

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wharton (Whorton) R11494

f16SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

[p 4]

Georgia Gwinnett County} Inferior Court November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1832

On this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1832 Personally appeared in open Court (it being a Court of Record) now sitting John Wharton a resident of the said County of Gwinnett & State aforesaid aged Seventy four years who being first 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated (to wit) That he entered the service at the age of ~~Eighteen~~ Twenty years which he believes was about the year 1778 in the district of Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina where he then resided as a volunteer under the command of Captain John Wallace & Captain Joseph Toles [sic, Joseph Towles]. That he was what was called a minute man & continued in that kind of service from the time he first entered the service until the end of the War, whenever called on, which was very often, principally under the before mentioned officers; but a part of the time was under Captain Wiles [John Wilds, Cheraws District Regiment] and that he is very certain that he served as much as eighteen months principally against the Tories & those services was rendered in South Carolina & that he was often stationed near Saluda old Town & was in a great many skirmishes against the Tories. That he never took any written discharges from his officers but that they his officers at all times whenever a tour or scouting party was over discharged him verbally -- and that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services, nor does he know of any person now living who could establish the same, that since the revolutionary war he has resided first in South Carolina & from there he came to the State of Georgia & that he is now residing in Gwinnett County in said State. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court.

S/ John Whorton, X his mark

S/ Wm Maltbie, Clk

[Jonathan Fincher, a clergyman, and James W. Moore gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Georgia Gwinnett County: Before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of said County personally appeared John Wharton whose name appears to the annexed Declaration for a pension and after being duly sworn he deposeth & answereth as follows -- That from his old age & from

the fact that he is illiterate he is unable to swear positively as to the date that he entered the service but according to his best recollection it was in the year 1778 -- that at the time he entered the service he resided in the State of South Carolina in what was then called Ninety Six now Edgefield District where he resided during the whole time of the revolution -- That he was from the time he entered the service a volunteer minute man until the close of the War -- his Captain would discharge him when actual service was not necessary & he would return home & as soon as he was ordered he returned to the service it is impossible for him to recollect how long at any time or how many times he was permitted to return home and was all the time a private soldier & served in that grade, that he recollects that at the time of the Siege of Ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781] he was stationed near Saluda old town guarding & protecting confiscated property. That he belonged to Colonel Hays' [Joseph Hayes'] Regiment when the Tories captured & hung him & Colonel Williams [sic, Capt. Daniel Williams] -- and that he was one who got to their quarters shortly afterwards & helped to bury the Colonels Hayes & Williams<sup>1</sup> and that he belonged to the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] he does not recollect the number of the Regiment nor Brigade. That William Smith -- John Smith -- Luke McHaw -- William [William Abner] & John Abner<sup>2</sup> belonged to his mess & were with him in nearly all his service -- and his Quarter Master was named Merry McGuire -- and he further saith that he was born in Charlotte County & State of Virginia on the 5th day of April 1758 as he has always been told by his parents he not being able to read that it was recorded in his father's family Bible but what has become of it he cannot tell. That his father removed with him to Ninety Six in South Carolina when he was about five years old & that he resided there till long after the close of the revolution -- removed to Greenville District then to Spartanburg in South Carolina & in 1821 removed to Gwinnett County & State of Georgia where he now resides.

That Jonathan Fincher a clergyman & James W. Moore Esquire who have testified Reuben Garner & John Ragsdale & many others of his neighbors can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. That during all the time he was a volunteer in the service he was not engaged in any civil pursuit except when at home by permission of his officers -- And for said service he claims a pension.

The foregoing amendment was sworn to & subscribed before made this 22 day of May 1833  
S/ John Mills, JP

S/ John Wharton, X his mark

[p 15]

Georgia Gwinnett County} Before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace of said County personally appeared John Wharton of said County & in further amendment of his annexed declaration he says that as well as he can recollect in the year 1778 when he served his first tour he was one to provide provisions for the company to which he belonged in thrashing & cleaning grain & having it ready & delivered for the use of the Army in 1779 -- he was marched to that

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<sup>1</sup> Veteran appears to be describing the engagement at Hayes Station which is thought to have occurred on November 19, 1781. In that engagement Colonel Joseph Hayes, Captain Daniel Williams and his brother Joseph Williams were among the Whig's hung by Major William ("Bloody Bill") Cunningham. The two Williams brothers were sons of Colonel James Williams, who died October 8, 1780 from wounds suffered the preceding day at the battle of Kings Mountain. [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_hayes\\_station.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hayes_station.html).

<sup>2</sup> I think these men's names were more likely John Abney and William Abney as Abney was a much more common name in the SC backcountry than Abner. However, I didn't find claims by men of those names for services similar to those claimed by the veteran.

part that now forms Laurens District where they had a skirmish with the Tories -- then marched back to the Blockhouse which was there stationed -- and then pursued & dispersed a herd of Tories near Edisto -- and then returned to the Fort and made frequent marches through the District to suppress & dispersed the Indians & Tories in this year he served in this kind of service 9 months -- in 1780 -- he was employed in similar service and at the same place 3 months -- in 1781 -- he was also employed & engaged as stated at least 3 months more & in his first service in 1779 he served at least 3 months which together made in all 18 months he served much more than this in Garrison etc. but only states the service that he well recollects & during all the time they were actively engaged in protecting the inhabitants from the depredations of the Tories & savages and that for these 18 months he was compelled to do military duty & was engaged in no civil pursuit.

Sworn to before me this 20 September 1833

S/ John Mills, JP

S/ John Wharton, X his mark