

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Head R4814

f51SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/1/11: rev'd 5/20/22

[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 8th 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.]

State of South Carolina Edgefield District: In the Common Pleas

Declaration of James Head a Revolutionary Soldier

I was born in Granville County North Carolina and am now Seventy-five years of age. I was seventy-five in December last. I entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer at an early age (to the best of my recollection in October 1780 in Spartanburg South Carolina (now known as such) to which place my father had moved from North Carolina. I was generally associated with Lieutenant Miles of Captain Fords [John Ford's] Company of Colonel Robucks [sic, Benjamin Roebuck's] Regiment of what had been called General Williamson's [Andrew Williamson's] Brigade. Sometime after Captain Ford and Lieutenant Miles separated. I went then under the command of Lieutenant Miles to the Frontiers on Green River: we continued there three months to keep in check the Indians, who were at that time very troublesome. We built a large log house which served us as a fort. I then took the smallpox and returned home in January or first of February 1781 making a tour of four months, at least.

After my recovery I attached myself to Lieutenant Miles command in March 1781 and we went on a scouting expedition to North Carolina about Kings Mountain: from there we went to Catawba River and fell in company with twelve of Colonel Lee's [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee's] Dragoons who were out recruiting [resting] their horses. We continued some time in the same vicinity and recruited our horses. We then returned to the section now composing Spartanburg District South Carolina and scouted some time till the last of July or first of August 1781 to keep in all the outlying Tories. My service been expired with Lieutenant Miles being in the last Tour about four months.

I then attached myself to Captain Waters [Bordwine Waters'] company in September 1781 who went out on Broad River. I was then left to take charge of six or seven horses five or six Negroes, baggage &c. The Captain and his command went off and left me in charge of the above property. I remained there till December when I was relieved and went on a tour in December 1781 or January 1782 over about Kings Mountain for four or five weeks, making about four months including my service with Captain Waters. I then returned home and taking some other short routes after the Tories my service expired making in all to the best of my knowledge at least twelve months service. I have lived for some time past in the State of Alabama among Strangers, and supposed it useless to make an effort there to obtain a pension. I have now returned to the State of my former residence and scene of my services and petition for such favorable consideration as my case may seem to merit.

S/ James Head

James Head

[Attested March Term 1843 by A. P. Butler, judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Edgefield County, SC April 27, 1843.]

[p 9: John Trapp, a Minister of the Gospel resident of Edgefield County South Carolina gave the standard supporting affidavit dated March 17, 1843.]

[p 10: James M Johnson gave a standard supporting affidavit dated June 20, 1843.]

[p 11]

State of South Carolina Edgefield District: In the Court of Ordinary

On this Twentieth day of June 1843 personally appeared in open Court before the court of Ordinary now sitting, James Head a resident of the District and State aforesaid aged seventy five 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, 1832:

That this deponent was born in Granville County North Carolina in December 1767 to the best of his recollection and that he has not now any record of his age. Soon after the birth of Deponent, – his Father moved with his family into the District of Spartanburg South Carolina, where deponent was residing at the time he entered the service of his country. He has lived since the Revolution a short time in the District of Pendleton South Carolina and six or eight years in the State of Alabama, and the balance of the time, he has lived in the District of Edgefield where he now resides, and in the same neighborhood. He entered the service of the United States as a volunteer at an early age in October 1780, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated:

He was usually associated with Lieutenant Miles who was attached to Captain Ford's Company which company belonged to Colonel Roebuck's Regiment – a Regiment of what had been called General Williamson's Brigade. He went under the command of Lieutenant Miles to the Frontiers of South Carolina on Green River where the command continued for three months to keep in check the Indians: He, this Deponent, then took the Small Pox and returned home the last of January or first of February 1781, having been out four months. After his recovery Deponent attached himself again to Lieutenant Miles Command in March 1781 and went on a scouting expedition to North Carolina about Kings Mountain: from there we went to Catawba River and fell in company with twelve of Colonel Lee's Dragoons. Miles command there recruited their horses returned to the section now composing Spartanburg District and scouted the country for the Tories till the first of August 1781 – making four months. Deponent then attached himself to Captain Waters' Company in September 1781, which command went out on a scouting expedition to Broad River where Deponent was left to take charge of some Negroes, horses and baggage. Deponent was relieved in December and went out on a scouting Tour in the vicinity of Kings Mountain for five weeks making a tour of four months. Deponent then returned home, and after several short routes in pursuit of Tories his services expired, making at least twelve months. He says to be on the safe side he has placed his number of months service at the lowest estimate. He received no formal discharge from the Service. He says he knows of no other persons now living except Aaron Starnes and Rosanna Huff ¹ who can testify as to his

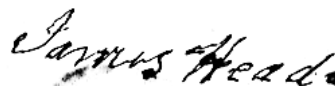
¹ A letter in the file [p 26] contains the statement that the affidavits of Aaron Starky [sic] and Rosanna Huff referred

services, and that they are credible witnesses now living in the District of Spartanburg as appears by their affidavits, and the certificates of the Clerk of the court of Common Pleas for Spartanburg district, John Trapp a clergyman of Edgefield, and Allen B Addison a citizen of the same place, both credible persons, besides various others, can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. The command to which Deponent was attached saw but little of any Regular Troops, their time being chiefly occupied in checking the Tories who were numerous and troublesome in the sections of country mentioned in this Declaration. They were never in any important action but were engaged in many small skirmishes with the Tories. They heard General Sumter's [Thomas Sumter's] firing at Blackstocks [November 20, 1780], and the commander of the scout to which Deponent was attached that his command promptly to the scene of action but did not reach in time to afford effective aid.

Deponent deems it proper to state to the Department that since the declaration made before the Honorable A. P. Butler was sent on, this Deponent has suffered various bodily infirmity from a fall from a horse, but that his mental energies were not thereby injured. He hopes he may find favor with the Department and 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Head



[p 25: On November 4 1852 in Edgefield district South Carolina, Phoebe Johnson (widow), aged 54, filed a power of attorney in which she states she is the daughter of James Head an applicant for a pension for his service in the revolution. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 8: "The printed list of 1852 gives as cause of suspension "For proof from the Auditor General of S.C.""]

South Carolina Audited Accounts² relating to James Head pp 13
Audited Account No. 3483.5

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[Note: Documents in this file indicate that the State of South Carolina granted a veteran by the name of James Head a pension at the rate of \$60 per annum with the 1st receipt contained in the file being dated May 31, 1850. Unfortunately the file does not contain the veteran's application for a pension from the State. A search of the South Carolina archives on line index did not uncover a reference to a likely file containing such a petition.]

to in the veteran's application were not returned to the Department and are not to be found in the file.

² The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) 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. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

[p 7]

To the Honorable the Senate & House of Representatives

The Humble petition of George W Dorn, Sheweth, –

That he is the Grand Son of James Head a Revolutionary Pensioner, who died on the 28 October 1851; and who for 3 or 4 years previous to his death, had no means of subsistence except the pension allowed him by the Bounty of the State, and the means furnished him by your Petitioner.

It Further Shews, That the Said George W Dorn, had all the trouble and expense of supporting and maintaining the said James Head, for the 3 or 4 years immediately preceding his death.

It further shews, That James Head, at his deceased, was a regular Pensioner on the Pension roll of the State, and had received no pension from the first March 1851, until his death, which occurred, as before mentioned, on the twenty-eighth October, 1851.

Your petitioner, therefore prays your Honorable body, that he may be allowed the Balance of the Pension due to his Grandfather at the time of his death, in remuneration for his burial expenses and for the trouble and expense of nursing & maintaining the said James Head for the year 1851, and other years preceding.

S/ G. W. Dorn

G. W. Dorn

[Note: The prayer of the petition was granted]