

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Patrick Cain S1185

fn11NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/19/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Livingston County SS:

On this 23 day of February 1833 personally appeared before Joseph Watts one of the Commonwealth's justices of the peace in and for said County and State and one of the justices of the County Court of said County, Patrick Cain a resident of said County, aged ninety-one 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: I first entered the service in the District of Ninety Six in the year 1776, but the month I do not remember but think it was in July for a tour of three months, under Captain William Moore, who commanded a fort or Block house at Ninety Six. I remained in service at this fort for three months, and was discharged. In this service I was a volunteer. After my return from this service I moved to Rocky River in Abbeville district, same state, and lived there about eight months, and was drafted as a private in the militia against the Cherokee Indians for a tour of two months. This was in the latter part of the year 1777 as well as I now remember. In this campaign I was under Captain Robert Anderson, who then commanded a company at Fort Independence, and along on the frontier, and I was also under the command of Major Andrew Pickens, and Colonel Williamson [Andrew Williamson] was at the head of the troops. On our way out, Pickens was raised to the office of Colonel Andrew Williamson to Brigade General. After arriving in the Indian country, our spies reported, that they had discovered a body of Indians encamped between the Oconey [Oconee] and Oakmulgee [Okmulgee] rivers. Williamson immediately detached Colonel Few of Georgia, with a body of 200 men to surprise them. Colonel Few came upon them, that in attempting to surround them, the men were drawn into so small a circle, that they could not fire upon the Indians without great danger to themselves, and in attempting to change the positions, the most of the Indians escaped, and but about two were killed as well as I recollect. This however put an end to the Indian hostility for a little while, and General Williamson discharged these men, after being out two months. Again, in the latter part of the

year 1779 or about the first of 1780, I volunteered to defend a fort on the Savannah River, at the Cherokee Ford, under the command of Lieutenant Shankland [Thomas Shanklin]. This fort was deemed of considerable importance, particularly against the Tories, who at that time had collected to the number of about 700 under Colonels Boyd & Moore, in the back parts of South Carolina, and were marching to Augusta or Savannah. General Pickens was then at the head of a body of militia, and stationed himself at Cedar Island on the Savannah, about eight miles below the fort, in order to intercept them. The Tories approached near the fort, and sent in a flag, and asked permission to pass the fort, which if granted, they would not attack the fort, but Shankland returned for answer, that he was able to defend the fort and ford both. Colonel Little being apprised of the intention of the Tories to force a passage at the ford, sent in a reinforcement, which I supposed deterred the Tories from attempting a passage, and they turned their course up the River in order to cross at the mouth of Van's Creek. To prevent this, Captains William Baskin and Anderson, with about 100 men were detached across the River, and marched up to the mouth [of] Van's branch, and opposed the passage. I was now again under Captain Anderson. Before we reached the place, the greater part had crossed, but we immediately began the attack, which was continued over an hour, by which time the remaining Tories had crossed over, and reinforced the others. We then gave way and retreated in some confusion, having lost one killed and 18 prisoners. We regained the fort. In a short time after this, General Pickens defeated these same Tories at Kettle Creek.¹ I served in this fort, and at this time two months, and was discharged. Not long afterwards, I think in the early part of 1780 I again volunteered to guard some Tory prisoners at a Block house, on the plantation of General Pickens, where they had been sent for safekeeping. I do not remember the precise length of time I served here, but I am confident it was as much as two months but scarcely called this any part of my service. Not long afterwards, and sometime in the same year 1780 (of the latter part of it) I was again called into service under Captain John McGaw, and under Colonel Robt. Anderson (the former Captain) and continued to range the Country, having principally our object the suppression of the Tories, who were then extremely troublesome, and every man (Whig) was called upon to turn out. We continued actively engaged in this way until I think about May 1781 when we joined General Green [Nathanael Greene] just about the time he laid siege to Ninety Six² which was then in possession of the British under Colonel Cruger. We remained under Green during the siege, and until we were repulsed and retreated. I could mention the particulars of that Siege, but will only say, that the siege was vigorously prosecuted, but on account of the approach of Rawdon with reinforcements, Green was obliged to abandon the place, or take it by storm. He ordered the latter, and after a hard struggle, he was obliged to draw off his troops, and crossed the Saluda to avoid Rawdon who was rapidly advancing. Green however escaped from him although hotly pursued for several days. The militia assembled immediately under General Pickens, and took post at one John Lesley's. From this place I with others were ordered to conduct some of our men who had been wounded in a skirmish with the Tory Captain Campbell to Fort Charlotte, after which I returned and joined Captain McCawpin [sic, ? McGaw again?], and again ranged from point to point in search of Tories, and to protect the country from their depredations, until sometime in July as well as I now remember and was then discharged, having served in this last expedition from the time of entering under McGaw, at least as much as seven

¹ February 14, 1779 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/kettle.htm>

² May 22-June 19, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ninetysix.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

months. Again, in the latter part of 1781 (I am confident in the month of November) I was again called on under Captain John McGaw, whose company was in Colonel Anderson's Regiment, of which Tutt [Benjamin Tutt] was Major, and the expedition, which was against the Cherokee Indians, was under the command of General Andrew Pickens, then we marched to the Scioto towns, or Saioty towns, and came upon them about daylight – they were completely surprised. We killed 42 warriors and took the women and children prisoners, and sent them to beech Island [Beach Island] on the Savannah River. We entirely destroyed the town, corn &c. This was in the month of December. From this place, a part of the troops were detached to Frog town and another town the name of which I have forgot, both of which they destroyed. In this expedition I was three months (at least) in service. In all my service I was a private soldier. I declare that I have no documentary evidence in my possession which would prove my service, nor do I know of any person now living by whom I can prove the same, except one William G Pickens³ a citizen of my County by whom I can prove a part of my service; though not all, we were not together the whole time, in his proof I will endeavor to procure as far as it will go. I further declare, that owing to age and bodily infirmity I am not able to attend the Court of my County. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State whatever. And the said justice propounded the following interrogatories to the said applicant, to which he made the following answers

To wit Question by the Justice 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born on the 25th day of September 1741 in the County Derry Ireland

Question by the Justice to. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have none at this time.

Question by the justice 3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live.

Answer. When I first entered the service I lived in the District of Ninety Six, State of South Carolina, and the rest of the time in Abbeville district in the same state. Since the War I lived in Albemarle District nineteen years I then moved to Jackson County in Georgia where I lived about ten years I then moved to Tennessee where I lived one-year the balance of the time in this County.

Question by the justice 4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I was not a Substitute. I first entered the service as a volunteer was afterwards drafted & again a volunteer

Question 5. State the names of some of the regular troops who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect. Answer. I was with no regular troops, except the time I was with Green – him I knew, as well as Colonel Lee, at the siege of Ninety Six. I do not remember the numbers or names of the Continental regiments in Greene's Army. The militia regiments were such as those under General Pickens, Colonel Anderson.

Question 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I never received a written discharge though I received an Intent

³ [William Gabriel Pickens S1244](#)

Question 7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your Services as a Soldier of the Revolution

Answer. I am acquainted with a great many I will name the Reverend Joseph Kirkpatrick, Joseph Hughes Esquire, Christopher Haynes Esquire, James Ford Esquire William Thomson and General James Elder
S/ Patrick Cain, X his mark

[Able Teague, a clergyman, and William McMerkin and Richard Postlewate gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Kentucky, Livingston County SS:

I Joseph Watts a justice of the peace in and for said County and State do hereby certify, that on this day William G Pickens, a resident of said County came personally before [me], and being by me duly sworn, doth on his oath declare, that he was seventy-two years of age the 18th of October last; that he knew the above named Patrick Cain in the early part of the Revolution, in the State of South Carolina, District of Ninety Six; that in the year 1777 he was with the said Cain in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians under Captain Robert Anderson as a private; that he well remembers that the said Cain served some time under Captain McGaw, and that he knew him at the siege of Ninety Six under the said Captain, and that he was a soldier at that time, and done good service; for during this siege he formed a more particular acquaintance with said Cain. That from his knowledge of the said Cain during the war, and the general reputation of the Country, he does not doubt but the said Cain served a greater part of the War, though he has no personal knowledge of all his services, not being together. That the said Cain had the character always of being a good Whig, and has sustained ever since the said Pickens knew him, a good and unimpeachable character. And I the said justice do further certify that it is known to me, that the said Pickens' of credibility in good standing, and his statement is entitled to undoubted credit; and that he is of the age aforesaid.

Given under my hand this 25th [?] day of February 1833

S/ Jos Watts, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$63.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one year & 7 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]