

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Cummings R2577

[f22SC]

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/10/11 & 3/6/20

[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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of South Carolina, Laurens District

I W. D. Watts Judge of the Court of Ordinary for said District do hereby certify to all whom it may Concern that I was well acquainted with the late John Cummings of said district, that he died some time in the fall of 1839 having neither wife or child, never was married, and it further comes within my own knowledge that he was a pensioner of the State of South Carolina at the rate of \$60 per annum that he left a will at his death which has been proven & recorded in this office and that Dr. A. F. Golding is his duly qualified executor.

Given under my hand and seal of office the 11th day of July 1853

Ordinary officer

Laurens Ct. House

S/ W. D. Watts,
J.C. O. L. D.

South Carolina, Spartanburg District

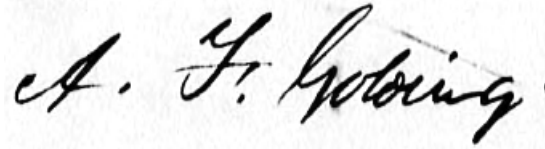
On this eighth day of July 1853 before me Reuben Bowden Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the District and State aforesaid Personally appeared Dr. A. F. Golding who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832, that he is the Executor of John Cummings a pensioner of the State of South Carolina at the rate of ___ dollars per annum late of Laurens district S. C. deceased states that the said John Cummings was a private soldier in the Army of the Revolution as he has always understood and believes and as such he served the United States against the Common enemy but to give all the particulars of service declarant cannot but thinks and believes from information that he was a private in Captain James Giles' Troop of Cavalry General Sumter's brigade under an enlistment and served 10 months and also served in the Militia under Sumter & Pickens and was at Hayes Station in Laurens district when the place was Captured by the enemy where a number of our forces were executed after surrendering prisoners of war and was Generally engaged in his country's service until the close of the war.

Declarant further says that the said John Cummings departed this life in Laurens District South Carolina the fall of 1839 and would as a matter of extreme caution refer the department to the certificate of the Court of Ordinary at Laurens as his the said John Cummings' will is there recorded and that he left neither wife nor child him surviving and further I do hereby as the Executor of John Cummings deceased constitute and appoint A S Wallace or Honorable J. L. Orr my true and lawful attorney for me and in my name to receive from the agent of the agent of the pension office the certificate of the said John Cummings when issued which certificate I wish made payable to me to examine all the papers and documents on file in this claim at Washington City or elsewhere to file additional evidence or arguments in said claim to appoint one or more substitutes under them for the purpose herein expressed and to do all things that I might or could do were I personally present hereby ratifying and confirming all that my said attorney and agent shall lawfully do in the premises.

Witness my hand and seal this seventh day of July 1853.

Sworn to and Subscribed this the Day and year above written in open Court.

S/ A. F. Golding, {Seal}



[p 8]

[Copy]

To the Honorable Senate of the State of South Carolina

The petition of John Cummings shows that he was a Soldier of the Revolutionary War that he enlisted in the Service of his native State early in the year 1776 and continued so to serve until the close of the Revolutionary War under various officers all which will fully appear by referring to the accompanying Documents, and that he is poor utterly incapable by his personal labor of supporting himself being in [his] 73rd year of his age: wherefore your petitioner prays that his claim may be examined and that he may be placed on the pension list on the usual terms.

S/ John Cummings

By John Caldwell

Certificate of William Watson

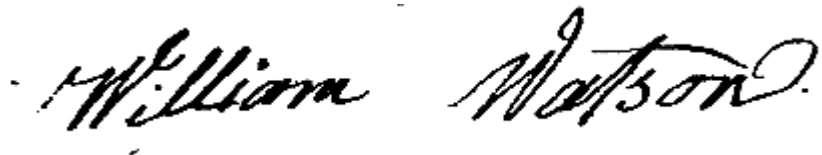
This is to certify to all whom it may concern that I have been acquainted with John Cummings of Laurens District since his Boyhood: And being called upon by Mr. Cummings to State the Services rendered by him in the war of Independence, do in justice to the claims of Mr. Cummings make the following statement (viz.) Mr. Cummings at early period of his life engaged with the Whig party and the defense of the rights of his Country: the length of time which the said Cummings Served is not now recollected by me, but I distinctly recollect that he served several successive tours of duty under the following officers, Viz. Captains Oliver Towls [Oliver Towles] and Lockley Leonard. He also served a tour of duty under Colonel Joseph Hayes that martyr of liberty who was so inhumanly butchered by a Band of Tories at Edgehill's old field: and lastly and until the end of the war with Captain John Wallace. Mr. Cummings in company with myself served a tour of duty under Captain Pollard who was dispatched with other troops to prevent the depredations then committing by the Indians in the State of Georgia. In conclusion I state company's unable to support himself by his labor.

South Carolina, Abbeville District

Personally appeared before me William Watson of the state and District of who being Sworn as the Law direction saith that the above statement relative to the revolutionary services of John Cummings is a faithful account of the Services rendered by him and true. Sworn to before me this 25th of November 1831.

S/ Jas. Carson, J. Q.

S/ William Watson¹



Certificate of John Cummings

This is to certify that John Cummings of the State of South Carolina Laurens District he engages with the Whig party in the defense and maintenance of the liberties of this Country during the revolutionary contest with Great Britain. I further state that I commenced my services under Captain

¹ This veteran did not file for a pension from the federal government under the 1832 act. His signature was copied from South Carolina Audited Account file #1685A [John Cummings].

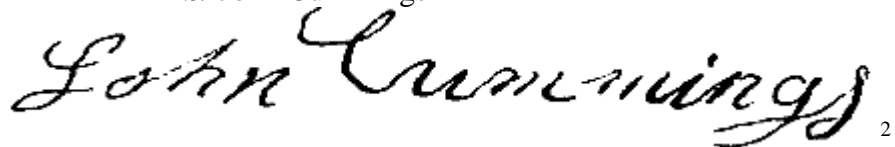
Oliver Towles at the age of between 18 and 20 years –I served several successive tours of duty under the following officers, Viz., under Captain Lockly Leonard another tour under Col. Joseph Hayes and continued under his command until his defeat and death at Edgehill old place: after the death of Colonel Hayes I was attached to the command of Captain John Wallace and continued with him until the close of the war. During the time that the British occupied the City of Augusta, I was placed under the command of Lieutenant Angus Campbell, who was dispatched with other American forces to prevent the British from landing on the Carolina side of the River Savannah. I also served a tour of duty under Captain Pollard [Richard Pollard], who was dispatched for the purpose of arresting a march of the Indians who were then committing depredations upon the citizens of Georgia. I further state that it is not now in my power from the great lapse of time to say with exactness what length of time I served under the above named officers nor the title of the Regiment to which the said officers were attached, but state that the length of time was considerable, as my services commenced at an early period of the war and continued with occasional absences until its close and lastly I state that while on a tour of duty a party of Tories stole from me the only property which I then possessed of any value, viz., a horse.

South Carolina, Abbeville District

Personally appeared before me John Cummings who being duly sworn as the law directs said that the above certificate relative to his revolutionary services is true according to the best of his knowledge. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th of November 1831.

S/ Jas. Carson, JQ

S/ John Cummings

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Cummings". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. A small number "2" is written at the end of the signature.

[Cummings gives a schedule of his property as of 1831.]

[James Ward gives an affidavit regarding the Tories taking Cummings' horse and selling it at auction in Charleston.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts ³ relating to John Cummings	AA18
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1685A	
Transcribed by Will Graves	3/6/20

[p 3: is the petition transcribed above from the federal pension application on p 8]

[p 5: is an image of the original of William Watson's affidavit transcribed above.]

[p 6: is an image of the original John Cummings' petition transcribed above.]

[Note: Veteran was granted a pension by the state of South Carolina of \$60 per annum.]

² Signature taken from his Audited Account in the South Carolina Archives. See below.

³ 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.