

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Lewis R6335

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

South Carolina        }  
District of Fairfield }

On this twenty second day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty five, personally appeared in open Court, before John R. Buchanan Judge of the Court of Ordinary for Fairfield District, in the State aforesaid, now sitting, William Lewis, a resident of Fairfield District aforesaid in the 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<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was born in Caroline County State of Virginia, on the ninth day of October A.D. 1759. That his age was recorded in his deponents father's family Bible. That deponents fathers name was John Lewis, and deponent has seen the record of his age in said Bible. That said Bible was taken to Natchez Mississippi by Gray Briggs, a grand son of deponents father twenty five or thirty years ago:

That deponents father removed from Virginia to South Carolina, Fairfield District when as deponent has ever understood he was four years old, and deponent was living when called into service at the mouth of the Wateree Creek, on the Fairfield side of the Wateree River. That deponent has lived in Fairfield District and on branches of the Wateree Creek ever since the Revolutionary war, with the exception of two years he lived on twenty five mile Creek in Fairfield District (deponent then about twenty five and six years old) and two years he lived in Richland District on the Congaree River (deponent then about twenty seven and eight years old) and with the exception of the last sixteen years during which time he has lived where he now lives to wit, on the public road from Winnsborough [Winnsboro] to Rocky Mount and sixteen miles from the former and three miles from the latter place and still in Fairfield District.

That deponent was called into service in this manner, the Militia Company to which he belonged was divided into three divisions or classes, and one division or class only was called out into service at one time. That deponent marched with the class or division to which he belonged whenever that class or division was called into service. That deponent was no substitute and supposes he may be considered as having been drafted.

Deponent never received a discharge in writing. His commanding Officer always gave verbal orders to his men that they were discharged and had liberty to return home. Their lawful term having generally expired and the relief having come in.

Deponent would refer to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution to Colonel Austin F. Peay, (Senator in the State Legislature) Captain John Hollis, William Johnston, Jeremiah Taylor, The Rev'd. Wm. Carlisle and Rev'd. Thos. Hall

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein named.

First Tour. The first tour of duty performed by Deponent was directed to Charleston So. Ca. in the summer of the year 1776 and shortly after the battle of fort Moultrie [Battle of Sullivan Island, 28 - 29 Jun 1776]. Captain Francis Tidwell was the Captain. The Company rendezvoused on the Wateree Fairfield District and marched toward Charleston by the River road, through Richland and Orangeburg Districts, and were discharged below McCords ferry on the Congaree River, having there met the Militia troops from Charleston on their way home. The Company had not joined the other Companies of the Regiment when discharged, nor had Colonel John Winn, the Colonel Commanding the Regiment joined. Deponent saw no Continental Officers this tour. Deponent served this tour one month as a private soldier.

Second. The second tour performed was to Georgia the year of 1779 and in spring and summer months of that year. Captain Charles Lewis commanded the Company. The Company met at Winnsborough and were marched to Granby and crossed the Congaree River at Fridays ferry, and thence were marched on to the Savannah River at Augusta Georgia, was occasionally across the river in Georgia in Scouting parties. From Augusta was marched down to Stono to the couth of Charleston So. Ca. and at Stono was finally discharged. Col. Wm. Goodwyn commanded the

regiment and was present. Brig'r. General [Andrew] Williamson commanded the whole Militia. There were four or five hundred Militia there, Col. [LeRoy] Hammond and regiment, Col. Singleton & regiment, Col. Goodwyn and regiment were there and also Col. John Winns regiment (Col. Winn not there). There were some regulars there and Captain Prince & Capt. John Buchanan were there. After the troops left Augusta [May 1779] they fell in with Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln and Army of regulars. They were then all marched on to Stono. Deponent was placed in the advanced guard under Capt. John Milling. The Militia with the regulars under Gen'l. Lincoln lay at Stono for some time and Gen'l. Lincoln & the regulars were left there when the Militia were discharged. Some of the American guards were fired upon at Bacons bridge on Ashley river where the army was on its way to Stono. The enemy were repulsed. Deponent served three months and one week as a private on this tour.

3<sup>rd</sup>. The third tour performed was to Purisburgh [sic: Purysburgh] So. Ca. This tour deponent believes was after the attack on Savannah in October 1779 [Siege of Savannah, 24 Sep - 19 Oct], and he supposes it to have commenced in Dec'r. 1779 or in Jan'y 1780. Captain JOHN Smith commanded the Company and Colonel John Winn commanded the regiment. The Company met at Winnsborough, thence marched to the Congaree and crossed this river at Harrells ferry, below the present town of Columbia, went through new Market on the road to Harrells ferry (new market then a place of deposit or depot) passed on through Orangeburg and Beufort [sic: Beaufort] Districts until the Army arrived at the village of Purisburg on the Savannah River. There were no troops at Purisburgh excepting Col. Jno. Winns Regiment two or three hundred strong. Deponent served three months as a private in this tour.

4<sup>th</sup>. The fourth tour performed commenced in the month of August 1780 and on the 9<sup>th</sup> day or on the day or two preceding, Capt. Charles Lewis commanded the Company (a brother of deponent) General Thomas Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] commanded the whole army on this [west] side Wateree River and was on this side this river when the battle of Camden was fought [16 Aug] in which Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates was defeated. Joined Sumpter on his way down to Camden. Was at Chesnuts ferry [Chestnuts Ferry] on the Wateree when the battle took place. Heard of General Gates' defeat and retreated up to Fishing Creek, Chester District; there was overtaken by Colonel Tarleton of the British Cavalry [Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, 18 Aug], surprised in consequence of no rear picket guard being posted, the army routed, many prisoners taken (as also the English prisoners in Gen'l. Sumpter's care) and a considerable number of Gen'l. Sumpter's men killed. Deponent made his escape, lay out for some time and finally was taken prisoner by the enemy Deponent watched an opportunity and seized a horse and made his escape. He then joined Colonel Baker [probably John Baker] from Georgia. Captain Josiah Scott commanded the Company deponent was attached to. Deponent remained under these officers performing military duty until he was compelled by sickness to leave the service two weeks before Christmas of the same year he entered this last tour. Deponent served four months as private this tour.

5<sup>th</sup>. The fifth tour performed was to Orangeburg So. Ca. This tour commenced in Dec'r. 1781 or January or February 1782. Captain Charles Lewis commanded the Company and Colonel Edward Lacy [Edward Lacey] commanded the Regiment. No regular troops there. Deponent served three months as a private this tour.

Deponent cannot by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, swear positively to the exact dates of the different tours of duty stated above, nor to the names of many of the officers commanding, nor is he certain that he has stated every term in its proper order of time but he is certain the length of time specified in each he served as stated and that he served in all fourteen months and one fourth as a private soldier and for such service he claims a pension. That he served with an embodied corps called into service by competent authority. That he was always in the field, and that for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

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.

[signed] Wm. Lewis

[Certified by John Hollis (pension application S21827), who stated that he served with Lewis on the fifth tour.]

NOTE: On 1 Nov 1852 John Lewis of "Allochiwa" (presumably Alachua) County, East Florida, assigned power of attorney to prosecute the claim of his father, William Lewis.