Pension Application of James Pittman S7317

GA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 Sep 2015.

[Text follows in the body of the page, detailing the pension application and service history of James Pittman.]
Answer to first Inter.  he was born in Amelia County Virginia March 4th 1756
Answer to Second Inter.  he has a record of his age at his own house
Answer to third Inter.  he was living in the bounds of Columbia County Georgia when called into
Service and remained there until he went to Virginia as a refugee where he
remained until after peace he then removed to Columbia County Georgia.
  thence to Wilkes County  thence to Franklin County which is now included in
Madison County Geo. where he now resides
Answer to fourth  he Volunteered
Answer to fifth  he has related in his declaration all he recollects on that Subject [names of
Regular officers, regiments, general circumstances of his service]
Answer to Sixth  he received a Commission from Governor Houston which he has lost – and
never received a discharge
Answer to Seventh  he refers you to John Meroney – John Williams – James Anderson – Hinchen
  Strickland, James Long &c.
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that
his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State
Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Executive Department Ga/ Milledgeville  22d June 1833
Sir [Col. John G. Pitman]

On the reception of yours of the 19th inst. I have diligently searched the records of this
Department, and have not been able to succeed in finding any record of the commissioning of your
Father, James Pitman, as Lieutenant, about the commencement, or during the continuance of the
Revolutionary war. This however is no evidence against his having been commissioned as he states, for it
is well known, that our records embracing the events of those times, chiefly fell into hands of the Enemy,
and have never been regained. Our records are very defective indeed in every thing relating to
Revolutionary times – which I fear will cause many (of the few) remaining heroes of our revolution, who
resided in George during the perils of that war to fail in establishing their just claims against the
Government. Old Mr. Fort, the Father of Dr. Fort, is still living, and has the most perfect recollection of
the gallant and active services of your Father, during the Revolutionary War.

I am Sir, with great respect, yr. obt Serv’t. [signed] Wilson Lumpkin [Governor]

Georgia  }  I Samuel Cartledge of Edgefield South Carolina aged Eighty four years was
Jackson County } well acquainted with James Pittman in the County of Columbia Georgia from
  the commencement of the Revolutionary War untill he went of as a Refugee (I
think he went away) in the year 1779 or 1780 he was an active Whig and a subaltern officer in Capt
Greers Company George Malitia was Frequently in the service of the Country against the Indians Torys
and British  I think he Vollenteered I at that time Resided in an Ajoing District
Sworn to and subscribed this 17th of April 1834
John G Pittman J.I.C.

Georgia  }  I Michael Smalley of the County of Columbia Georgia aged Seventy nine years
Jackson County } was well acquainted with James Pittman in the County of Columbia Georgia
before and in time of the Revolutionary War untill he went of as a Refugee as well as I Recollect he went
away in the year 1779 or 1780 or 1781  he was said to be a very active Whig  was a Lieut. in Capt Greers
Company Ga. Ma [militia]  I know he was generally in the service of the Country untill he went away  I
think he was in the Floridy Expedition and at the Battle at Burk Goal and some times out guarding the
fronterro and building Forts and Frequently in Scouting Parties against the Tories and british
Sworn to & subscribed 17th of April 1834
John G Pittman J.I.C

State of Georgia } Amended Declaration of James Pittman
Madison County }
personally appeared James Pittman in Open Court at an adjourned term of the Inferior Court of said
County Sitting as a Court of Ordinary this third day of June in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and
thirty four who after being duly Sworn on Oath saith by way of explanation of the original annexed
Declaration that the first term of service as therein stated through Mistake was stated to be under Capt.
Grier – when it should have been under Capt. Germany and in the year 1776 and was a tour of two
months as a private Altho stated in said declaration as being about two months which he prays may be so
corrected – the next being a tour of Four Months as Lieut. in Capt. Griers Company – in 1778 the next a
term of Service of five Months as Lieut. in Capt. Griers Company in [interlined: “1777 or”] 1778 – the
next was a tour of duty of Six Months as Lieutenant in Capt. Griers Company in the latter part of the year
1778 and first of the year 1779 – the next a tour of duty of two Months as Lieut. aforesaid in Capt. Grier’
Company in 1779 – the next was a tour of duty of two days as a private in 1779 – the next a tour of duty
of Four Months under Capt. Sinkfield in 1779 – as a private – the next under Capt. Sinkfield was a tour
of two Months as a private – the year not recollected – the next under Maj. Waller a tour of two weeks
was in 1781. Making all his services as private eight Months & Seventeen days and as Lieutenant One
year and five Months for which services he Claims a pension – he has since making the original
decleration Obtained and annexed the Affadavits of Samuel Cartledge [R1790]and Michael Smalley and
the letter of his Excellency Wilson Lumpkin Governor of Georgia which he prays may be taken as a part
of the Amended Decleration – Old Mr. Frost Departed this life last year which will account for not
procuring his Affadavit – and further this deponent Deposeth 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 service – but
according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the
following grades to wit One year and five Months as Lieutenant and Eight Months and Seventeen days as
private and for such services I Claim a pension
Sworn to in Open Court this 3d day of June 1834

Monroe  Walton County Ga/ June 16th 1845
Dear Sir [James L. Edwards, Pension commissioner]
I dislike to address you in matters of so little importance with so little hopes of success. But
being so often and strenuously urged by the claimant and his friends I wish to throw it off myself and
leave the reply with you I am requested to enclose you your last requisitions with the following remarks.
That they have searched the records at Millidgeville [sic:] and find them destitute of any services
rendered by the militia and find the Commissions of no militia officers on record. That when he was in
services as Lieutenant he was insulted by the Barbarity of his Capt on the soldiers and resigned his
command, and tore his Commission up through [page torn]empt and joined in the service again as
private That about the time of his leaving service he left as a reffugee and went to the State of Virginia
to his relatives where he remained for [illegible] years and on returning has never seen but one man that
was in the same service with [interlines: “Marbury in the state of georgia”] him and he has been dead this
20 years He has formerly been able to support himself But recently has misfortunes and is now wholly
strict of the means to support himself and asks if any part of his claim can be allowed by relinquishing
the remainder. very respectfully your &c/ John H Kilgore
Georgia  
Madison County  

Court of ordinary adjourned Term 17th of July 1849

Personally appeared in open Court Before Noah W. Pittman Richard H. Bullock Willis Strickland Justices of the Inferior Court in and for said County of Madison and now sitting as a Court of Ordinary, James Pittman a Resident Citizen of Captain Stricklands District Company Ga. Militia, in the said State and County first above written aged ninety three years who after being Duly Sworn in Terms of the Law Doth on oath make the following amended Declaration (as answered from the Pension office the Thirteenth Day of June 1834) It appears that he has claimed in four Several Tours of Duty Ending in Seventy Seven. Seventeen months as a Lieutenant whereas it was intended to be as follows from an examination of his original Declaration which is now present as first drawn up in his own house that he claimed first as a Volunteer in Captain Garmanys Company two months service as a Private this was in the year 1776 said Company being marched to Col. Marbarys Regiment & marched to Ninety-Six in South Carolina, his next Tour of Duty in building Forts & Guarding the frontiers of Georgia against the depredations of the Indians four months as a Lieut. in Captain Greers Company the Captain not present & to the best of deponants recollection by order of Col. Few this tour ended in 1778 again a Tour of five months as a Lieut. in Capt. Greers Company under Col. Clark & Maj. Gardner the whole under the command of Commander in Chief Governor Houston of the State of Georgia in & expedition into the Floridas with the intent of reducing Augustine which attempt failed this service as well as recollected was also in the year 1778 and upon his return from Florida he served another Tour of Duty as Lieut. under Major Gardner Capt. Greer not present this service was for the purpose of guarding & protecting the frontiers was then in service six months this Tour as well as recollected was in the latter part of the year 1778 & commence 1779 again a tour of two months as Lieut. under the command of Col. Few Captain Greer not present they marched to Burk County Georgia there met a part of the British army on their march from Savanah to Augusta an engagement ensued & Col. Few retreated to Augusta sending his baggage across the River into South Carolina Col. Few & the greater part of the Troops returned to their homes in Georgia this service was performed in the year 1779 and immediately upon his return home deponent crossed the Savanah River into South Carolina a number of refugees were then & there collected Col. Marbery with a Troop of horse intending to attack a party of the British deponent joined him as a Private recrossing the River into Georgia attacked a Captain Weakley a British officer with Twenty two Privates who immediately surrendered as Prisoners of War this was a tour of two days only & also in the year 1779 he then joined Captain Sinkfield as a Private in the State of South Carolina & was attached to the command of General Williamson in Camp near Augusta but in the State of South Carolina (viz) on the north side of the Savanah River this was a tour of four months duty in the year 1779 the Tories yet being troublesome in South Carolina Captain Sinkfield was ordered to raise a Vollenenteer Company to annoy them on their passage to & from the British army Deponent volleneter in said Company & served a tour of two months as a Private & was released from the said Company when Charleston fell into the possession of the British the Captain thinking his force insufficient to effect any thing Deponent then returned to Georgia & immediately started as a refugee to Virginia considering South Carolina & Georgia entirely in the possession of the British he then entered as a Vollenenteer under Majors Waller & Hearn to guard the Prisoners taken at the Battle of the Cowpens in the year 1781 this was a tour of fifteen days as a Private he was a resident citizen of Columbia County in the State of Georgia & never received a written Discharge & has lost or mislaid his Commission & has served as before stated he has no documentary evidence that he knows of & no other evidence that he now knows of that can testify to his services more fully than what is herewith annexed & stated by him together with the testimonies & certificates annexed to or enabled in a former Declaration made by the Deponent & forwarded to the Pension office in the year 1834 by reason of old age & 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 periods in the following grades one year and five months as a Lieutenant Commandant & eight months & seventeen days as a Private In Answer to the Interogatories Presented by the War Department & Propounded by the Court he answers as follows (to witt) [Answers are virtually identical to those in the first declaration except to the seventh interrogatory he referred to]
“Wilson Lumpkin James Long & others.”

James hisXmark Pittman

State of Georgia } Before me John Stewart a Justice of the peace in & for said County personally
Heard County } appeared John Dukes who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that he was
personally acquainted with James Pittman of Madison County in time of the revolutionary war & knew
him to be an active Whig of 76, & that he volunteer[red] in company with him & voted for him when he
was almost unanimously Elected by said company, as a Lieutenant, he saw his commission from
Governor Houston & heard it read before the company which was as well as recollected in the beginning
of the year 1778, & when the company was ordered into service Capt Grier was confined to his bed &
unable to go & Lieutenant Jas. Pittman took the command & led the company into service & remained
about six months, about 2 months after entering the service deponent got badly crippled in building a fort
which unfortunately rendered him unfit for service during the War, and he was sent back home in a hack,
he knows of Lieut Jas Pittmans being called into service as commander of his company in several other
tours of duty but the precise length of each tour deponent can’t recollect, But believes he served precisely
as he claims in his declaration and about the last of the year 1780 or in the Beginning of 1781 he left as a
refugee going to Virginia and deponent saw no more of him until after peace was made.

John hisXmark Dukes

Sworn to and subscribed this 25th of October 1849 before me John Stewart JP

NOTES:

On 10 April 1850 Pittman was issued a certificate for a pension of $80 per year for two years
service as a Private.

A document by three Justices, including Noah W. Pittman, dated 6 Jan 1852, states that James
Pittman died 25 Dec 1850, leaving the following children and heirs: John G. Pittman; Noah W. Pittman
(Administrator); Timothy Pittman; Wilson Strickland and wife Teresa Strickland; Abner Wells and wife
Martha Wells; Benjamin W. Cash and wife America Cash; Sampson Lay and wife Sarah Ann Lay; Henry
Harris and wife Lucinda Harris; the children of Pleasant O. Pittman, deceased; the children of Sir James
Pittman, deceased; the children of Nancy Smith, deceased wife of Silas Smith; Elizabeth Barnett, widow
of Samuel Barnett.