

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Porterfield W2341

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }
Anderson County }

On this 10th day of July 1820 personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of Record by the laws of this State) Richard Porterfield of the County and state aforesaid aged about Fifty seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the first of May 1820 — That he the said Richard Porterfield inlisted in the State of Virginia during the War in the spring of 1779 in the Company Commanded by Capt. Fantleroy [sic: Lt. Griffin Fauntleroy] (who was detached, as well as his memory serves him, from the 5th to the 3rd Regiments of Virginia Cavalry Commanded by Colonel William Washington in the line of the State of Virginia in the Continental establishment That he continued to serve in the said Corps untill the Battle at Campdon [sic: Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781], which was he thinks about two years he served In the Army when he was there wounded, and obtained a certificate in consequence of his wound from Lieutenant Ginn (his Capt. Fantleroy having been killed at the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]) untill fit for service or called on and never was called on after nor before he recovered and was always ready to obey after he got fit for duty and that he was in the Battle of Guilford, and that he has no other Evidence now in his power of said service except his own oath. he further states that he does not know possivately whether the said Fantleroy was a Captain at the time he enlisted, but that when Capt. Fantleroy Marched to the South from Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough NC] he joined him and afterward Capt. Fantleroy was killed in the Battle of Guilford as before stated and in pursuance of the Act of the first of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March one thousand eight hundred and & eighteen and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Navel service of the United States in the Revolutionary War Passed on the 18th day of March 1818 - and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any Income of any description nor property Except a very scanty Allowance of half worn wearing clothes and my Crutches, which I am obliged to use to help me from place to place - I have no family residing with me nor have had none for a considerable time. I have no occupation excepting I can make coarse shoes, when not too much afflicted with Rheumattik pains of which I have not been clear for more than twelve months past and I have never received any pay for my services as a soldier or in consequence of my wound at the Battle of Camden. Sworn to and declared on the 10th day of July 1820 before The Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County & State aforesaid

[signed] Richard Porterfield

State of Tennessee }
Sevier County }

Second Judicial circuit Court for said County. January Session 1823

This day George Parsons [pension application S38991] personally appeared in open Court and made oath that in the spring year 1779 to the best of his knowledge Richard Porterfield joined Col. William Washington's Regiment of Light Dragoons and in and about the same time he enlisted and joined the said Regiment at Hillsboro (State of North Carolina) from that place we were marched to Salisbury from that to Charlotte thence to Providence [probably New Providence now in Charlotte] and there continued part of the winter took Col Rugely [see endnote]. afterwards joined Gen'l. [Daniel] Morgan's Rifle men and marched to Pacolet [sic: Pacolet River]. from thence to the Cowpens where Tarlton was defeated [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, 7 Jan 1781] then we marched to Guilford and fought Cornwallis. thence to the Battle of Campden at which Battle this deponent was taken prisoner in the commencement of the

action and seen no more of Richard Porterfield, but from the information rec'd. of him, he was there wounded himself and his Horse killed under him. Through all the above mentioned battles the said Porterfield was present with his Regiment to the best of my knowledge and further this deponent saith not
[signed] George Parsons

State of Tennessee } July Sessions 1823.
Greene County }

This day James Dawson [pension application S9657] personally appeared in open Court and made oaths that in the fall sometime in the year 1779 to the best of his knowledge he became acquainted with Richard Porterfield at a place called New Providence North Carolina in the third Virginia Ridgment of Cavellre commanded by Col William Washington the said Porterfield was then in the United States servis under Col. Washington I then inlisted under Col. Washington and march on in said Ridgment to the takeing of Colo Rugely with a pine log supposed to be a Cannon thence marched to Packlet and joined general Morgan Riflemen I then left the Ridgment but said Porterfield still Remained in the service of the united states & further this deponent saith not said service was for more than nine months in succession. Sworn to in open Court 29th July 1823. James hisXmark Dawson
[Dawson made a similar deposition on 21 June 1823.]

Court of pleas & quarter sessions of Greene County in the state of Tennessee the same being a court of record by Act of Assembly

On this 27th day of January 1824 Personally appeared in open Court the same being a court of Record for the County aforesaid Richard Porterfield aged sixty years years and a resident in the County of Greene aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and first of May 1820 that he said Richard Porterfield inlisted for the Term of during the War in the state of virginia at in Albamarle [sic: Albemarle] County in the Spring of 1779 in the month of March in the company commanded by Capt Fantleroy who was detached as well as his memory serves him from the 1st to the 3^d Regiment Virginia Cavelry in the Regiment commanded by Colo William Washington in the line of the said State of Virginia on the [blank space] Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in said Corps until the battle at Campden in the month of May or June [sic] 1781 and which was he thinks about two years when he was there wounded and obtained a certificate in consequence of his wound from Lieutenant Guinn which certificate was given in the state of South Carolina (his Capt Fantleroy having been killed at the battle of Gilford) until fit for service or called on and he never was called on after nor before he recovered and was always ready to obey after he got fit for duty. He was in the battle of Gilford. And that he has no other evidence of his service in his power that he knows of but his own oath and the accompanying certificates of James Dawson & George Parsons

[The oath similar to that in the first declaration follows, with the following schedule of property:]

One mare Saddle and Bride worth Sixty Dollars \$60

Nothing more Except Waring apparel

I has no family with me. I once had a family my wife has been dead about three year he had to sons and two daughters who he believes are in the red river Country My common avocation is shoe making but he can only make cours shoes and is a cripple in his hips and right arm And is often afflicted with Rheumatic pains which render him often scarcely able to move about with a crutch which he always uses and frequently and often unable to make shoes or do any thing at it Sworn to and declared on this 27 day of January 1824 [signed] Richard Porterfield

NOTES:

On 26 Aug 1843 Richard Porterfield deposed as follows in support of the pension application of James Braden (Brady) R1124: "Affiant is more fully convinced of his identity from the fact of affiant being wounded at the battle of the pine tree now Camden and belives James Brady to be the soldier that took a handkerchief from his Bradys waist and bound up affiants wound which was bleeding profusely affiant is fully convinced of his being the same man from

there being a song in verse and sung in camp to the following effect. My name is James Brady a lad that loves pleasure/ for drinking and fidling I am for ever at leisure/ to see me in the element all Ladys adore me/ with my hogshead of brandy a rolling before me.”

On 4 Dec 1780 William Washington compelled Col. Henry Rugeley and more than a hundred other Loyalists to surrender from a fortified barn at Rugeley's Mill by threatening them with a pine log mounted to resemble a cannon.

On 27 Apr 1853 in Knox County TN Louisa Porterfield applied for a pension stating that she married Richard Porterfield in Knox County on 12 July 1847, and he died 30 Jan 1852. The file includes a copy of a bond signed 12 July 1847 by Richard Porterfield and E. S. Temple for the marriage of Porterfield to Louisa Rose. On 5 Sep 1853 she applied under a different act, stating that she was 35, and she married Richard Porterfield on 30 Aug 1847. On 7 Apr 1855 at age 38 she applied for bounty land. Her pension was suspended during the Civil War but was apparently restored after she took the oath of allegiance on 23 Aug 1865.