

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Ayres: R334

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of South Carolina } SS.

District of Pickens } On this sixth day of October 1834 Personally appeared before the Honorable A. P. Butler Esquire one of the associate Judges of the said State in open Court at Pickens Court House James Ayres resident in the District and State aforesaid aged seventy three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That when he was Twelve years of age as well as he recollects his Father Enlisted him in what was called the Minute Service, called to Guard the frontier of Georgia, his Enlistment was as he believes for 18 months he served out his Tour Eighteen months under Capt. William Ayres - Col. John Stewart and was discharged by them. He is certain that he did serve at this time not less than eighteen months and was employed most of the time on the frontier of Georgia & South Carolina against the Indians and was discharged in Augusta Ga. in the year 1775 as well as he recollects.

Soon after his return home to Kershaw he turned out Volunteer under Capt. William Nettles under Col. John Marshall was marched towards Savannah in the lower part of South Carolina and was discharged at Granby at the end of his Tour he is positive he served at this time not less than Two months - Afterwards in the year 1778 he went from Kershaw County S.C. where he then lived into Henry County Virginia where he had moved from and on Smith River [in] said County He Enlisted with James Kelly and was taken to Brunswick C. H. N.C. there the recruits were formed into Companies. He was under Capt. James Dunkins of the 4th Virginia (he believes) Regiment commanded by William Drennon from there went to Head quarters at Hico [Hico River in NC] where we joined the main army under the command of General Nathaniel Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] marched to Petersburg and to Norfolk or near it the British had possession of the Town & after remaining some time there the army left Norfolk and was divided - and he went with General Green to the South, was with Gen'l. Green and under Col. Drennon at the Battle at Eutaw [Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] the Term of his enlistment having expired he was discharged at Cheraw S.C. about the time of the Battle at the Cowpens [sic: 17 Jan 1781] by Col. Drennan and Gen'l. Green. He then returned home to Kershaw County - and afterwards turned out Volunteer in Kershaw County under Capt. Gleason, Col. John Marshall and General [Francis] Marion and was with those officers at the Battle at Orangeburg S.C. and served this time not less that one month.

He served his first Tour Enlisted 1 year 6 months

He served his second Volunteer 2 months

He served the Third Enlisted 1 year 6 mo.

He served the fourth Volunteer 1 mo

He says he served not less than 3 years 3 months

All his services were done as a private

He does not know of a single living witness who can testify to his said services or any part having lived for many years remote in the mountains and too far to hunt his old companions if there are any living - He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares, that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

And he makes the following answers to the interrogatories put by the Court by direction of the War Department.

1st Was born in Cumberland County Virginia on the 6th January 1761.

2^d. He has a record in his Bible at home taken from his Fathers Family Bible.

3. He was living in Kershaw County S.C. when he entered the service - When he was very young his Father moved to Henry County Va. He was about 4 years old when his Father moved into Kershaw County S.C. where he lived at the times he entered the service When he Enlisted in Virginia he was on a visit to see his friends there. He lived in Kershaw till

1792 he moved into Greenville S.C. lived there 6 years, moved to Buncomb [sic: Buncombe County] N.C. lived there 6 years moved to Greenville lived there one year in 1805 or 6 he moved to Pendleton now Pickens and has lived in the same District ever since

4 He Enlisted twice - Volunteer twice.

5 He recollects Gen'l. Green, Col. Drennon and Capt. James Dunkin

6 He got only two discharges, one signed as well as he recollects by Capt. Ayres and Col. Stewart One by Col. Drennon and Gen'l. Greene. he has lost his discharges he did not suppose they would ever be of any value to him therefore he took little care of them.

7th He believes all who know him would testify to his veracity, but he names Col. Joseph Gresham, Col Jephtha Norton, Col. David McKinney, Col. Jesse McKinney, Major James McKinney, John Holden Esquire. [signed] James Ayres

The State of South Carolina

Before the undersigned on of the Justices assigned to keep the Peace in and for Pickens District in the State aforesaid James Ayres of the District of Pickens and made Oath as the Law directs and deposeth and saith - That from old age and consequent loss of Memory there may be some inaccuracies in dates &c in his Original Declaration - and the one which [illegible word] here reflected on the age at which he entered the service might have been Fourteen years he was small and his Father Enlisted him the deponent and took him with him in the service as stated in the Declaration.

This deponent further deposeth, That he did Enlist in Virginia as stated in his declaration. He joined the Company at Brunswick in North Carolina, and from there marched to Head quarters near Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough NC] and then was marched to Petersburg Va from there to Norfolk & from there returned into N. C. the Army was then divided & his division marched into S. C. under Gen'l. Greene. The deponent does know & well recollect that he did the said services. The precise dates he does not pretend to give at this late Period. He also further states that he does not know whether he was in the Virginia North Carolina or South Carolina line. He Enlisted in Virginia did the most of the services in the Carolinas. He has lately by accident found out one of his companions in the War of the Revolution of whom he had heard nothing for ten years until the 18th Instant when he Benjamin O'Bannon who resides in Habersham County in Georgia, but within half a Mile of Tugoloo [sic: Tugaloo] River which is the State Boundary came to this deponent to Testify for him & who was well, long and intimately acquainted with deponent from the time he was a small Boy or Lad. This deponent is too seek [sick?] for Testimony and has no relative able to assist him. This deponent saith he was with the Army the greater part of the time from the time of his first Enlistment by his Father to the close of the War.

Sworn to and subscribed the 20th day of December 1834

[signed] James Ayres

The State of South Carolina

Personally appeared Before the undersigned, One of the Judges assigned to keep the Peace for the District of Pickens in the State aforesaid - Benjamin O'Bannon of Habersham County, Georgia, who lives within Half a Mile of the State & District Line - Who after being duly sworn as the Law directs, doth depose and say. That he lived in the District of Kershaw in the State of S. Carolina during the War of the Revolution. That James Ayres now resident in Pickens District S. C. lived near him they lived for many years from four to seven miles of each other. This Deponent was well acquainted with the Father of the said James Ayres, (Daniel Ayres) who was a good Whig and who was much in the service Deponent was at the House of the said Daniel Ayres the morning that he and his son James Ayres left home and Mrs. Ayres the Mother of said James was in great distress blaming her Husband for Enlisting and taking her son a Lad or Boy not over Fourteen years of age as he believes as he was quite small about of good size to send to Mill. The said Daniel Ayres was much in the Army and did his duty well. The said James Ayres was much in the Army with the Patriots struggling for Liberty The said James Ayres lived so near that when at home deponent knew and when not was informed of the duties & times. He has no hesitation in saying the said James Ayres was a good soldier did his duty faithfully. Had the character of an Honest man - man of the strictest varacity and one

