under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] for three weeks but were compelled to raise the siege on account of the besieged obtaining a strong reinforcement under Lord Randon [sic, Rawdon]. From this he was marched to the block house in Abbeville at the residence of General Pickens where he was stationed a month or thereabouts Guarding the areas & [indecipherable word] the residents. During his service an expedition to Camden under General Pickens his company was commanded by Lieutenant Adams he was also out two tours under Captain Joseph Calhoun, one of those was under Col. Anderson down the Edisto river after one Cunningham [William Cunningham], a Celebrated Tory Col. who led the Blood Scouts &c we were in this expedition unsuccessful & on our return the Tories Intercepted our Baggage waggons [sic] & took the Guard, this was called the Bull Swamp expedition. He was under General Pickens in two expeditions against the Indians & Tories in one of those we took-killed thirty Indians & took one Tory at this time they did not go for taking Tories but killing but a Captain Maxwell *in the* service of the United States on this expedition took Dave Pickens with whom he happened to be intimately acquainted. This same Dave Pickens was a cousin to our General Pickens but the General would not allow him to come near to him and never spoke to him for he was a blood thirsty Tory. In the last expedition we killed but one or two Indians and took one a prisoner who afterwards escaped. He was out on one expedition against the Tories and Indians under Col. Anderson. We marched in this expedition across part of Georgia and went over the Oconee River at Scull Shoal where we had an engagement in which we killed a few Indians and one Tory and took two deserters from a regiment of American regulars in which Major Bowie commanded. There we formed a Court Martial and hung ~~them~~ one of these deserters was by the name of Murphey, the other Luna [?]. We had one man killed by the name of Holloway. He was *said* to be a regular Captain who had come from the north on furlough to see his connections with whom he went on this expedition and it was his last for he fell with his pistol grasped in his hand and his finger on the trigger and this applicant had some difficulty in getting the pistol out of his hand without firing it off, his finger was so set around the trigger. Suffice it to say that besides what expeditions and battles have been named he was in the service in some way or other against the Indians, Tories or British constantly from the overthrow of Charleston by the British until the close of the war. His father was also with many others of his connections and as a mode of distinguishing this applicant was called "Big Pettigrew". Sometime before the close of the war John Pettigrew (this applicant's father) was taken prisoner by the Tories and conveyed to Ninety-Six and thence to Charleston where he was kept on board a British Prison ship till after the war or about the close of it. He was in actual service between 3 or 4 years, nearly four. After the war the applicant resided in Abbeville District, South Carolina until 1816 or 1817 when he moved to Talapoosa in Alabama Territory where he resided two years and then removed to Greene County, Alabama where he now resides. He states that he was born in Prince Edward County in the State of Virginia in 1761 and the month of November and was removed with his family to North Carolina while a child and from thence immediately to Abbeville, South Carolina where he was raised Previous to the fall of Charleston he was a substitute and twice drafted. After that time he was a refugee and of necessity as well as choice a volunteer the balance of the war. He thinks John C. Calhoun would give satisfactory traditinary evidence of this applicant's service as this applicant was an overseer for Patrick Calhoun, the father of said John Calhoun, for

the space of three years after the war. John C. was then a small boy but after he was grown and in Congress he procured for this applicant as the heir of William Pettigrew, his deceased brother, his bounty land lying in Missouri. This William Pettigrew was a regular soldier and died in the service in the late war with Great Britain. Applicant does not recollect whatever became of his discharge if he ever had one. Colonel Patrick Norris¹ knew this applicant during the war and served with him part of the time and they lived close together for some years after the war in Abbeville when P. Norris moved to Pendleton District and settled near Moore's Mills. Said Norris is now residing ten miles of this applicant and can testify as to his character for veracity, good behavior and his actual service. He does not think he has any neighbors who would not testify favorably of his character for veracity and give it as their opinion from the general report in the neighborhood that he was in the service in the Revolutionary War. He will name James Dunlap and Hamilton Brown who have known applicant for thirty or forty years. The Reverend Edward Pace and James Hillhouse he thinks would testify favorably not only to his reputation for veracity but of their belief as to his service in the Revolutionary War. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state (or territory in the Union).

Sworn to and Subscribed
the day and date above
and in open court
Attest: James Yeates, Clk

(signed) James Pettigrew

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Pettigrew". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat stylized.

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Colonel Patrick Norris being duly sworn according to law in open court deposeth & saith that James Pettigrew who has subscribed & sworn to the above Declaration for a pension was a soldier in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war that they were raised in the same neighborhood & within a mile & a half of each other & lived that near when at home during the whole war & for many years after he knows he rendered all the services named in his statement as well as it was possible for him to know without being with him all the Time he knows of his departure to Stono & his return for his Lieutenant died soon after their return & said Pettigrew (then called Wigg Pettigrew) returned sick with the Camp fever. This affiant recollects said Pettigrew in the Battle of the Cowpens & he recollects him in the expedition against the Indians & in some other minor services – he well knows that he the said Pettigrew was a good faithful Whig he believes him to be about seventy-one years of age.

S/ Patrick Norris

¹ [Patrick Norris S15198](#)

Patrick Young

[Edmund Pace, a clergyman, and James Yeates gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The State of Alabama Greene County


Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County James Pettigrew, who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Services – but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below, For four years and one month I served as a private Soldier and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ H. L Kinnon, JP

S/ James Pettigrew

Sworn & subscribed before me this 20 seventh day of May A.D. 1833

[p 16: *On September 10, 1845, in Greene County Alabama, Jane Pettigrew a resident of said County and state, age 79 and 9 months made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of James Pettigrew, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him on November 3, 1785; that her husband died April 2, 1841; and that she remains a widow.*

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[p 71: *On September 15, 1845 in Greene County Alabama, William Harkness gave testimony that he was present at the marriage of James Pettigrew to Jane Pettigrew in Abbeville District South Carolina.*

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[p 73: *On August 19, 1848 in Noxubee County, Mississippi, Agnes Neil gave testimony that she was raised in Rowan County North Carolina where she continued to live until she was in her twenty second year when she moved with her husband Archibald Neil; that she married her husband in the month of October 1782; that she is the daughter of Robert Harkness late of Abbeville District South Carolina and the sister of Jane Pettigrew, widow of James Pettigrew; that she and her husband lived in Abbeville District South Carolina for 2 years then moved to Pendleton District South Carolina and lived about 5 miles from her sister Jane Pettigrew and her family; that affiant is now in her 86th year; that her sister Jane is about 3 and a half years younger than the affiant. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]*

[Note: In this Pension Application of James Pettigrew [son of John, and husband of Jane

Harkness Pettigrew] is the following deposition from his brother-in-law, William Harkness:

[p 9]

The State of Alabama - Greene County

Be it known that on this the 21st day of April 1848, William Harkness, a citizen of the county aforesaid, appeared personally before me Nathaniel F. Birchett, a justice of the peace for the said county, who being first duly sworn on his oath deposed as follows - viz:

"I was raised in the District of Abbeville in the state of South Carolina – I continued a citizen of that District until I reached my fifty-seventh year, when I moved to the - county of Greene in the state of Alabama

I am now in my seventy-eighth year - My sister, Jane Pettigrew, (widow of James Pettigrew, late of Greene County deceased, and at the time of his death a Revolutionary pensioner) is about four years older than myself, being now eighty-one or two - She was married to the said James Pettigrew to the best of my recollection between 1782 and 1785 -- I was present at the marriage of my said sister, Jane, to the said James. The marriage took place in the house of our father (Robert Harkness) then living in the said District of Abbeville, not quite a mile from a church then known by the name of Hopewell Church. A Presbyterian minister by the name of Robert Macklen, who was then the pastor of said church, solemnized the rites of marriage between the said Jane and James Pettigrew, and either John Tilly or Patrick Norris both of whom were present (and both long since deceased) acted as waiters or attendants on James Pettigrew at the said marriage. I was married to Anne Baskin in Abbeville District, South Carolina on the 20th of September 1792, and my oldest child by the said Anne (named Rosannah) was born September 17th 1793. My said sister, Jane, I distinctly remember, and know with as much certainty as I can know an fact, had then been some years married, and had John, and Robert, and one or two or perhaps three other children. And my said sister, Jane, was living in the married state with the said James Pettigrew previously to the first day of January 1794.

From the time of the marriage of my said sister, Jane, to the said James Pettigrew, in Abbeville District, South Carolina, I continued to live in the same neighborhood with them. I visited them frequently and was on terms of the greatest intimacy with them, until they moved from that District to Greene County in the state of Alabama, sometime about the year 1827. The said James Pettigrew and the said Jane continued to live uninterruptedly in the married state from the time of their marriage as hereinbefore mentioned, tip to the time of the death of the said James in the county of Greene, in the year (as well as I recollect) 1841."

(Signed) Wm. Harkness

[p 6: copy of the family record of the veteran's children:

John Pettigrew was born October 14th, 1786

Robert Pettigrew was born May 24th, 1788

Sarra Pettigrew was born November 29th, 1790

Rossanna Pettigrew was born April 3rd, 1793

Mary Harkness Pettigrew was born August 6th, 1794

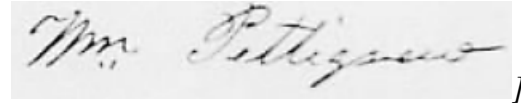
Agnes Pettigrew was born June 15th – 1798

James Harkness Pettigrew was born February 16th, 1800

William Pettigrew was born the 14th January 1809

On August 11, 1846 in Greene County Alabama, William Pettigrew gave testimony that he is the William Pettigrew referred to in the above record as having been born January 14th, 1809; that

he is the youngest child of his parents James and Jane Pettigrew; that his father died in April 1841; that he still lives with his mother Jane Pettigrew; that the above record is a true copy of the registry of his parents' children.²



Jane Pettigrew]

[p 64]

The State of Alabama – Greene County. –

Before me Simeon J Chapman, a justice of the Peace in and for said County, personally came, Jane Pettigrew, who after being duly sworn, deposed as follows – viz.: –

“I am the daughter of Robert Harkness deceased late of Abbeville District South Carolina. Soon after the American Revolution closed, my father moved with his family from Rowan County North Carolina to Abbeville District South Carolina. I was married to James Pettigrew deceased late a Revolutionary Pensioner – in Abbeville District South Carolina in the year 1785. Our first child – John Pettigrew, was born October 14th, 1786 – Robert (the second child) was born May 24th, 1788 – Sarah was born November 29th, 1790 – and Rossanna (our fourth child) was born April 3rd, 1793 – and the said James Pettigrew and myself were living together in the married state previous to the first day of January 1794 – and previously to that time we had had the 4 children named above. I continued to live with the said James Pettigrew deceased from the time of our marriage as aforesaid in 1785 – up to the time of his [death] in Greene County Alabama, which took place on the second day of April 1842. –

We continued to live together in Abbeville District South Carolina from the time of our marriage in 1785, until we moved to the State of Alabama in the year 1817 – during which time we had 5 other children besides before named above. – Our youngest child – William Pettigrew was born on the 14th day of January 1809. I am now in my eighty second year – and shall enter my eighty third on the 14th day of November next. James Pettigrew deceased was married to me, in the house of my father – Robert Harkness – near “Hopewell Church” in Abbeville District South Carolina. Robert Macklen a Presbyterian minister and pastor of “Hopewell Church” solemnized the rites, and Patrick Norris, and either John Tilly or John Varnum, now deceased, were the waiters, on the occasion of our marriage. Isabel Lindsay was one of the female attendants on said occasion who long since deceased.

Sometime in March 1841, my husband James Pettigrew deceased traveled from his residence in Greene County up to the town of Tuscaloosa (as I understood) to draw his pension – the fatigue of that travel brought on his last sickness of which he died as before stated, on the second day of April 1841.”

S/ Jane Pettigrew, X her mark

Attest:

S/ John W Womack

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

² Images of the original family record appear on p 31 of this file.