

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension Application of Andrew Ferguson: S32243: transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana} SS
Monroe County}

On this 16th day of August 1838 personally appeared in open Court before the Probate Judge of Monroe County now sitting Andrew Furgison a resident of said county of Monroe and State of Indiana aged Seventy Three years July last who first being 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 with the following named officers and served as herein stated.

From a colored man. I was born in Dunwidie County Virginia (sic: Dinwiddie County VA) Free and was seventy three years old July last and at fifteen years of age I was drafted into the service of the United States by General Green (sic: see note below) who was at that time (the first of January 1780) in Dunwidie County Virginia. Two weeks previous to my being drafted I in company with my father (Andrew Perley as he was called) was taken prisoner by the British under John and James Cuglie(?). We ran away from them because they whiped us with the Cat-o-nine Tails and fell in with the American soldiers under Green. Gen. Green toled us that if the British ever got us again they would kill us and he had better draft us and so he (illegible word) out of a little box black Tickets and he told us we should go with him and must fight the British. I was then put under the immediate command of Captain William Harris, and Colonel William McCormick and stayed under their command and in this company during most of the time I was out. The first engagement I was at was the Battle at Allegany-. Col. Morgan (sic: Daniel Morgan) was there. Col. McCormick and Captain Harris. The British commanders who had taken us prisoners were there also. Jack Head our drummer was with us all the time. I was well acquainted with him but know not what has become of him. The next place if I remember right was King's Mountain away down in North (sic) Carolina. We got to that battle when it was nearly over. We whipt the British badly who were commanded by Major Ferguson (sic: Patrick Ferguson). I do not recollect at this time the name of any of the American Commanders except Col. Campbell (sic: William Campbell) Sevier (sic: John Sevier) and Cleveland (sic: Benjamin Cleveland). I saw at Kings Mountain a Tory they called Bill Cunningham (sic: probably William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham) kill an American in two hundred yards of us- he was on horse-back and then made off. This Battle was fought some time in October 1780. I was at Camden in South Carolina previous to engagement at Kings Mountain, but was not in the action. Col. Morgan was at Kings Mountain and after the Battle he marched us down into South Carolina to the River Pacolet not far from the Cow-Pens, as he said to join Green (sic: Nathanael Greene) but I did not see Green there. While we were at the River Pacolet- the British Col. Tarlton (sic: Banastre Tarleton) came upon us and Col. Morgan marched us up towards the Cow-Pens but before we got there we made a stand and whiped the British completely this took place I think some time in the month of January 1781. Immediately after this Battle we started back to North Carolina. I recollect of Marion (sic: Francis Marion) and Col. Washingtons (sic: Lt. Col. William Washington) being at the Battle of Pacolet (sic: Battle of Cowpens) also Col. William Howard (sic: Lt. Col. John Eager Howard?) and Col. Pickens (sic: Andrew Pickens). On our (word illegible) back through Carolina the British under Tarlton pursued us and were prevented from overtaking us by the high waters. At Guilford (sic: Guilford Court House) we fell in company with Green (sic: Nathanael Greene) and Huger (sic: Isaac Huger) and then went on to Virginia across the Dan was some time in February we did not stay long in Virginia until we went Back into North Carolina about ten or fifteen miles from Guilford at some bodies iron works (sic: Speedwell Furnace) on Troublesome Creek from there we marched in about two miles of Guilford and there we had a battle with Cornwallace (sic: Cornwallis) and after the battle was over we went back to the iron works. I was wounded in the head at Guilford and stayed about a month at the iron works. This battle was some time in March 1781. I recollect that a man by the name of Ater(?) Traverse(?) from Dunwidie County was wounded at the Battle of Guilford also. I was well acquainted with him. Gen. Green made a speech to us at Guilford. Gen. Steven (sic: Edward Stevens) Lawson (sic: Robert Lawson) and Huger were there and Col. Lee (sic: Henry

Lee) and Washington. I was afterwards ordered back to South Carolina and we had an other fight at the Cow-Pens (sic: see note below) and stayed there a month or perhaps more and then we went to the Eutaw Springs and there we fought our last Battle. Col. Morgan was there Gen. Green and my Captain and Colonel. This Battle was some time in September I think as well as I recollect. There I was discharged and Gen. Green said he would take all our names down and we should get our pay he gave me some kind of a ticket or other which I have long ago lost. After I was discharged I went back to the Iron Works in North Carolina and my head got worse and I stayed there some time and was attended on by Doctor Harris and Doctor Lidny and Mr. Lurgioen(?) sent one of his sons for me and I got home again on the last of November 1781. I have no documentary evidence of my service unless my name is enrolled among the Troops of Virginia and I know of no person living by whom I can prove my actual service whose testimony I can produce. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity....
Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Andrew his+mark Ferguson

NOTES

Andrew Ferguson is listed as follows in federal censuses for Monroe County IN:
1830: age 55-100, Free Colored Person
1840: age 82, veteran of the Revolutionary War living with a white family
1850: age 95, Black, and born in VA.

A voucher in the pension file states that he died Sept. or Oct. 1856.

Gen. Nathanael Greene's trip through Virginia to take command of the southern army did not occur until late in 1780. The "Gen. Green" who drafted Andrew Ferguson and his father in Jan 1780 may have been Col. John Green of the 10th Virginia Regiment.

I read the name of Andrew Ferguson's father as Andrew Perley, but the surname is spelled Peeleg in other accounts. He is often said to have fought at Cowpens and elsewhere, but that is apparently only inferred from the present pension application.

The Jack Head referred to as a drummer at Cowpens may have been John Stromatt Head. See pension application S6995.

Ferguson referred to a second battle at Cowpens between the Battles of Guilford Court House and Eutaw Springs. Instead of Cowpens he presumably meant Camden, referring to the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Andrew Ferguson S32243

Transcribed by Will Graves

[Punctuation, grammar & spelling modernized for clarity]

State of Indiana Monroe County

On this 15th day of August 1838 personally appeared in open court before the probate Court of Monroe County now sitting Andrew Ferguson a resident of said county of Monroe and state of Indiana, aged 73 years July last, who being first duly sworn according to law does on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

From a colored man. I was born in Dinwiddie County Virginia and was 73 years old in July last and at 15 years of age I was drafted into the service of the United States back General Greene who was at that time (the first of January 1780) in Dinwiddie County Virginia. Two weeks previous to my being drafted and in company with my father (Andrew Peeleg [?] as he was called) was taken prisoner by the British under John and James Cuglie [?] [Cruger?]. We ran away from them because they whipped us with the cat of nine tails and fell in with the American soldiers under Greene. General Greene told us that if the British ever got us they would kill us and he had better draft us and so we [?] out of a little [?] black tickets and he told us we should go with him and must fight the British. I was then put under the immediate command of Captain William Harris and Colonel William McCormick and stayed under their command and in this company during most of the time I was out. The first engagement I was at was the battle at Allegany. Colonel Morgan was there [as were] Colonel McCormick and Captain Harris. The British commanders, who had taken us prisoners, were there also. Jack Head and drummer were with us at the time. I was well acquainted with him but know not, what has become of him. The next place if I remember right was King's Mountain away down in North Carolina. We got to that battle when it was partly over. We whipped the British badly who were commanded by Major Ferguson. I do not recollect at this time the name of any of the American commanders except Colonel Campbell, Sevier and Cleveland. I saw at King's Mountain a Tory they called Bill Cunningham kill an American [with]in 200 yards of us. He was on horseback and then made off. This battle was fought sometime in October 1780. I was at Camden in South Carolina previous to the engagement at King's Mountain, but was not in the action. Colonel Morgan was at King's Mountain and after the battle he'd marched us down into South Carolina to the River Pacolet not for from the Cowpens as he said to join Greene but I did not see Greene there. While we were at the River Pacolet, the British under Colonel Tarleton came upon us and Colonel Morgan marched us on towards the Cowpens but before we got there we made a stand and whipped the British completely. This took place I think sometime in the month of January 1781. Immediately after this battle we started back to North Carolina. I recollect of Marion and Colonel Washington being at the battle at Pacolet also Colonel William Howard and Colonel Pickens. On our route back through Carolina the British under Tarleton pursued us and was prevented from overtaking us by the high waters. At Guilford we fell in company with Greene and Huger and then went on to Virginia across

the Dan River sometime in February. We did not stay long in Virginia until we went back into North Carolina about 10 or 15 miles from Guilford at somebody's iron works on Troublesome Creek. From there we marched in about 2 miles of Guilford and there we had a battle with Cornwallis and after the battle was over we went back to the iron works. I was wounded in the head at Guilford and stayed about a month at the iron works. This battle was sometime in March 1781. I recollect that a man by the name of Arthur [appears to be spelled "Auter"?] Francis [appears to be spelled "Franser"?] from Dinwiddie County was wounded at the battle of Guilford also. I was well acquainted with him. General Greene made a speech to us at Guilford. General Steven Lawson and Huger were there and Colonels Lee, Campbell and Washington. I was afterwards ordered back to South Carolina and we had another fight at the Cowpens and stayed there a month or perhaps more and then we went to the Eutaw Springs and there we fought a last battle. Colonel Morgan was there. General Greene and my Captain and Colonel [were there]. This battle was sometime in September I think as well as I recollect. There we were discharged and General Greene said he would take all our names down and we should get our pay. He gave me some kind of a ticket or other which I have long ago lost. After I was discharged I went back to the iron works in North Carolina and my head got worse and I stayed there sometime and was attended on by Dr. Harris and Dr. Sidney and Mr. Ferguson [spelled "Furgison"] sent one of his sons for me and I got home again in the last of November 1781. I have no documentary evidence of my service unless my name is enrolled among the troops of Virginia and I know of no person living by whom I can prove my actual service whose testimony I can procure. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state and if any only on that of the agency of the state of Virginia.

Sworn and subscribe to the day and year aforesaid.

S/Andrew Ferguson, X his mark

Bounty land claims under the act of Congress March 3, 1855
State of Indiana, Monroe County

On this 22nd day of March A. D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty five personally appeared before me a justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Andrew Ferguson, aged over 90 years, a resident of Monroe County and the State of Indiana, who being duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical Andrew Ferguson who was a private in the company commanded by Captain ___ in the war of the revolution declared by the United States on the ___ day of _____. That he engaged at Dinwiddie [County Virginia] on or about the ____ day of ___ A. D. for the term of 14 days and was honorably discharged at ____ on the ____ day of ___ A. D.. He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the act approved March 3rd, 1855. He also declares that he has not received a warrant or bounty land under this or any other act of Congress nor made any other application therefore. That he is a revolutionary pensioner of the United States under the act of June 7th, 1832 and listed on the Indianapolis, Indiana pension list roll and gives reference to his papers and testimony filed and the muster rolls in the pension office upon which he was granted a pension under said act of some of 7 June 1832 in proof of his right to the benefit of the provisions of the act approved March 3rd, 1855. That from

old age and consequent infirmity he has forgotten many particular persons and things and incidents connected with his service in the war of the revolution.

S/ Andrew Ferguson, X his mark

[Note: all of the blanks above appear in the original].