

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Cowden S1656

f28SC[NC]

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/14/11: rev'd 1/1/20

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

[Note: The version of this veteran's application as posted on Ancestry.com is virtually illegible. The version posted on Fold3.com is much more legible.]

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State of Tennessee Bedford County }

On this 10th day of August personally appeared in open Court before Samuel Philips, John L Null and John B Armstrong Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County of Bedford in the State of Tennessee aforesaid Robert Cowden a resident of said County aged seventy-eight years according to Record 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 of June 1832.

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

About the last of January 1776 I then lived in Lincoln County North Carolina volunteered and went into service under Captain Barber [John Barber] Colonel Grimes and General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] commanders of the militia Colonel Martin commander of the regulars and was marched to a place called Cross Creek is now called Fayette [sic, Fayetteville] on the Cape Fear River and was two months and a half in service at that time.

In the summer of 1777 I was drafted to guard a Fort called McPhaddings [sic, McFadden's?] on the frontiers of North Carolina against the Cherokee Indians for one month. In 1779 being then removed into South Carolina York district was drafted for three months but was four in service before I got home was in the Stono expedition in Captain Clinton's [Peter Clinton's] Rifle Company was in the Stono Battle¹ Colonel Neill [sic, Thomas Neel] and General Sumpters [sic, Thomas Sumter] was commander. After the first of January in the year 1780 as well as I recollect I was drafted for three months to go to Charlestown but before we reached there the British had taken possession of that place [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] and we performed our tower [tour] in the country. I was then commanded by Captain Kincaid [John Kincaid] and Colonel Hathorn [James Hawthorn?]. Early in the spring of 1780 turned out Volunteer Joined General Sumter Brigade under Howe [probably Joseph Howe] Captain of a Light horse company at Clem's branch where they were then encamped as well as I now recollect I obtained a lieutenant's commission under Captain Howe in the month of May

¹ June 20, 1779 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/stonoferry.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

1780 which commission I held until the close of the war and two years after. My aforesaid Captain Howe fell prisoner at General Sumter's defeat² in August 1780 from which time I performed the duties of Captain for his company until the close of the war because Captain Howe was not exchanged [during] which time I was principally in camps except when I visited home by consent of my officers or for the purpose of exchanging the Divisions of the company. Our principal marches was in the limits of South Carolina. During which time I was in the following Battles viz. the Battle of Rocky Mount³ a skirmish with a party of Tories commanded by Colonel Kary⁴ one day before Gates defeat and two days before General Sumter's defeat which defeat I was in also the battle Hughgees Bridge [Huger's Bridge? A/k/a Quinby⁵?] a few miles from Charleston, the Battle of the Fisher dam Ford [sic Fish dam Ford⁶] on Broad River, also at the Battle at Blackstocks⁷ on Tiger River, also two skirmishes with the Tories as well as I recollect at this time I was dismissed from service and got home in August 1782.

I hereby relinquishes [sic] every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any or agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court
S/ Jas McKisick, Clerk

S/ Robt Cowden



[Thomas J Hall, a clergyman, and James Ewing gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions propounded by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in the State of North Carolina in the County of Maclinburg [sic, Mecklenburg]

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have in my house Bible at home and according to that record I was born on the 20th of January 1754.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. When I was first called into service I was living in Lincoln County in North Carolina. In the year 1778 I moved into South Carolina York District in the year 1784 I removed to the State of Georgia Wilkes County where I lived three years and then removed to Elbert County in the same state where I lived fourteen years then removed to Jackson County in the same State where I lived until the year 1811 when I removed to the State of Tennessee Bedford where I have been living ever since.

² August 18, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fishingcreek.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

³ July 30, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rockymt.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html

⁴ Probably a reference to the engagement at Cary's Fort August 15, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/carysfort.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_careys_ferry.html

⁵ If this is a reference to the action at Quinby Bridge, that action occurred on July 17, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/quinby.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quinbys_bridge.html

⁶ November 8, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fishdamford.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishdam_ford.html

⁷ November 20, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/blackstocks.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. My first Tour I served a volunteer and then I was drafted in North Carolina and twice in South Carolina and the rest of my services I performed as a volunteer. I performed no duty as a substitute.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. General Sumter was our General, Neill [Neel], Bratton [William Bratton], Hill [William Hill], Lacey [Edward Lacey] & Patton [Robert Patton], Moffit [probably John Moffatt] and Watford [sic, Wofford?] Cols. of the militia Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and Washington [William Washington] commanders of the horse Troops that came to us from the North. Colonel Waid Hamton [sic, Wade Hampton] and his two Brothers commanded three horse troops of the South Carolina cavalry Colonel Henderson [William Henderson] commanded a Regiment of regular Troops I was also acquainted with General Marion [Francis Marion] and his services in behalf of the USA against the Tories

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

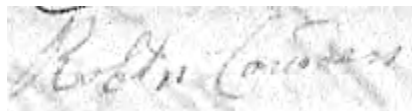
Ans. I received 3 the first from Colonel Grimes of North Carolina the second from Colonel Watson the third from Colonel Hill but I am not able to say what has become of them. I never received any Discharge for the year 1780 as I recollect.

Did you ever receive a commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it? I received a Lieutenant's commission as stated in the declaration it was handed to me by Captain Howe but I do not recollect by whom it was signed nor what has become of it.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. I have been well acquainted with the Reverend Thomas Hall, Allen Leeper, James Ewing Esquire, David Appleby, Esquire, James Hill Ewing, Esquire, I am well acquainted with the clerk of the court the Sheriff of County and great many citizens of this County having lived in the County upwards of 20 years.

S/ Robt. Cowden



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Personally appeared in open Court John Patton a citizen of the said County of Bedford who makes the following statement on his oath in relation to the services rendered by Robert Cowden the before mentioned applicant –

That he was in several campaigns with the said Robert in the revolutionary war they were both in the engagements at or near Rocky Mount in South Carolina where General Sumter was defeated they were in another battle at Rocky Mount some time before Sumter's defeat they were both in the Stono campaign, on a three months tower against the British, & marched to near the seaboard in the southern edge of the State of South Carolina he further states he was acquainted with said Cowden when they were both boys that they both went to the same school. He was acquainted with him during & after the revolutionary war. They have had many conversations

together in relation to things which transpired in the Army in their different campaigns.
Sworn to in open Court 11th of August 1832.

S/ John Patton



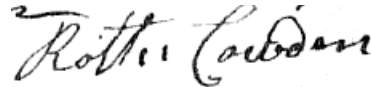
[p 7]

State of Tennessee Bedford County} Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for the County of Bedford in the State aforesaid Robert Cowden a revolutionary Soldier who being first duly sworn deposed and saith for explanation to his original and foregoing declaration, that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, that is to say, In the first expedition as mentioned in his original declaration two months and a half. In the second expedition one month: In the third expedition four months: In the fourth expedition three months: After joining General Sumter's brigade as a volunteer as stated in his original declaration in April or May 1780 he continued in Sumter's Army until after the close of the War though he was sometimes permitted by his officers to visit his family, but was always under the command & at the disposal of General Sumter from the time he joined his brigade until the conclusion of the war making the whole of his revolutionary service not less than twenty-seven months: he further states that during seventeen months of the above service he was a commissioned a Lieutenant under Captain Howe who as he has stated in his original declaration was taken a prisoner at General Sumter's defeat: he further states that he does not know of any person by whom he can prove his services as an officer he is advised that John Patton⁸ who has testified to his services in the Army, has forgot the circumstance of his being an officer: and although this deponent & said Patton were well acquainted in the Army, also before & after the War they did not belong to the same company when in service. This deponent therefore respectfully claims a pension from his government for ten months service as a private Soldier and seventeen months service as a Commissioned Lieutenant during the Revolutionary War.

Sworn to & subscribed this 23rd of January 1833

S/ John Warner, JP

S/ Robt Cowden



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State of Alabama Lauderdale County: SS

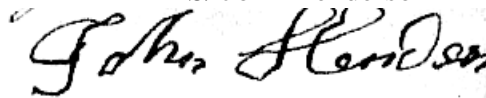
Be it remembered that John Henderson⁹ aged about 79 years came personally before me Alexander H. Wood and makes oath in due form of law that he knew Robert Cowden (who is now present) aged about 79 that he knew said Cowden in the State of South Carolina in the service of the United States as a Lieutenant in the Militia of South Carolina, that he knew him in the year 1780. That he was then in the Service of the United States – and holding the rank of a

⁸ [John Patton W162](#)

⁹ [John Henderson R4869](#)

Lieutenant & knew him to be in continued service with very little intermission from that until the close of the war and holding the rank of Lieutenant during the whole term. That they were at many places and in several battles together and served one three months Tour the said Henderson the Captain & the said Cowden the Lieutenant of the same company that he and said Cowden were raised in the same neighborhood and were acquainted when boys. The said Henderson states that he was a Captain commanding a company of militia in the State of South Carolina in the service of the United States from the year 1781 until the close of the war. That he now resides in McNairy County Tennessee & is now in Alabama on business, that said Cowden being in search of him pain proff [sic??], found him near Florence Alabama where this affidavit [was] made and the said Henderson here exhibits his old commission¹⁰ as a Captain – that they served under General Sumter the whole time.

Sworn & subscribed to before me this 22nd of June 1833
S/ Alex^r H. Wood, JP S/ John Henderson



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$236 and 66 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months service as a private and 17 months as a Lieutenant in the North Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹¹ relating to Robert Cowden AA4
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1545
Transcribed by Will Graves 1/1/20

[p 2]

Mr. Robert Crowden [sic] his Account of Sundries for Militia Use

Charged	£437.2.6
Deduct less	<u>4.2.6</u>
[old South Carolina] Currency	<u>£433</u>
Stg. [Sterling]	£61.17.1 ½
N.B. Saddle, Saddle Bags & to Blankets included in said Audit	
charged 12 Dollars	£19.10
Currency or	£2.15.2 Sterling
Ex ^d . W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]	
J. M ^c . A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]	

Received 24th May 1785, full Satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 625, Liber P by Virtue of an Order for Robert Crowden

S/ John Fearis



¹⁰ Henderson's commission is not among the documents included in this file.

¹¹ 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.

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State of South Carolina	Dr. to Lt. Robert Cowden for	
actual Service and Losses Sustained in service in		
Service under Command of General Sumter from ye		
first of June 1780 To actual service from ye first of		
June 1780 till ye the Eighteenth of August Seventy		Dollars
Eight Days at 20/ [20 Shillings] per day forty-six Dollars		[illegible]
To one tour of duty from the twenty-ninth of		
October till the twenty-ninth of November		
thirty day 20/per day [illegible] dollars		012
to one tour from the fourth of July 1781 till the		
twentieth of August twenty-four days at 32/per		
day seventy-four dollars		024 1/3
to one tower from the 19 th of December 1781		
till the 26 th of February 1782 Seventy Days		
at one Dollars per day		070
to one tour from the thirteenth of July		
till the twenty-seventh of July 14 Days at 1 Dollar per [day]		014
To Losses Sustained in Service to one saddle and saddle bags		
and blankets Lost at General Sumter's defeat ¹²		010
to one horse Lost at the fish dam ford valued at \$60		060
To one Blanket lost at Blackstock's \$4		004
To one Mair [mare] Lost at General Sumter's defeat		
Branded SC valued at \$40		<u>040</u>
	Total in Dollars	469
		13.4.10
		<u>3.3.12.6</u>
		£437.2.6

Certified by Jos. Howe Capt.



The above Certified by the appointed Appraisers
 John Patterson Alexander Hemhill Wm Patrick
 ye appraisers Duly attested before the Me
 this 5th of May 1783

S/ Jos. Howe, JP

Attested before
 S/ Wm Tate, JP

[p 4: very faint document]

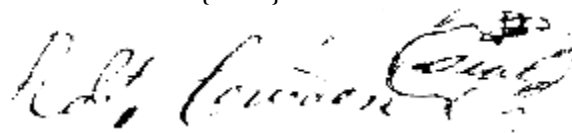
Know all Men by these Presents that I Robert Cowden am about to leave the South State do

¹² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

hereby Sign over all my claims and Demands against the Publick unto John Fearis with Full authority to receive the Indent and to settle with the Commissioner for the same as witness my hand and seal this 27th Day of November 1783

Test S/ Wm Hill, JP

S/ Rbt Cowden {Seal}

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rbt Cowden". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "S/ Rbt Cowden {Seal}".