

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Nathaniel Ayres R336

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Kentucky, Laurel County

Be it known that on this 9th day of May 1833 before the Justices of the Court for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Nathanael Ayres of said County aged 81 years, who being duly Sworn according to law upon his oath made the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of June 7th 1832.

That he was called into the Service of the United States as a militia man in the year 1780, as he believes, it was however in August before the Battle of King's Mountain which was some time in October. He was called out about the first of August and returned Some time in November or December. He was under Colonel Cleavland [sic, Benjamin Cleveland] Sallathial Martin [usually spelled Salathiel Martin] was his Captain Benjamin Parks Lieutenant. They rendezvoused at Wilkes C. H. [Wilkes Court House] NC. Marched through Burke & Rutherford Counties and to the Cowpens South Carolina and from thence to King's Mountain. He was not in the Battle: he had been sent to a Mr. Martin's a powder maker, for Powder; the Tories had taken the powder maker, and his powder and the Battle was over before he returned. He met them with the prisoners and marched with them and was held in service until some time in November or December and was discharged by his Colonel having been in actual Service not less than three months during which time he under went the severest privations. In February following he was again called out in the same company and rendezvoused at Hamlins [usually spelled Hamblin's] old Store in Wilkes County N. C. under Captain Ben Parks. Marched to the Shallow Ford of the Adkin [sic Yadkin] River, marching through Surry & Guilford: the object was to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] but they missed him he having crossed the Dan River & they passed down on the other side but Greene endeavoring to avoid an engagement with Cornwallis kept changing his positions so that they never could join him. They frequently fell in with parties of the enemy and had some little Skirmishes. They endeavored to reach Greene before they Battle at Guilford but they did not: that Battle was fought some time in March in 1781 as he believes. They were marched and stationed in different places until their Major (Lewis) was killed. He was reconnoitering one evening & was shot through both thighs and died directly. They were discharged some time in May having been out in actual Service not less than three months. He further states that he was out two other small tours after the Tories, one under Captain Fletcher in 1779 as he believes after one Bryant, Fanning & others, notorious Tories, they caught two of their company, Coil [sic, William Coyle or Coile] & Jones [Sam Jones] and they were hung, this took two weeks. The other trip under Captain Parks in the fore part of the winter 1780 between the head of the Yadkin & Mitchell's rivers and took a Tory by the name of Combs, Gone 10 days. He was called often to take small tours after the Tories but his recollection is so bad that he cannot say the length of his Services nor the names of his Officers. He had no personal acquaintance with any of the regular officers, that he now recollects. He was very well acquainted with Colonel Williams [James Williams] killed at King's Mountain and other militia officers. He was born in Wake County North Carolina, in the year 1755, by the record of an old Bible. His discharges are all lost. His Services all militia. He lived during the Revolutionary [War] in the State of N. C. after the War he moved to Tennessee and from there moved to Laurel County Kentucky where he now resides. For proof of his Services he refers to David Benge and the Reverend David Weaver. He at this time knows of no other proof of his Services. He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State whatever. Sworn & Subscribed the day above.

S/ Nathaniel Ayres

Kentucky, Laurel Circuit Court – To wit

Be it remembered that on the 10th day of September 1836, before the Judge of our Laurel Circuit

personally appeared Nathaniel Ayres of said County in order to amend his former declaration for a pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th June 1832, made the following Statement upon oath (To wit) that the principal reason why he did so long delayed his application for a pension was because he had been and believed for a long time that no person but regular Soldiers were entitled to the benefit of the act of Congress and never knew any better until shortly before he made his application aforesaid, that he is very frail and a cripple beside and can but seldom get about and knows but little of what is going on in the world. He further states that he cannot write but directed his name to be set to his former declaration & recognizes the same & makes his mark to this.

Sworn to & Subscribed the date above.

S/ Nathaniel Ayres, X his mark

[standard certificate of veracity and belief of service given by David Weavor, clergyman, David Bengé and Thomas Robinson, neighbor; further, David Bengé gave the following additional certification: "Said Bengé States that he was well acquainted with applicant in N. C. and in the War. He was out with applicant both tours under Cleveland but not in the same Company but he knows applicant Served the tours of which he speaks in his declaration under Cleveland and also knows that applicant Served more than he has Stated in his declaration and he has often told him of Several little trips that he seems to have forgotten. He further states that applicant has almost entirely lost his recollection...."]

State of Kentucky, Whitley County

This day personally appeared John Anderson of the County & State aforesaid, before me William Hays, a Justice of the peace for said County and made oath that he is and has been well acquainted with Nathaniel Ayres for many years, who now resides as I am informed by him in Laurel County Kentucky and believes that said Ayres to be the same who served as a militia man two 3 months tours in the old revolutionary war and my Impression now is that he Served one Tour under Captain James Shepperd and one under Captain Selethial Martin and at the time the said Ayres went into Service, he resided in Surry County North Carolina he further States that when he the said John Anderson was in the Service he saw the said Nathaniel Ayres Frequently, but they were in different Regiments. Given under my hand this 22nd day of March 1837.

S/ John Anderson, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 22nd day of March 1837.

S/ Wm Hays, JP for Whitley County, Ky