

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Pearce W5529

Margaret Pearce f92NC  
rev'd 8/16/09 & 11/7/17

Transcribed by Will Graves

[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' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5]

State of Tennessee, Washington County: September Term 1832

On this 12th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Samuel Powel, Judge of the Circuit Court of Law and Execution for said county now sitting James Pearce, formerly a citizen of Washington County, Tennessee, now a resident of Sevier County in the state aforesaid, aged Eighty four years, who being sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of this act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832, to wit: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officer and served as herein stated; That in the year of 1779 he was a resident of Washington County, now Tennessee, then in the State of North Carolina, which county was then a frontier and bordered on a Nation of Cherokee Indians who were in league with the British in the War of the Revolution and were at that time and before and after committing murders and depredations on the said frontier in which he resided.

That in the summer of 1779 he raised a company of volunteers in said county of Washington (now Greene) by order of Colonel John Sevier and marched his said company to the French Broad River, then the Indian territory, now Cocke & Sevier Counties Tennessee, after said Indians in Company with Capt. Jacob Brown who also commanded a Volunteer Company from Washington county, now Tennessee. There being no officers of higher grade in Company with us during said tour other than captain which grade this declarant occupied, he states the object of said tour was to prevent the Indians from engaging with and getting into the frontier settlements. He states that he was out nineteen days after said Indians [during] said tour and commanded said company as Captain.

He states that in the spring of 1780 he again raised a volunteer company in the said county of <sup>Washington (now</sup> Green) and marched to Beaver dam on Lick Creek where the Indians had come in on the frontier settlements and killed one man and assisted in fortifying and guarding the frontier for the Term of two weeks when he returned home.

He states that early in the fall of 1780, he with his company, volunteered under Colonel Sevier, then of Washington County North Carolina, now Tennessee. This declarant being a resident of Washington (now Greene) County Tennessee and marched to what is now Overton County Tennessee to gap Creek where Colonel Campbell's [William Campbell] Regiment joined Colonel Sevier, Campbell's Regiment being from the western part of Virginia. We were joined by Colonel Shelby's [Isaac Shelby's] Regiment from Sullivan County, now Tennessee; was marched on to Kings Mountain across the Yellow Mountains by way of Burke. He states that they were joined by the Southern Troops under the command of Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] but at what particular place he does not recollect. He states that there was a hard

battle fought on Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780], which battle he was in and commanded his said company under Colonel Sevier. In which battle the American army was successful. The British Colonel [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson] was killed and his army principally killed and taken prisoners. He states he marched his company home and discharged them in now Greene County, now Tennessee (verbally) after having served in full three months Tour.

He states that immediately after his returning home to Green County, he received orders from Colonel Sevier to march with his company to guard the frontier neighborhood on the Lick [or Luck] Creek flats against the Cherokee Indians and prevent Indian spies from getting into the white settlement, where he remained with his company serving as aforesaid & awaiting the march of Colonel Sevier whom he was to join & before whose arrival had remained the ten days. He marched his company and joined Colonel Sevier's regiment on Long Creek now in Jefferson County, Tennessee, in accordance with the order of the said Colonel Sevier. From thence, [we] marched over the French Broad River, encamped on Boyd's Creek; marched about ten miles on the following morning; was attacked by the Indians; had a battle<sup>1</sup> in which the Indians were defeated with the capture of eleven of their men (none of the whites were killed). Found parole or protection papers with the Indians and British Protection papers, also British Colors; from thence the Regiment returned to an island in the French Broad River and encamped there some days waiting for Colonel Campbell's Regiment from Western Virginia. After the arrival of Colonel Campbell, [we] were then marched on to the Indian towns which they burned and destroyed; had several skirmishes; killed some Indians and took some prisoners and returned home where he discharged his men (verbally) after having served the full term of three months in said campaign.

That in the several tours before stated he served seven months and some days, and commanded as a Captain during the whole time, being elected by the company in which he resided their Captain & recognized by Colonel Sevier. The distance from the seat of Government being very great & the chain of mountains & unsettled country intervening furnishing such obstacles, the officers of the militia elected in that frontier received no regular commissions at the time but acted upon the authority of the election in the companies and recognition of the superior officers, and he received his commission on his march to Kings Mountain in North Carolina [sic, South Carolina].

That he resided, as stated, in Green County, then Washington, & there resided for many years; has recently removed to Sevier & there resides at this time, but is now residing amongst those who knew nothing of his Revolutionary Services, which he assages [?] as the reason for applying to the Court of Washington County, that being the theater of his services in part & the place where his companions then resided; what is lost by death, of proof of actual servitude, is in some measure handed by tradition down to the present generation, & the report & belief of this declarant having been a revolutionary Soldier is here abundant. That he has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person by whom he can establish his services from testimony as to the performance save that hereto annexed, nor is there a minister of the Gospel in his vicinity or elsewhere to his knowledge who can make the certificate contained in the instructions of the War Department.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this the 12th September 1832

S/ James Pearce

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<sup>1</sup> Battle of Boyd's Creek (Tennessee) December 16, 1780 <http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/boydscreek.html>

*James Pearce*

Test:

S/ James V. Anderson, Clerk

[Charles Robison & Jacob Brown gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10]

James Sevier<sup>2</sup> a Citizen of Washington County appeared before me Levi Bowers an acting Justice of the peace for the said County of Washington and made oath that he knew the declarant James Pearce before his services set forth and knew of him having served in the expeditions of Kings Mountain and that immediately following against the Cherokee Indians in 1780, and was with him on said expeditions in which he commanded as a Captain.

Sworn to & subscribed before me date above

S/ Levi Bowers, JP

S/ Jas Sevier

*Jas Sevier*

[p 12: family record]

James Pearce was Born March the 24,  
1748  
Margaret Pearce was Born february the 4,  
1755

The father and mother of the  
under names

George Pearce Born marck the 10 1772  
Elizabeth Pearce was Bron in June the  
17 1774  
John Pearce was Born in may the 15  
1776  
Mary Pearce was Born in aprile the 20  
1778  
Sarah Pearce was Born in august the 30  
1780  
Rebecha Pearce was Born in march the  
2, 1783  
Margret Pearce was Born in aprile the  
19 1785  
Solomon Pearce was Born in februey  
the 14 1787  
James Pearce was Born in may the 14  
1789  
Orpah Pearce was Born in Septemb the  
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Jeremiah Pearce was Born in December

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Sarah Pearce was Born in august the 30 - 1780  
Rebecha Pearce was Born in march the 2 - 1783  
Margret Pearce was Born in aprile the 19 - 1785  
Solomon Pearce was Born in februey the 14 - 1787  
James Pearce was Born in may the 14 - 1789  
Orpah Pearce was Born in Septemb the 20 - 1791  
Jeremiah Pearce was Born in December the 26 - 1793  
Thomas Pearce was Born in march the 2 - 1796  
Charlotte Pearce was Born in aprile the 10 - 1800*

<sup>2</sup> [James Sevier S45889](#)

the 26 1793 Thomas Pearce was Born in march the 2 1796 Charlotte Pearce was Born in aprile the 10 1800	
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[p 28]

State of North Carolina Buncombe County} SS

Be it known that on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1846, before me John A. Fagg, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, personally appeared John Waddle,<sup>3</sup> a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Eighty One years and Nine months, who after being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement relative to Captain James Pearce late an officer during the War of the Revolution and his wife Margaret viz.: – According to information derived from my father & mother I was born in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 1764. Consequently, I was Eighty One years of age in November 1845. My father removed to the Territory of North Carolina, West of the Blue Ridge in the year 1775 – and settled on Nolichucky River in what was afterwards called the District of Washington, now Washington County Tennessee at which time I was about Eleven years of age. I afterwards became acquainted with James Pearce, who was afterwards called Captain Pearce and his wife Peggy or Margaret. I lived on Nolichucky River, three miles from Pearce's. Pearce had a mill on Limestone Creek where he resided. I often went to the mill to get my corn ground, and I thus became acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Pearce. I entered the service of my country as a mounted Ranger, under Captain Thomas Price in June 1777 in Washington County, North Carolina and served until January 1778. These dates I am certain all correct. The year after this service ended viz. in 1779, the said James Pearce built his mill on Limestone. In this year I became acquainted with the said James Pearce and his wife Peggy or Margaret. I still knew them at the same place in 1780 and 81. Pearce then sold his mill place to Colonel John Sevier, afterwards Governor of Tennessee, who was my father-in-law – and removed to the mouth of Richmond Creek on Nolichucky. I was at Pearce's house in Greene County Tennessee in the year 1810 and him and his wife the said Margaret were still living together. I can therefore say with certainty that I knew the said James Pearce and his wife Margaret to lived together as husband and wife on Limestone in the year 1779, 80 and 81 in Washington County or District of Washington of North Carolina at which time they had 2 or 3 children, and from the size of the oldest child, I believe they must have been married some 6 or 7 years previous. Also knew Mrs. Pearce's father old Jeremiah Dungan and her mother, at the same time I became acquainted with Pearce and his wife – they all lived in the same County at that time viz. in 1779 & 1780. The James Pearce I have mentioned is the same Captain James Pearce who drew a Pension on account of his military service in the war of the Revolution.

S/ John Waddill



[p 13: On April 5, 1847 in Washington County Tennessee, Thomas Gibson, 58, filed a claim for the pension due Margaret Pearce at her death under the 1836 act; he states that he is the son in

<sup>3</sup> [John Waddill R10977](#) Waddill gave another a affidavit (see pp 60-61) giving hearsay evidence of Capt. Pearce's service.

law of Captain James Pearce and his wife Margaret having intermarried with their daughter Sarah and that he is the administrator of the estate of Margaret; he states that Captain Pearce was a pensioner at the rate of \$140 per annum for his services in the revolution; that James Pearce married Margaret Dungan in Frederick County Maryland prior to the revolutionary war; that James and Margaret were both residents of Berkeley County Virginia at the time of their marriage but owing to the laws of the state prohibiting the issuance of marriage license to minors, and the said Margaret being under age they crossed the Potomac River and were married in Frederick County State of Maryland; that Captain James Pearce formerly resided in Washington County, afterwards in Greene County and lastly in Sevier County, all in Tennessee; that Captain Pearce died in Sevier County April 1, 1833; that Margaret Pearce, Captain Pearce his widow, survived him and died at affiant's residence in Washington County on February 20, 1837, leaving Sarah now Sarah Gibson, a resident of Washington County Tennessee; Rebecca now Rebecca Collins and James Pearce Junior both of Rhea County Tennessee only surviving children and heirs at law of the said Captain James and Margaret Pearce; affiant also states that his information is that George, John, Mary and Solomon Pearce are all dead and that the remaining children removed westward many years ago and have not been heard from for many years.

*Thomas Gibson*

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[p 21: On February 9, 1847 in Greene County Tennessee, James Pearce, 57, a resident of Rhea County Tennessee gave testimony that he is the son of Captain James Pearce and his wife Margaret Pearce; he attests to the validity of the family record set forth above; he states that the record was made from the original by his nephew James Pearce in 1818 in Sevier County Tennessee.

*James Pearce*

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[facts in file: Margaret (Peggy p 28) Dungan was the daughter of Jeremiah Dungan; Vincent Boreing administered the estate of Thomas Gibson in Washington County Tennessee, said Thomas being dead as of June 5, 1854]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$140.45 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a Captain for 7 months and 3 days in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]