

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Charles Anderson R183

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Rockbridge County }

On this Thirty First day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Five personally appeared before the undersigned Justice of the County of Rockbridge sitting in open Court, at the Court House of said County, James Anderson, Charles Anderson and Richard Anderson Residents of the said County of Rockbridge and State of Virginia, who being first duly sworn according to law do on their oaths make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832: That the affiants are children and heirs at law of the late Charles Anderson who was a private soldier of Infantry in the Virginia Continental Line during the Revolutionary Line: that at the time of his death and for many years previously the said Charles Anderson lived in the County of Rockbridge and State of Virginia, but that he died at the house of Benjamin Strickler in the County of Augusta while on a visit to him on the sixth day of March One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty One, the County of Augusta being an adjoining County of Rockbridge in said State of Virginia: that the said Charles Anderson besides the above named heirs left the following children who are still living viz: Clarissa Robinson wife of Daniel Robinson living in Augusta County aforesaid and Catherine Sprouse wife of Washington Sprouse who resided in the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia untill the Fall of last year when they removed as affiants have been informed and verily believe to the state of Missouri: that the ages of the said children & heirs of Charles Anderson dec'd. are respectively as follows viz: James Anderson is aged Forty Seven years, Clarissa Robinson is aged Forty Three years, Catherine Sprouse is aged Thirty Four years, Charles Anderson is aged Thirty Two years, and Richard Anderson is aged Thirty years. These affiants farther declare that they have repeatedly heard their deceased father the said Charles Anderson say that he enlisted at the age of sixteen years in the County of Caroline and State of Virginia for the term of three years, and that after the expiration of his first term of service, he re-enlisted and served during the War: that though they have often heard their father speak of his officers and the Regiments in which they served, they are not able now to enumerate them: that their said father was twice wounded during his service, once by a bullet through his right thigh passing through the fleshy part and once by a ball in his left leg: that these wounds were received in different engagements but these affiants cannot specify them: that when he enlisted the second time his brother William Anderson and a certain Thomas Chandler enlisted with him both of them lived in the County of Caroline aforesaid: that the scars produced by the two wounds aforesaid were perfectly discernible untill the day of his death: that they well remember having heard their father say that he was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and Guilford Court House [15 Mar 1781] and various other battles that their memory will not enable them to specify and that at the close of the war he was with his Regiment at a place called Red Stone in the State of South Carolina: that about Seventeen or Eighteen years since their father the said Charles Anderson took the deposition of a certain Peter Hartless [pension application S5470] in the County of Amherst who had served with the said Charles Anderson with a view of obtaining a pension: that the said deposition was taken before William Massie esq a Justice of the Peace for Amherst County & State of Virginia: that said Peter Hartless in his deposition specified some of the services of said Charles Anderson, and that shortly after the said deposition was taken the home of said Charles Anderson was burned down and this paper was consumed with it, and that the said Peter Hartless has been dead several years

These affiants hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present: and they declare that neither the name of their deceased father Charles Anderson through whom

they claim nor their own names as his heirs are on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State of States in the United States.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid James hisXmark Anderson
Charles hisXmark Anderson Richard hisXmark Anderson

In Rockbridge County Court June 6th 1845.

Personally appeared before us Justices of the County Court of Rockbridge sitting in open Court on this 6th day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred & Forth Five Archibald Reid, who being first duly sworn deposed as follows to wit: That he was well acquainted with the late Charles Anderson of Rockbridge County for seven or eight years previous to his death: that the said Charles Anderson was always reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution: that deponent lived in his immediate neighborhood for seven or eight years previous to his death and had very frequent conversations with him in reference to his services in the Revolutionary War: that the said Charles Anderson was extremely ignorant and illiterate and could neither read nor write and that the fact of his extreme ignorance perfectly satisfied deponent of the truth of the statements made by said Anderson, citing as he did into minute details of his service which he could have derived from no other source than his own experience: that he stated to deponent that he was an enlisted soldier in the Regular service and marched from one of the Counties in Eastern Virginia and the deponent is strongly impressed with the belief that the county named by him was Caroline: that he stated to deponent the name of his captain but the deponent's memory does not enable him to say who he was: that he stated that fought under General [Horatio] Gates at the battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780] and that the American Army was totally defeated: that after Gates defeat General [Nathanael] Greene came on from the North & took the command of the Southern Army: that said Anderson was engaged in a second battle at Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781] in which General Green commanded the American forces: that in the first battle of Camden Lord Cornwallis commanded the British troops and Lord Rawdon or a person of similar name commanded them in the second battle: that said Anderson fought in the battle of Guilford Court House, in a battle fought at a place called Ninety Six [Siege of Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] and in the battle of Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781]: that he stated he was twice wounded in battle, once in the point of the hip or thigh, and once in the leg: that deponent never saw the wound, but in describing them said Anderson placed his hand on the places where he said he received the wounds: that he stated that he enlisted for the war, was in service several years, and was in service at the close of the War: that his services during the Revolutionary War were a favorite subject of conversation with said Anderson and he spoke of them with great earnestness and pride and in a manner to impress the deponent's mind with a perfect conviction of the truth of his statements: that his recollection of the incidents of his services was perfectly fresh & that he evinced more intelligence in speaking on that subject than any other: that said Anderson died at the house of Benjamin Strickler in Augusta County Va near the Rockbridge line in the month of March 1841: that deponent was present at his funeral and assisted in digging his grave.

The deponent farther states he was born on the 16th day of August 1802 in the said County of Rockbridge where he lived untill the 22nd day of September 1829 when he removed to his present residence in the County of Augusta: that his dwelling house is very near the Rockbridge line and that deponents land lies in both Counties the dividing line passing through it: that said Anderson removed to his neighborhood shortly afterwards and continued to live there untill his death.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year first above written [signed] Archald Reed

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of Va }
Rockbridge County } SS

Affidavit of Preston Trotter made in open court before the Court of Said County this 7th day of

August 1845

The affiant having been first duly sworn according to law deposeth as follows, to wit, that he is about fifty years of age, That he was acquainted with Charles Anderson a reputed Revolutionary Soldier several years before his death. That as such he recognized him amongst the old Revolutionary Soldiers who were invited guest at a Grand Festival held in Brownsburg Rockbridge Co. Va. on the anniversary of the 4th of July 1827 That some time afterwards, the said Ch's. Anderson stated to this affiant the difficulties he laboured under in procuring the proper testimonials of his Revolutionary Services in order to avail himself of the Pension Act in consequence of the inaccessible distance to him he was from the place of his nativity and also from where he entered the Revolutionary Army, both of which were in Eastern Virginia, and that could he only transport himself thither he would be enabled from one or more surviving soldiers his companion in arms and perhaps from one of their officers during our Revolutionary Struggle fully to establish his claim to the benefit of the Pension Act, but that from want of means and a conveyance, he could not, though urgent upon his children (who were poor indeed) to take him if possible to Eastern Va. he being lame and unable to travell on foot, both from his advanced age and crippled condition – that he engaged this affiant to address a Letter for him, under his dictation to an old fellow Soldier in the County of Albemarle requesting him to substantiate, when called on, his knowledge of their association in Arms in some one or more Revolutionary Campaigns, that the person thus appealed to was old Mr. McGee of that county, know to this affiant – he thinks also he addressed another Letter under his dictation making a like appeal to some officer or soldier of the Revolution residing in East'n. Va., but as he received no response, it was readily concluded from their extreme age, both ere that had paid the debt of Nature. That this affiant distinctly recollects the said Charles Anderson remarking to him some years ago, upon the occasion of leaving his store to walk to his home (some 6 or 7 miles distant) that he would be much pained in so doing from the state of his old sores, resulting from the wounds he received in the old War (Revolutionary) that he rolled up his Pantaloons and disclosed to him their condition (in [illegible word] his legs particularly) which appeared to this affiant of a painfull character. further, that he knows no reason to disbelieve the sincerity of the declarations of the said Anderson which he always made to him of his being a Revolutionary Soldier, or that he was a man of credibility and proper feelings, and he always seemed much to regret to this affiant the difficulty of his situation from distance and the causes recited, which disabled him from procuring the requisite testimonials that would have at once placed him on the Revolutionary Pension List

Preston Trotter

NOTE: A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Charles Anderson/ age 16/ height 5 2½/ farmer/ born and residing in Caroline County/ black hair/ hazel eyes/ dark complexion/ enlisted 23 Sep 1780 for 18 months. If this is the same Charles Anderson of the pension application, then it is unlikely that he was at the Battle of Camden on 16 Aug 1780, as stated by Archibald Reed. The size roll does not list a William Anderson of Caroline County, but it does include the following: Thomas Chandler/ 22/ height 5 6¼/ Slay maker/ born and residing in Caroline County/ dark brown hair, gray eyes, dark complexion/ enlisted 8 Sep 1780 for the duration of the war/ Deserted and retaken.