

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Couch R2361

f16SC

Transcribed by Will Graves 7/17/06

rev'd 6/4/11 & 8/19/14

[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' 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.]

State of South Carolina, Greenville District

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred & thirty six personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Court of Ordinary for Greenville District now sitting William Couch a resident of Greenville District in the State of South Carolina aged seventy eight 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—He was living in Spartanburg District South Carolina when he entered the service of his country. He first volunteered under Captain George Roebuck & Lieutenant Peter Brooks in a regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Benjamin Roebuck. He cannot from loss of memory & extreme old age be positive as to the year, but thinks it was in the Spring of the year 1780. This Regiment was called out to fight the Tories & patrol the country & protect its inhabitants from their depredations. The regiment marched through Laurens, Newberry & down to the waters of the Edisto in search of Cunningham [William Cunningham, a.k.a. William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] & his Tory forces who were doing great mischief. They remained there some time & returned to the upper Country & was at the battle of Blackstocks [November 20, 1780] and also in a skirmish with the British at Musgrove's Mills [August 19, 1780]. His term of six months for which he volunteered expired & he returned home. In this tour he served six months as a private in the militia as above stated & claims a pension for such services.

The second tour he again volunteered under the command of Captain Peter Brooks, Major John Ford & Colonel Benjamin Roebuck, in the militia of South Carolina as a private. He volunteered for six months. This tour was performed in the year 1781 & recollects that his term of service expired at the siege of "Ninety Six." [May 22-June 18, 1781] He was marched into the middle country & there fell under the command of General Pickens [Andrew Pickens]. He was in a little skirmish with the Tories on Little River. Thence he marched under the command of General Pickens towards "Ninety Six," waiting for General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] from the north. On the arrival of Greene the British Fort at ninety six was besieged & before the siege was abandoned his term of six months expired & he enlisted in the regular army. In the tour above stated he served six months as a private in the militia as above stated & for such service claims a pension.

After the expiration of this term of six months at the siege of ninety six he immediately enlisted in the regular army under the command of Captain James Meadors [sic, Meadows?] He enlisted during the war & does not recollect the name of the Regiment to which he belonged. He was marched after the siege of Ninety Six down the country & united with Greene until discharged near Charleston. He was in the battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] & severely wounded in the thigh in this battle by a bayonet & was twice pierced by a bayonet. In this battle he saw Colonel Washington [William Washington] taken a prisoner & assisted in his rescue. From the battle of Eutaw Springs he marched to Monck's Corner & remained in this part of the country till the news of the evacuation of Charleston. He was then discharged. When he enlisted he was placed in a company of Grenadiers & remained in the said company until discharged. The exact time he served after his enlistment he does not recollect. He thinks ten or twelve months. He is sure it was not less than ten months & for such service he claims a pension. [Text obliterated but probably reads: "He does not recollect the names of any regular officers or "] of any continental regiments except those already mentioned. He has no documentary evidence of his services. And he knows of no one whose testimony he can procure as to his services at present & being poor & helpless & without relations with him, or any where able to assist him.

1<sup>st</sup>. He was born in Hillsborough North Carolina and believes in the year 1758. 2<sup>nd</sup> Has no record of his age. 3<sup>rd</sup>. He was living in Spartanburg District South Carolina when called into service & has lived in South Carolina ever since. 4<sup>th</sup>. He volunteered twice & enlisted once. 5<sup>th</sup>. He does not recollect any further about the names of the regular officers & continental regiments than already stated. 6<sup>th</sup> He received a written discharge at the close of the war from the Brigade Inspector as he thinks but it has been lost long since. 7<sup>th</sup> He is known in his present neighborhood to Runnells Dill & Dicky Ayers [?] & others who will testify as to his character for veracity & their belief in his service as a soldier of the revolution.

In all he alleges he has served three tours—two for six months each in the militia and one for not less than ten months in the regular army under General Greene—making one year & ten months as a private & for such services he claims a Pension.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Couch, X his mark

Test: S/ Jno. Watson, Judge Court of Ordinary

[M. M. Wallace, a clergyman, and Runnells Dill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

South Carolina Greenville District: Personally came before me the subscribing Justice Charles Campbell<sup>1</sup> who being duly sworn deposed & saith that he was well acquainted with William Couch during the Revolutionary War & that he is the same William Couch who has applied for a Pension under the Act 1832 from Greenville District South Carolina. That the said William Couch did serve a considerable time in the militia of South Carolina during the Revolutionary War, but this deponent does not know how long. That said William Couch enlisted in the Regular Army of the United States at the Siege of Ninety Six & that he continued in the said Army until the close of the war as this deponent believes & has always

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<sup>1</sup> I could find no person by this name who filed a claim for a federal pension statements stating that he had participated in the siege at Ninety Six.

understood. This deponent was at the Siege of Ninety Six & present when said Couch enlisted he knows that the said Couch went off with the American Army & he knows that he returned home towards the close of the war. But this deponent did not serve with said Couch nor can he swear positively as to the length of said Couch's Services but it must have been not less than twelve months.

This deponent believes that the said William Couch was a true friend to his country & active in her service during the Revolutionary War. Sworn to and subscribed this July 17th 1836

S/ Wm Lynch, J Q

S/ Charles Campbell, X his mark

South Carolina Spartanburg District:

Personally came before me the subscribing Justice, William Hollems<sup>2</sup> who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with William Couch during the Revolutionary War & that he is the same William Couch who has applied for a pension under the Act of 1832 from Greenville District South Carolina that the said William Couch did serve a considerable time in the Militia of South Carolina during the Revolutionary War but this deponent does not know how long that the said William Couch enlisted in the Regular Service of the United States at the Siege of Ninety Six and that he continued in the said Army until the surrender of the Seneca Fort, he afterwards was in the Army but how long he cannot say but he knows he returned home towards the close of the War the deponent did not serve with said Couch after he left the Seneca Fort, but thinks he served with him more than 12 months before the surrender of the said Seneca Fort. This deponent believes that the said William Couch was a true friend of his country & acted in the service during the Revolutionary War.

Sworn to and subscribed this 5th day of September 1836

S/ Joel Dean, JQ

S/ Wm Hollems, H his mark

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<sup>2</sup> [William Hollems \(Hollins\) W27864](#)