

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Private Act of Georgia Legislature for the benefit of Austin Dabney<sup>1</sup>

Ga14

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/20/11

rev'd 5/7/21

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[Note: Having been granted a federal pension as early as 1786, there is no existing pension application for this veteran. Almost all of the pension records granted under legislation prior to the Pension Act of March 18, 1818 (see [LEGISLATION](#) for a summary of the various federal pension acts) was destroyed in the fires of 1800 and 1814. The following documents reflect aspects of his service as available online.]

### An Act<sup>2</sup>

To emancipate and set free Austin a mulatto, also Harry a Negro fellow.

Whereas Austin a mulatto Man at present the property of the Estate of Richard Aycock, esquire, during the late revolution instead of advantaging himself of the times to withdraw himself from the American lines and enter with the majority of his Colour and fellow Slaves in the service of his Britannic Majesty and his Officers and Vassals, did voluntarily enroll himself in some one of the Corps under the command of Colonel Elijah Clark, and in several actions and engagements behaved against the Common Enemy with a bravery and fortitude which would have honored a freeman, and in one of which engagements he was severely wounded, and rendered incapable of hard Servitude; and policy as well as gratitude demand a return for such service and behaviour from the Commonwealth. –

Be it Enacted that the said Austin be, and he is hereby emancipated and made free, and he is and shall be hereby entitled to all of the liberties, privileges and immunities of a free Citizen of this State so far as free Negroes and Mulattos are allowed, and is, and shall be, entitled to annuity allowed by this State to wounded and disabled soldiers. –

And be it further Enacted that Colonel Elijah Clark, Zachariah Lamar, and John Talbot shall be, and they are hereby appointed agents for the State, to contract and agree, with the heirs Executors or Administrators of the said Richard Aycock for the value of the said Austin, Provided that same does not exceed the Sum of Seventy Pounds, and that they give a Certificate for such Sum to the proper owner of the said Austin for which Sum his Honor the Governor is hereby empowered to draw on the Treasury of this State.

And be it also Enacted, that Negro Harry late the property of William Sherrill for his Meritorious Services to this State, be also Emancipated and made free and entitled to the rights of Citizenship so far as free Negroes and Mulattos are entitled as aforesaid. –

By order of the House

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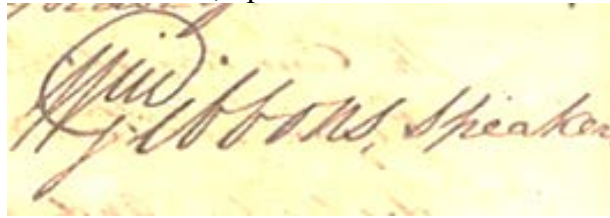
<sup>1</sup> See, among any others found by an online search, Robert Scott Davis, Austin Dabney, George's African-American hero of the Revolution, Journal of the American Revolution, July 5, 2013

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/07/austin-dabney-georgias-african-american-hero-of-the-revolution/>

<sup>2</sup> The original of this Act can be viewed at <https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/adhoc/id/582/>

Augusta 14<sup>th</sup> August 1786

S/ Wm Gibbons, Speaker

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Gibbons, Speaker", written in dark ink on a light-colored, aged paper background.

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State of Georgia of Madison County} Austin Dabney came before me Allen Daniel one of the Justices of the Inferior Court for the County aforesaid and maketh Oath that he is the same Austin Dabney to whom the Original Certificate in his possession was of which the following is a Copy “The bearer Austin Dabney was wounded in the thigh in an action at Augusta on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 1782 [sic, 1781]<sup>4</sup> as appears from a certificate given by Elijah Clark then Colonel for which he is entitled to five dollars per Month amounting in the whole to Sixty pounds thirteen Shillings & four pence Sterling given under my hand this 29<sup>th</sup> September 1786.

S/ James Lander

Inspector Invalids,”

State house August 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1792

“I do Certify the foregoing Certificate of James Lander in favor of Austin Dabney is of Record in the executive Department

S/ J. Meriwether, Sy. C. D.

That, he Served in a Militia Regiment Commanded by Colonel Elijah Clark at the time he was disabled and now resides in Madison County in the State of Georgia and has resided there for Sixteen Years (formerly Elbert Now Madison County) passed previous to which he resided in Wilkes County in Said State and previous to that in Wake County in the State of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 1819

S/ Allen Daniel, JIC

S/ Austin Dabney, X his mark

#### An Act<sup>5</sup>

For the relief of Austin, otherwise called Austin Dabney, a Free man of Colour

Whereas by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, passed on the fourteenth day of August, Seventeen hundred and eighty-six, it is stated that the said Austin Dabney during the Revolution, instead of advantaging himself of the times to withdraw himself from the American lines and enter with the majority of his color and fellow slaves in the service of his Britannic Majesty and his officers and vassals, did voluntarily enrol himself in some one of Corps under the command of Colonel Elijah Clark, and in several actions and engagements behaved against the enemy with a bravery and fortitude which would have honored a free man, and in one of which engagements he was severely wounded, and rendered incapable of hard servitude; and policy as well as gratitude demand a return for such service and behaviour, from the Commonwealth; And it was further stated in said act, that said Austin "should be entitled to the annuity allowed by this State to wounded and disabled soldiers." And the said Austin having

<sup>3</sup> Fold3.com “Final Payment Vouchers—Georgia”, letter “D,” “Dabney, Austin”

<https://www.fold3.com/browse/hhVNldYoFgnfgkQ11jfYxQIOI?military.conflict=US+Revolutionary+War&place=rel.148838:United+States+of+America>

<sup>4</sup> Siege of Augusta (second/Clarke) [May 22-June 6, 1781] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

<sup>5</sup> The original of this Act can be viewed at <https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/adhoc/id/3534/>

petitioned the Legislature for some aid in his declining years; and this body considering him an object entitled to the attention and gratitude of the State he has defended, and in this service he has been disabled;

Sect. 1<sup>st</sup>. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the same*—That the Lot or fraction of Land situate, lying and being in the County of Walton, in the first District, and known and distinguished by number two hundred eighty-four, containing one hundred and twelve acres, be the same more or less, be and the same hereby is conveyed and transferred to the said Austin during the period of his natural life of him the said Austin Dabney.

Sect. 2<sup>nd</sup>. *And be it further enacted*, that the Austin Dabney be, and he hereby is entitled to a plat for the same.

Sect. 3<sup>rd</sup>. *And be it further enacted*, That a lot and number above named is, and shall be exempted, from the contemplated sale of Fractions in said County, authorized by an act at the annual Session of the Legislature, in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty.

David Witt,

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Matthew Talbot,

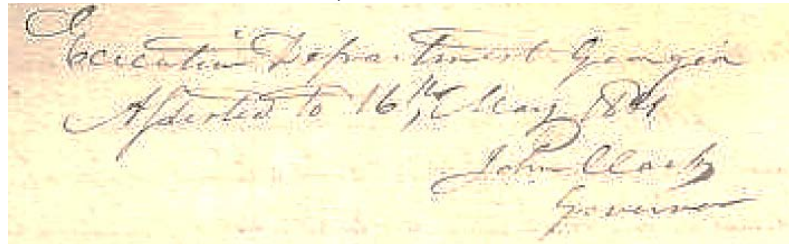
President of the Senate

A handwritten document in cursive script. The top line reads "David Witt" and the second line reads "Speaker of the House of Representatives". Below that, it says "Matthew Talbot" and "President of the Senate".

Executive Department Georgia

Assented to 16<sup>th</sup>, May, 1821

John Clark, Governor

A handwritten document in cursive script. The top line reads "Executive Department Georgia". The second line reads "Assented to 16<sup>th</sup>, May 1821". The bottom line reads "John Clark" and "Governor".

State of Georgia.

To the Honorable the President and the Members of the Council, now sitting in Augusta for the Purpose of granting Lands in the two new Counties of Franklin and Washington The Petition of Austin Dabney as a Refugee and the State aforesaid,  
Sheweth,

That your petitioner is entitled to Two hundred and fifty Acres of Land, as a Bounty for his Services, pursuant to the Certificate hereto annexed:<sup>6</sup> That your Petitioner is desirous of taking up the said Lands in the County of Washington –

May it therefore please your Honorable Board to grant your Petitioner Two hundred and fifty Acres of Land in the County of Washington on the Right aforesaid, and on his complying with the Terms mentioned in the late the Land Act; and your petitioner will ever pray

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<sup>6</sup> There is no certificate attached

STATE OF GEORGIA.

To the Honourable the *President* and the Members of  
 Council, now sitting in Augusta for the Purpose of granting  
 Lands in the two new Counties of Franklin and Washington

The PETITION of *Austin Dabney* — ~~citizen of~~  
*as a Refugee* in the State aforesaid; ~~is entitled to five~~  
 SHEWETH, ~~that he is entitled to five~~

THAT your Petitioner is entitled to *Two hundred and*  
*fifty* — Acres of Land, as a Bounty for his  
 Services, pursuant to the Certificate hereunto annexed: That your  
 Petitioner is desirous of taking up the said Lands in the County of  
*Washington* —

May it therefore please your Honourable Board to grant your  
 Petitioner *Two hundred and fifty*  
 Acres of Land in the County of *Washington*  
 on the Right aforesaid, and on his complying with the  
 Terms mentioned in the late Land Act; and your Petiti-  
 oner will pray.

Dated 1821

Original viewed on 5/7/2021 at [https://dlg.usg.edu/record/ngc\\_ngen\\_m-4125](https://dlg.usg.edu/record/ngc_ngen_m-4125)

[p 5]<sup>7</sup>

State of Georgia Pike County} SS

Be it known, that before me Moses R Mathews a Justice of the Peace, in & for the county, aforesaid, personally appeared Austin Dabney & made oath in due form of law, that he is the identical Austin Dabney named in an original certificate in his possession, of which (I certify) the following is a true copy: “The bearer Austin Dabney was wounded in the thigh in an action at Augusta on the 25 day of May 1782 [sic, 1781] as appears from a certificate given by Elijah Clark then Colonel for which he is entitled to five Dollars per month amounting in the whole to sixty pounds thirteen shillings & four pence Sterling given under my hand this 29<sup>th</sup> September 1786.

S/ James Lander  
 Inspector Invalids,”

State-House, Augusta 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1792 I do certify the foregoing Certificate of James Lander in favour of Austin Dabney is a record in the Executive department

S/ J. Meiwether Sy. E. D.

That he is entitled to a pension of eight Dollars per month, on account of wounds and disabilities received or of the services rendered to the United States during the Revolutionary war; that he served in Captain Barber’s [George Barber’s]<sup>8</sup> Company of Infantry in Colonel Elijah Clark’s,

<sup>7</sup> Fold3.com “Final Payment Vouchers—Georgia”, letter “D,” “Dabney, Austin”  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/hhVNldYoFgnfgkQ11jfYxQlOI?military.conflict=US+Revolutionary+War&place=rel.148838:United+States+of+America>

<sup>8</sup> Lucian Lamar Knight, compiler, *Georgia's Roster of the Revolution: Containing a List of the States Defenders; Officers and Men; Soldiers and Sailors; Partisans and Regulars; Whether Enlisted from Georgia or Settled in Georgia after the Close of Hostilities*, Index Printing Co., Atlanta, 1920

regiment; that he now resides in Pike County, State of Georgia, & has resided there for the space of four years past; & that previous thereto he resided in Newton County in said State.

Sworn and subscribed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1830 before me  
S/ Moses R Mathews, JP

S/ Austin Dabney, X his mark