

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Reuben Lisenby NC27

Transcribed by Joe B. O'Connor from a handwriting transcript made by
Mary Hardin McCown [See endnote] June 1935
[annotated by Will Graves]

1821 Original Claim

District of Washington S.S. Washington County [Washington County, Tennessee]

On the 11th day of October 1821 personally appeared in open court being a court of record for the county aforesaid Reuben Lisenby aged 70 years, resident in the county of Washington which first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818, 1st of May 1820 said Lisenby entered for the term of ten months in the year 1779 or 80 which he is not now positive in Capn William Hutcheson [Captain William Hutchison of Mecklenburg County NC militia] Company of Col William Polks [Lt. Colonel William Polk's] Regiment¹ under General Sumpter [General Thomas Sumter]¹ in the North Carolina Line of Continental Troops that he served out faithfully his term of ten months & obtained a discharge from under the hand of Wayde Hampton [Colonel Wade Hampton], which discharge was burnt in his house with his other effects that he has never before applied for a pension and assigns as his reason for not earlier applying that he was wholly ignorant how to proceed, that he has a family of eight children & destitute of property & crippled that he was in the Battles of Hanging Rock [Battle of Hanging Rock, August 6, 1780]² & Eustae [?]³ with other scouting parties and in pursuance of the Act of 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of any property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it or to bring myself within the provision of an act of congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, passed on the 18th day of March 1818 & that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due me nor have I any income other than what is on the annexed schedule hereto annexed by me subscribed no property of any kind or description and has been refused the provisions of a pauper because of his being entitled to a pension.

Rheuben Lisenby, X his mark

I do hereby Certify that the foregoing oath declaration & schedule are duly copied from the Record of the said Tenant; I also Certify that the Court were satisfied that the claimant served for the Term of nine months under one engagement on the Continental establishment & I do further Certify that it is the opinion of the court that property exhibited on the foregoing schedule is \$ nothing

¹ Note by Will Graves: Thomas Sumter was not acting as a Continental officer at the time the veteran says he served under him. At that time, Sumter was serving as an elected general of the refugee NC and SC militia forces opposing the British occupation of South Carolina.

² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

³  Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand & affixed my seal of office this 12th Oct. 1821.

James Sevier Clk.
By S/Sam'l Greer D.C.

[Note by Joe B. O'Connor: This is a typed copy with annotation of Mary Hardin McCown's June 1935 hand written transcription of the above declaration.,
Finding Aid: FamilySearch.org > Washington County, Tennessee > Public Records > Miscellaneous Records 1778-1900 > Image 46 & Image 47
Author: Washington County (Tennessee). County Clerk; McCown, Mary Hardin]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁴ relating to Reuben Lessenberry⁵ AA
Audited Account Microfilm file No.
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/11/20

[p 2]
Reuben Lessinbury [sic] order James Tagert

I do hereby certify that a Class of 15 Men represented by James Tagert is entitled to receive my Bounty & pay of a Negro for my services as a private Soldier in the State of South Carolina for 10 Months under the Command of Lt. Col. Wm Polk [William Polk]

Witness

S/ Wm Polk

S/ Ruebin Lissinbury [sic], X his mark



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[p 3 : Printed form of Indent No. 575 Book M dated first of October 1784 “delivered to Mr. Reuben Lessonberry [sic] late Private in S. Martin’s [Samuel Martin’s] Troop, Polk’s [Lt. Col. William Polk’s] Regiment Sumpter’s [Thomas Sumter’s] Brigade this our Indented Certificate for the Sum of Ninety-four pounds Sterling being amount pay and bounty due him for Services in that Troop Together with Interest thereon from the first April 1782 to date hereof Agreeable to Resolution of General Assembly of the Eleventh March last.”]

[p 4: Reverse of the above Indent bearing endorsements by Peter Bocquet, Commissioner of the South Carolina treasury, Thomas Sumter, Richard Richardson, Henry Haynsworth, and Jacob B. Ion [?]. How these men acquired an interest in the Indent is not disclosed by the documents in this file.]

⁴ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person’s surname first in the “Full name” box followed by a comma and the person’s Christian name.

⁵ This is the name under which this claim is indexed in the South Carolina Audited Accounts.

⁶ This is the signature of Lieutenant Colonel William Polk of Mecklenburg County North Carolina

ⁱ J. D. Lewis notes the following regarding Lt. Col. William Polk's regiment:

Lt. Col. William Polk Regiment under Brig. Gen. Thomas Sumter is a "hybrid," and to me there is no simple and clearcut way to describe them except:

A new regiment, known as Polk's Regiment of Light Dragoons was authorized as South Carolina State Troops in April of 1781 by Gov. John Rutledge upon the recommendation of Brig. Gen. Thomas Sumter, to be paid for by the state of South Carolina. It included men mostly from North Carolina, but of course included men from South Carolina and probably Georgia.

I have seen many men say that Polk actually started his own regiment in the late Summer / early Fall of 1780 - in and around Mecklenburg County, NC - also not quite accurate. At this point in time, this group would be considered North Carolina Militia. In June of 1780, William Polk was made a Lt. Colonel of NC Militia under Col. Robert Irwin, although he had previously served as a Major in the NC 9th Regiment, which was totally disbanded in June of 1778. There are no decent records to indicate what Wm. Polk did between June of 1778 and June of 1780, but we can be sure he didn't just sit around eating bon bons. Beats me. At the battle of Camden, he served as Aide-de-Camp to Maj. Gen. Richard Caswell as a NC Lt. Col. of Militia. Then returned to Mecklenburg County under Col. Robert Irwin.

So, from June of 1780 to April of 1781, Polk's group of men were simply part of the Mecklenburg County Regiment of Militia in North Carolina, serving under Col. Robert Irwin.

Although in April of 1781, this unit was placed under Brig. Gen. Thomas Sumter and considered SC State Troops (as they were paid by SC), again, the regiment was mostly made up of men from North Carolina. Again however, they served almost all of their time following around Sumter in South Carolina, with few furloughs back home - since they were no longer considered to be Militia.