

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jeremiah Files S13025

f41SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/7/08 rev'd 2/9/15 & 2/12/21

[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.]

State of Alabama, Blount County: SS

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Marston Mead the Judge of the Court of Blount County now sitting Jeremiah Files a resident at \_\_\_ in the County of Blount and State of Alabama aged Sixty 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That on Christmas Eve in the year 1780 he enrolled himself as a volunteer under Colonel Andrew Pickens and at the time of his enrollment resided in Abbeville District in the State of South Carolina and marched from thence as a volunteer with Col. Pickens to Granville Shoals [sic, Grendel Shoals] on Packett River [sic, Pacolet River] and there joined General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] about the first of January in the year 1781 and then placed under the command of Captain McKall [sic, James McCall] in the Battalion of Major Noble [Alexander Noble] in the Regiment of Colonel Andrew Pickens of the South Carolina Militia. My Father John Files, Lieutenant & Hugh Bascins [sic, Hugh Baskin] the Ensign in said Company – and from Grendel Shoals we marched under General Morgan to the Cowpens and was at the Battle fought there against Tarltons [sic, Banastre Tarleton's] Legion on the Wednesday Morning on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 1781 -- & recollects a Continental officer called Colonel Howard [John Eager Howard] & Col. William Washington of the light Horse. This Deponent was wounded by Tarleton's Dragoons on the head – on the left arm and on the right hand each wound was made with a sword & the wounds are now visible the wounds Greatly Disabled this Deponent -- & Stunned him for some time & one Captain Alexander [perhaps William Alexander]<sup>1</sup> of Rowan County North Carolina was the first man to come to his relief & informed him of our victory -- & from thence he was carried in a Horse Bier three days with General Morgan's Army and arrived at the Town of Gilbert in North Carolina and there Left the Army and was taken to General Charles McDowell's at the Quaker Meadows on the Catawba River and there with one Michael Cane an American and 16 wounded British soldiers were placed under a Surgeon by the name of Rodulf [sic, Rudolph?] (a Dutchman) & there remained 16 Days and from thence Left the British soldiers and removed 6 miles to Martin Deadwiley's [Martin Detweiler's?] on Joyns [Johns ?] River & remained there 18 Days -- & afterwards returned home & remained unable to do duty until the first of June in said year & near the Last of June was attached to Captain Moses Liddell's Company who by order of Colonel Pickens Continued on the Frontiers of South Carolina committing Depredations on the Tories & Indians, and this Deponent remained in the said Company and about the first of January was

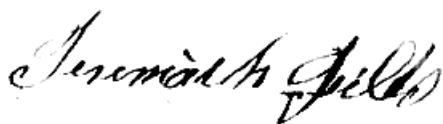
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<sup>1</sup> [William Alexander S361](#)

discharged by Captain Liddell and sometime in the spring of the year 1782 he again enrolled himself as a Substitute in the place of John Files of the South Carolina Militia in the Company of Captain Francis Carlile [sic, Francis Carlisle?] under & in the Battalion of Major Noble in General Pickens' Brigade & from Abbeville District marched through Orangeburg and joined General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army some time in the spring of said year at Bacon's Bridge about 20 miles from Charleston and remained in General Greene's Army about one month and this Deponent with Major Noble's Troops returned to Abbeville District & was attached to Captain Robert Caruthers' Company the first of August in 1782 under the Command of General Pickens and continued in said Company six months and whilst with the same marched under General Pickens into the Cherokee Indian Nation and was in a skirmish against the Indians at Tessanty Town & Nockooche Town & at those two Towns our Army killed thirty-seven Indians & we had only two men wounded -- & none killed, their names were Joseph Chapman and Britain Willis & from thence destroyed their Stock, Corn & Beans – in the fall [?] of the said the year & then returned home and remained in Captain Caruthers' -- & continued in the active Service until the Last of January or first of February in the year 1783 and Discharged and he again enrolled himself as a volunteer in the Company of Captain William Baskin under General Pickens in the Regiment of Colonel Robert Anderson of the South Carolina Militia near the last of September, in the year 1783 – and marched against the Cherokee Indians and Destroyed their Towns at the big Savannah and Hightower and one town called Vans Village on Long Swamp Creek & Pine Log Town & thence returned home after being in the Service in said Tour 40 days and the Indians sued for peace and was discharged some time about the middle of November in said year & he remained at home until the month of September in the year 1784 – when he again enrolled himself as a volunteer in the Company of Captain John Norred or Norwood of the South Carolina Militia, as horseman and continued under him stationed at a Garrison near Walton's Ford on Tugular [sic Tugaloo?] River until he served six months and was discharged. Sometime in the month of March in the year 1785 the Day not recollected & he was out of the Service until about the 10<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of September in the year 1786 when he again enrolled himself as a volunteer in the Company of Captain James Hamilton of the South Carolina Indian Spies and continued with as a spy on the frontiers of South Carolina until the last of April in the year 1787 and whilst acting as a spy came in contact with a party of Indians on the Hightower & had a Skirmish with them Captain Hamilton & John Cleveland were wounded & we retreated & they pursued us 3 miles and whilst on said Tour was detached as a life Guard to General Pickens who was on his way to the Cherokee nation to act as an agent or Commissioner to affect an exchange of Prisoners at the mouth of Swannanoa River on the French Broad and during all the Campaigns aforesaid this Deponent's home was in Abbeville District in the State of South Carolina, and he has no documentary evidence of his Service he received no written discharge. But states that in consequence of his wounds received in the Revolution he was placed on the pension List under an act of the Legislature of South Carolina. 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. But only receives a pension by virtue of an Act of the State of South Carolina & did not by the Congress of the United States.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jeremiah Files



[John McCullum, 66, a citizen of Blount County, Alabama gives an affidavit supporting Files' claim of service in 1784 under Capt. John Norred and later under Capt. James Hamilton.]

[p 13: John Fowler, a clergyman, and James Windsor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13]

The Several answers of Jeremiah Files to the Interrogatories propounded to him by the Court in pursuance of the instructions of the War department – Answer first I was Born in Virginia on the Roanoke River in the year 1765 I know not in the County I have no record of my age; I was living in Abbeville District in the State of South [Carolina] when called into Service – I have lived since the Revolution in Pendleton District in South Carolina some over 30 years on until 1819 and then removed to Blount County Alabama & resided there ever since and now reside in Blount County Alabama: I was a volunteer every time but once and then I was a Substitute in place of John Files – I knew Colonel Howard, General Morgan, Colonel William Washington and their respective regiments. I received no written Discharge from the service. I am known in my present neighborhood to John Fowler, John McCullum, James Conner, James Rice, James Moon & Martin Ward & James Windsor all of whom can Testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services in the Revolution.

S/ Jeremiah Files

[p 18: Thomas Clark<sup>2</sup> gave an affidavit stating: “...that of his own knowledge Jeremiah Files Senior now here present was a Soldier of the Revolution -- & served with this Deponent under the following named officers – that they were enrolled in the Company of Captain Francis Carlisle under Major Noble under the Command of General Andrew Pickens of the South Carolina Militia – they rendezvoused together in Abbeville District in the Spring of the year 1782 as well as he recollects & whilst the British were stationed in Charleston & this Deponent recollects Serving with said Files three months Tour & marched from Abbeville to General Greene's Army then encamped at Bacon's Bridge about 20 miles from Charleston -- & then after his Discharge he returned again & served with him in the Company of Captain Robert Caruthers & in the Company of Captain John Norwood (or Norred) under the Command of General Andrew Pickens of South Carolina Militia – this Deponent States that – to the Best of his Recollection said Files served under General Pickens and said officers with him about 12 months & he was in the Service when peace was made. Said Files was a mounted militia man nearly all the time he served with this Deponent he was with me the first Tour in Greene's Army – when stationed near Charleston & from thence to the Northwestern Frontiers of South Carolina against the Indians & Tories & we further this deponent saith not.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832.

S/ Ira E. McMillion, Seal

S/ Thos. Clarke"

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos Clarke". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]

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<sup>2</sup> [Thomas Clark S10451](#)

<sup>3</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for

[p 2]

[Book] O [No.] 407 No. 28: 20 April 85 [1785]

Mr. Jeremiah Files his Account of Militia Duty performed alternately from 1780 to 1783,

inclusive say on Horse 455 Days £455

on foot 40 Days 20[old SC currency] £475.0.0

Stg. [Sterling] £67.17.1 ½

Ex<sup>d</sup>. W.R. [Examined by W. R. [identity unknown]]J. M<sup>c</sup>. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

Received 20 April 1785 full satisfaction for the within Account in an Indent No. 407 Book O

Witness

S/ T. Nichols

S/ Mary Files, M her mark

[p 3]

State South Carolina Dr. [debtor] to Jeremiah Files

for Duty per Captain William Baskins's Pay

Bill commencing in May 1780 &amp; ending in July 1783

say on horse 455 Days as private at 20/ [20 shillings old SC Currency per day] £455.0.0

on foot 40 Days Do at 10/ 20.0.0

Currency £475.0.0

Stg. £67.17.1 ½

[p 4]

South Carolina Abbeville County} I do hereby authorize and impower Mary Foils [sic] to draw and receive my Indent or Indents and the Interest due thereon, being for Monies due to me for Services done to the Public of this State, according to Returns made by Colonel Anderson [Robert Anderson] to the Auditor's Office in Charleston – as witness my Hand this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1785

S/ Jeremiah Foils [sic], X his mark

I do hereby certify that Jeremiah Foils did in my presence sign the above order

S/ John Harris, JP

407 O

[p 6 (retake of page 4): Printed form of Indent No. 407 Book O]

[p 8 (retake of page 7): Reverse of the above Indent]

[p 9]

Petition J Files 1 December 1794 General Anderson

General Butler Colonel John Martin

Petition of Jeremiah Files

1794 December Committee

M. Wadsworth  
Majr. Ford  
Captain Willson

[p 10]

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of South Carolina –  
The Petition of Jeremiah Files –  
Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner is maimed & much disabled by wounds which he received in the late war with Great Britain, which inability increases as he advances in years, and by which he is rendered altogether unable to support himself and family by his own industry, the only means within his reach by which he can perform that very interesting [sic] and necessary duty, which will more fully appear by an Affidavit & Certificate accompanying this petition. Your petitioner therefore being impelled of necessity to make this application, begs your honors would please to take his case under your serious consideration, and grant him such annuity as have been allowed by Law, to such others as have suffered in a like manner.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will pray

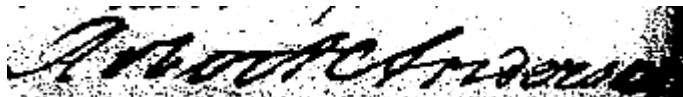
S/ Jeremiah files



Signed by his brother who  
authorized him, not being able  
to attend himself

28<sup>th</sup> November 1794

S/ Robert Anderson



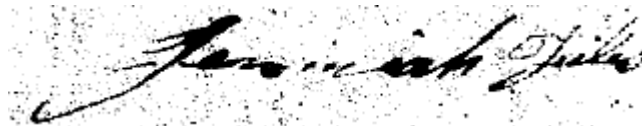
[I know this to be the signature of  
Colonel Robert Anderson]

[p 12 (retake of page 11)]

South Carolina Pendleton County} Wm Nevill Esquire

Personally came Jeremiah Files before me one of the Justices for said County and made Oath as the Law Directs that on the Seventeenth of January 1781 at the Defeat of Tarleton [British and Provincial forces under the command of Banastre Tarleton were defeated at the Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781] he Received a wound by the Enemies of the United States which renders him unable to gain a Comfortable Living for his family and that he has never made any Return to the State heretofore for any allowance for his wound – and that he has a growing family and but one Negron gork [sic, Negro girl] and 100 Acres of land to Maintain them on. Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day April 1794

S/ Jeremiah Files



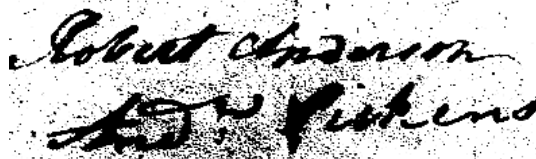
S/ Wm Nevill, JP

We do certify that we know some of the circumstances set forth in the above affidavit to be true

& believe the rest. We know that the Deponent Files was wounded in the left arm and right hand at Tarleton's Defeat, that he was a good Whig & active friend to his Country & is entitled to an Annuity agreeable to Law. Given under our hands this 4<sup>th</sup> April 1794

S/ Robert Anderson [Colonel]

S/ Andrew Pickens [Brigadier General]

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The top signature is "Robert Anderson" and the bottom signature is "Andrew Pickens". The ink is dark and the background is light, with some speckling.

[p 14]

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Jeremiah Files Report that they have examined into the allegations therein contained and recommend that the Petitioner be put on the pension list of this State his pension to commence from March 1792.

[pp 17-18: receipts showing payment of an annuity of \$60 per annum from January 11, 1826 through February 7, 1834]