

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Pettit (Petit) W5528 Anna (Ann) Pettit f54SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves rev'd 7/20/09 & 6/9/15 & 11/11/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 12]

State of North Carolina, Rutherford County }

On this 24th day of October A. S. 1832, personally appeared in open court before Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Henry Petties [sic] a resident of the United States in the County of Rutherford and State of North Carolina aged 69 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 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

To the best of my Recollection in the Year 1776 my Father was then living in South Carolina 96—now Spartanburg District on Lawson's fork of Pacolet [River] we was called on to build a fort known as Wofford's fort. I then volunteered myself in the place of my Father who was at Work on the fort. Col. William Wofford Commanded the fort. I was under the command of Capt. James Wood. This service began about the 1st of June and lasted to the 1st of November. About that time the families generally went home. This Service was principally in endeavoring to keep the Tories & Indians from embodying. We had many a chase after them. My next service was when Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] & Dunlap [James Dunlap] marched their Army through South Carolina into North Carolina. On their passage they was met by the Americans at Brown Old [?] fields.¹ There were several killed. I was sent from that place with an express to Col. McDowell [Charles McDowell] to Reinforce us. We pursued them after being reinforced to Musgrove's Mill on the Inoree [sic, Enoree] River where we overtook them and defeated them [August 19, 1780],² In this service I was under Capt. James Smith, Col. John Thomas [John Thomas, Jr.]³ Commanded us. All returned home. I was then placed under Capt. Henry Whitaker [?]. We scouted through the upper parts of S. Carolina to the borders of North Carolina. We took a good many Tory prisoners. On our arrival in the neighborhood we were ordered on to meet the main Army at Shiers [sic, Shirers or Scheurer's ?] Ferry under Genl. Sumter [Thomas Sumter]. When we came to that place they were in sight of us, that is the British & Tories. There was

¹ I think the veteran may be referring to the action at Brown's Creek on August 12, 1780.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_browns_creek.html

² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_musgroves_mill.html JD Lewis states the action at Musgrove's Mill occurred on August 18, but a close examination of the statements of the men who fought there have led me to conclude the action occurred on the morning of August 19.

³ There is no indication that Col. John Thomas, Jr. was at the battle of Musgrove's mill. It is much more likely that this veteran was under the command of Colonel James Williams at the engagement.

some firing across the River. From that post we were ordered to Blackstock's [Plantation] where we had a severe battle [November 20, 1780].⁴ Genl. Sumter was wounded at that place. The volunteer part of the Army pursued after them under Col. Lacey [Edward Lacey] to the mouth of Tyger River where we overtook a party and had an engagement. We went on down the river some distance and crossed to the east side. In passing up the country we took a good many prisoners. We came on to the Main Army and gave the prisoners up to them. I was then under Capt. Trammell [Dennis Trammell] and Dickson [possibly Jeremiah Dickson]. We were ordered on then to join General Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. We joined him at the Grindal Shoals on Pacolet. We scouted on and met him again at Thicketty. We then kept with the Army until after the Battle of Cowpens [January 17, 1781].⁵ In that Battle I was wounded in my thigh which injured me very much at the time. As soon as I was able I then enlisted in the Ten Month Service under Capt. William Smith, first under Col. Thomas then under the command of Col. Middleton [Charles Myddleton]. We were marched to the Country below Columbia; kept in continual movements from one point to another from Savannah to the Congaree and near to Charleston. We had many scrimmages with the Spies & foraging parties. Sometimes they had the better of us and sometimes we paid them back in their own houses. We joined the main Army some few days before the Battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781].⁶ I was placed as one of the Guard of the Baggage Wagons on that day. If I could have had a horse, I would have been in the battle in preference of my situation. After the Battle, we were ordered up the Country [&] turned to Orangeburg. We had a scrimmage near Orangeburg with some of the Rangers. We had to give the Ground to them. We met another party above Orangeburg where we had an engagement. They fled to the Swamp. We pursued them. They escaped to Charleston. About that time, the British began to leave their up Country posts and take to their stronghold in Charleston. We followed on after them occasionally annoying them to the Four Holes where we made a stand for a few weeks to search the Swamps between the Four Holes & Cypress. From there we were at the Round O then on to near Bacon's Bridge. From there to head Quarters. On the Congaree (before we went to Orangeburg we heard of the capitulation of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]) and our time that we enlisted for was expired and we returned home. In fact, for me to undertake to give in detail my service during the Revolutionary War is not in my power but one thing I do well know that from sometime of the Summer 1776—to the end of the War I was engaged in the defense of my Country. I then lived in the hottest part of the Tory Country on the Indian Boundary and a great place for the British to assemble. We that belonged to the Liberty party were compelled to be in readiness at all times. We were hunted after as for the Doe in the Woods. I am Wounded. I am Old. I am Infirm and in want of something to sustain me for the services I rendered my Country in the Revolutionary War. As for any discharge, if I ever had any I have no Recollection what I have done with them.

I hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State whatever.

Questions by the Court: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: From the records of my father, I was born in the State of New Jersey on the Schuylkill [River] in the year 1763.

Question: Have you any record of your age, if so where is it?

Answer: I have no record of my age only as handed down from my parents.

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html

⁵ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

⁶ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

Question: Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: I was living in the state of South Carolina in what was then called 96 District now Spartanburg since the Revolutionary War about 18 years past I moved to Rutherford County N. Carolina where I have lived since.

Question: How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer: In 1776 I was a volunteer in the place of my Father. I then became a volunteer to do duty when called on was in Continental service until I was wounded at the Cowpens; as soon as I was able I enlisted in the 10 Month's Service where I continued til the end of the war. I have not the dates to give. I have nothing but my memory

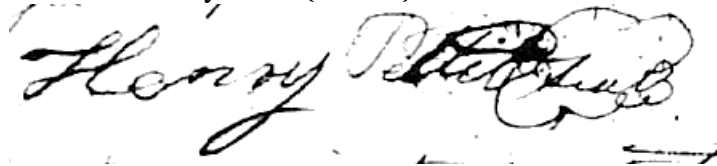
[Question:] State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served & such continental and Militia Officers as you can Recollect.[Answer:] Col. Wm. Wofford, Col. McDowell, Col. Thomas, Genl. Sumter. Col. Lacey, Genl. Morgan, Col. Middleton, General Greene. I served under all those officers.

[Question:] State the names of some persons in your present neighborhood who can testify as for your character for veracity and good behavior; your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

[Answer:] John Padgett & William S. Price.

Sworn to and Subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Pettit {SEAL}

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Pettit". The signature is written in dark ink and is somewhat stylized, with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Witness: T. F. Birchett, Clerk

[John Padgett, a clergyman, and W. L. Price gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 47]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County} Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Henry Pettit and after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his Recollection not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grades:

1776 I was a Volunteer and served under Capt. James Wood 5 months

1777[last digit obliterated]. I was a Volunteer under Capt. James Smith- 8 months

80 in the Service I was wounded at the Cowpens

1780 I enlisted under Captain William Smith for 10 months
23 months

Twenty three months I served as a private as above stated and for which service I claim a pension sworn to and subscribed before me this night day of July 1833

S/ Martin Beam, JP

S/ Henry Pettit

[p 49]

State of South Carolina Spartanburg District: Personally came Anthony Crocker⁷ before me & after being duly sworn, saith on his oath, that he was in the battle at the Cowpens in said District in time of the Revolutionary Struggle, & that he stood by the side of Henry Pettit, when the said Pettit received a wound in the thigh, this deponent further states that Pettit was said to be a Soldier in the State Troops, & this deponent believes he was so for he saw him serving duty as such under the command of Capt. William Smith in the ten months Service. Sworn & subscribed before me this 17th June 1833

PS this deponent further states that said Pettit was an associate of his for some length of time & that he saw him in the service before the ten months service above stated.

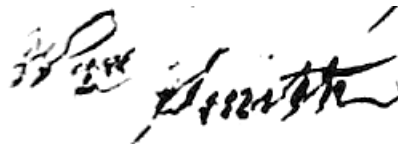
S/ Anthony Crocker, X his mark

State of South Carolina Spartanburg District } Personally came before me Major William Smith⁸ of the State and district aforesaid and made oath that Henry Pettit of the State Troops of South Carolina served faithfully in the company commanded by him the said Smith of which he was a Captain for the term of ten months --

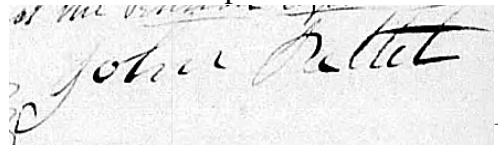
Sworn and subscribed to before made this 10th June 1833.

S/ R. C. Poole, JP

S/ Wm Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Smith".

[p 6: On June 13, 1846 in Gilmer County Georgia, John Pettit filed an application in which he stated that he is the son of Henry Pettit a pensioner under the 1832 act; that his father drew his pension in Raleigh North Carolina until he died on October 12, 1838 in Rutherford County North Carolina; that his father died leaving a widow, Ann (or Anne) Pettit, the mother of this deponent; that Henry Pettit married Ann Pool in Spartanburg district South Carolina on February 7, 1783; that they lived together as man and wife until his death; that they had 10 children born to them in lawful wedlock the oldest being William Pettit born April 21st 1784 (now dead); Sarah Pettit (now Toney) was born November 27th 1786, Henry Pettit was born January 25th 1790; Mary Ann Pettit (now Pool) was born May the 19th 1792; Rebecca Pettit (now Stout) was born October 22nd 1794; Elizabeth Pettit (now Moony) was born June first 1797; Hannah had it (now McDaniel) was born December 27th 1799; Anne Pettit was born February 5th 1803 (now dead); John Pettit (this deponent) was born February 13th 1805; Suzanna Pettit (now Walker) was born March 10th 1807 -- That date of the above are living or was the last heard from; that his mother died September 6, 1845, in the home of this deponent in Gilmer County Georgia; that he has in his possession a family Bible showing that his father was born January 22nd 1763 in his mother Ann was born February 1763. John Pettit filed this application saying that his father never received the full pension due him during his lifetime and he applies for the balance due.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Pettit".

⁷ [Anthony Crocker S9267](#)

⁸ [William Smith W22272](#)

[p 9: On June 13, 1846 in Gilmer County Georgia, Henry Pettit gave testimony in support of his brothers application in which the affiant states he too is a son of Henry and Ann Pettit; that his mother remained a widow until her death September 6, 1845 in Gilmer County Georgia and that the facts set forth in his brother's application are true.



[pp 10-11 & 27-28: Contain images of what appears to be the family record of Henry and Ann Pettit but the quality of the image is so poor as not to warrant inclusion in this transcript.]

[p 46: SC Comptroller General's certificate dated September 7, 1846, showing payments made to Henry Pettit 'late private in Smith's troop Thomas' Regt. Sumter's brigade State Troops'; payments to Henry Pettit for 'duty in Roebuck's Regt.'; payments made 'for militia duty in Roebuck's Regt, since the fall of Charleston pr Anderson's Return.' See below for full transcription of these claims.]

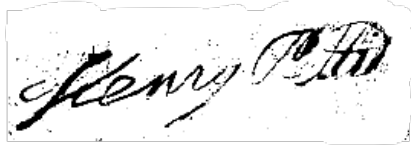
[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁹ relating to Henry Pettit [Pettet; Petit] pp11
Audited Account No. 5900
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 11/11/22

[p 2]
[No. 3670]
[Book] X 15 September 1786
Henry Pettet [sic] for Militia duty, since the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] in Roebuck's [Benjamin Roebuck's] Regiment per Anderson's [Col. Robert Anderson's] Return [not extant] –
Old South Carolina] Currency £93
Stg. [Sterling] £13.5.8 ½
Ex^d. J. M^c. A. G. [Examined by] John McCall, Adjutant General]


To the Commissioners of the Treasury
Gent.ⁿ Please to deliver to William Poole the Indents due me from the State of S. Carolina &
You'l Oblige Y^r &c
S/ Henry Pettit

⁹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.



Test S/ H. White, JP
Jan^y 13th 1787

Received full Satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 3670, X, per Order
S/ William Poole



[p 3]

State of So. Carolina To Henry Pettit
for Militia Duty in Roebuck's Regiment since the fall of Charlestown
per Anderson's Return amounting to Currency

£93
Stg. £13.5.8 ½

[p 4: Printed form of Indent No. 3670 Book X]

[p 5: Reverse of the above Indent bearing, among others, the following endorsement:

Received the 23rd May 1787 from the Commissioners of the Treasury the sum of Five Pounds
14/9 in part of the within Indent by Discount in the purchase of 246 Acres of Land for Henry
Pettit – at the same time Received two years' Interest due 1 April 1785

£5.14.9 Land

£0.18.7

0.17.6} Intt,

S/ William Poole

[Note: There are other endorsements on the reverse of this Indent but none by the veteran, his
having assigned his interest in the Indent to William Poole.]

[Note: Someone by the name of Henry Pettit was awarded an indent for provisions provided for
militia use in 1780 and 1782. The signature of that individual appears as follows:



[p 9]

To the Commissioners appointed to pay the State Troops under the Command of General
Thomas Sumter

Please to send me by Capt. William Smith my wages Due to me for my ten month service in said
bregard [brigade] In the Company Commanded by said Capt. Wm Smith and your Compliance
herein will much oblige your Humble Servt.

S/ Henry Pettit

8th December 1785

To the Commissioners appointed to pay of the State
Troops under the Command of General Thomas Sumter
Please to send me by Capt. William Smith my wages
Due me for my ten month service in said brigade
In the Company Commanded by said Capt. W. Smith
and your Compliance herein will much oblige your
Humble Servant
Henry Pettit
8th December 1785

[p 10: Printed form of Indent No. 2037 Book X dated June 22, 1787 "delivered to Mr. Henry Petit [sic] this our Indented Certificate, for the Sum of five pounds three Shillings and four pence Sterling for Arrears [of] Cloathing due him for Service in Capt. Smith's Company, Col. Thomas Regiment Sumter's Brigade State Troops per Certificate from the Commissioners for adjusting the Claims against that Brigade &c."]

[p 11: Reverse of the above Indent bearing endorsements by Thomas Sumter, Thomas Sumter, Junior, and George James. How these men acquired an interest in the Indent is not disclosed by the documents in this file, but both General Thomas Sumter and his son Thomas Sumter Junior were known speculators in claims issued by the Auditor's Office.]