

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Zaceous [Zacchaeus?] Corley S16736

f21SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/3/11 & 12/12/19

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

The State of Alabama, Bibb County

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December personally appeared in open court before The Honorable Thomas Crawford Judge of the County Court of said County now sitting Zaceous Corley—a resident of Bibb County of the State of Alabama aged about 70 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

Some time in the month of May 1780 he entered a volunteer in the service under Captain John Mitchel [John Mitchell] His Col's name was Hammonds [sic, LeRoy Hammond] and his Major's name was Purvis [? possibly John Purvis], their Christian names he does not recollect he under those officers' joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] army at Cambridge in South Carolina and remained there about two weeks and then joined the light horse under Captain Solomon Pope and served with him until he took the small pox and was taken a prisoner by the Tories while sick and was much wounded and abused by them. Starling [or Sterling] Turner was the lieutenant of said company and took the command as captain after Captain Solomon Pope was taken a prisoner and he continued in the service under Captain Turner until he was killed<sup>1</sup> and all of his company that happened to be with him at that time this deponent states that at the time this occurrence took place this deponent and several others that belonged to that company was sick and left behind while their Captain attempted to make a small skirmish after the Tories & fell himself all that was with him victims and were all lost this occurrence took place about the last of May as well as this deponent can recollect in the year 1781 this deponent had then been voluntarily in the service without any intermission about two weeks under Captain Mitchel about four months under Captain Pope and about eight months under Captain Turner He then after a few days illness recovered his health and some time in the first of June 1781 entered the service under Captain Mitchel Watson [sic, Michael Watson]<sup>2</sup> Captain of a light horse Company and served under him until about the first of January 1782 at which time Capt. Watson was killed then he returned home and in a few days afterward entered the service under Captain William Butler and remained under him in the service until peace was made. That he was in no general engagements but was in several small attacks of the Tories; the principal one was under Captain Watson at the time he was killed on Edisto River in Orangeburg District in the State of South

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1 Bobby Gilmer Moss, in his *SC Patriots*, states that Sterling Turner was killed by William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham at Lexington sometime in the year 1781. Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1983) 945

2 Moss, *SC Patriots*, 971. Moss states that Watson was killed on May 24, 1782.

Carolina. That he resided in Edgefield District in the State of South Carolina when he entered the service and that he was a volunteer during the time he was in the service and remained in the State of South Carolina during the time he was in service and was kept generally in the lower Districts to guard against the Tories that he was with Gen. Greene's Army about two weeks & knew him but did not know the other Continental officers that were with him That during the remainder of his service he was under the State officers That during the time he was with Gen Greene at Cambridge a continual fire was kept up between his army and the British without coming to a battle, and one night Gen. Greene formed a plan to take the fort and Drafted from the regulars a certain number of men and divided those drafted into three companies and had each soldier in each of the three companies furnished with a torch he then ordered a general fire of cannon & small arms and at the same time each company ran forward to set the fort on fire with the torches but failed and were all killed.<sup>3</sup> That he has no documentary evidence to prove his services and that he can only at this time procure the evidence of the Theophilus Goodwin, John Smilly, Abel Gentry & Thomas Davis to testify to facts and circumstances to support his own Declaration which evidence of said persons is annexed to this Declaration.

Zaccaeus Corley, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Caddell Clerk

[Note: the following is spelled as written in the original]

We Willam Cottingham a clergiman residing in the County of Bibb and State of Alabama and William Caddell residing in the County of Bibb and State afforesaid hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Zaccaeus Corley who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be about 70 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion and have never heard the fact disputed. Sworn to the day & year afforesaid in open court so subscribed.

S/ William Cottingham

S/ William Caddell

The following are answers<sup>4</sup> made by the said Corley after first being duly sworn to speak the truth the whole truth & nothing but the truth in making the same to the questions propounded by the said Court contained in the printed form of Directions from the Secretary of War as they were stated in order

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<sup>3</sup> I believe the veteran is describing the Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781.

[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ninety\\_six.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html)

<sup>4</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

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

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

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Answer to 1 question. I was born in the State of North Carolina in the County of Chatham I believe in the year 1762.

Answer 2 do, I have none. I calculate the year in which I was born by events, to wit, the age which I was said to be when I went a volunteer into the service the time I served which was about 25 months as well as I can recollect & the length of time since I left the Army altogether with other facts. I know not of any register or record of my age

Answer 3 do, I lived in Edgefield District in the State of South Carolina and after the War I lived in the same District, until the year 1818 when I moved to this Country then a Territory now the State of Alabama, Bibb County where I now live

Answer 4 do, I went into the service some time in the month of May 1780 voluntarily I then wished to joined the light horse Company and after about two weeks service in the militia service I joined the light horse company voluntarily and remained in this service with the exception of a few weeks intermission so long as it was necessary to guard against the British and Tories the Tories being troublesome in South Carolina we remained in the service some time after Lord Corn Wallis [sic, Cornwallis] was taken to guard against the ravages of the Tories

Answer 5 do, I was only in the service about two weeks with Gen Greene and his Troops I knew him when I saw him from the fact of losing my horse about the time I went into service and went to Gen Greene for advice & assistance I always knew him when I saw him afterwards but did not know any other Continental officers after I joined the light horse we were never with any Continental troops

Answer 6 do, I never applied for a discharge and never received one

Answer 7 do, Theophilus Goodwin, Abel Gentry, Thomas Davis, John Smetty &c

We and each of us do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Zaccaeus Corley and that he is entitled to the credit of a man of truth and veracity in his neighborhood where he resides and that we from his general character in connection with the declaration which he has subscribed and the answers he has made to the questions propounded by the Court, Declare that we believe he was a soldier of the revolution.

S/ Theophilus Goodwin

S/ John Smilly, X his mark

S/ Abel Genry

S/ Thomas Davis, X his mark

Sworn to in open Court December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1832

S/ William Caddell, Clk

I Theophilus Goodwin hereby certify that a short time after the Revolution I removed from North Carolina and settled in Edgefield District in the State of South Carolina. That I have had several conversations with Captain William Butler and he always spoke of Zaccaeus Corley in the highest terms as a soldier of the revolution. That I lived in Edgefield District several years and the said Zaccaeus Corley always sustained the reputation in his neighborhood of a Revolutionary soldier and that I was personally acquainted with him there and I believe from the acquaintance I have had with him for several years and his general character for truth and veracity that he was a soldier of the revolution and served as stated by him in his declaration.

S/ Theophilus Goodwin

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, full one-year service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]

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12/12/19

[p 2]

No. 235

Lib. [Book] U July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1785

Mr. Zachias Cauley his Account of Duty in the Militia as Private since the reduction of Chs.  
Town [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] Amounting to  
[old South Carolina] Currency £312.0.0

Stg. [Sterling] £44.11.5

[p 3]

State South Carolina

Dr. to Zachias Cauley

for Duty per Colonel Anderson's [Robert Anderson's] Return [not extant] £312

Stg. £44.11.5

11<sup>th</sup> July 1781 Received full Satisfaction for this Account in an Indent No. 235, Book U (by  
Virtue of an Order)

for Zachias Cauley

S/ Bartelet Bledsoe [?]



[p 4]

I do request of the Commissioners of the Auditor's Office of the State of South Carolina to make  
out the Indent with the interest of the Same for Zaceus Corley the said account now lying in the  
auditor's office pursuant to the resolve of the legislature in that case to Mr. Bartelet Bledsoe for  
me and to accept this as a receipt for the same.

August 20<sup>th</sup> 1785

S/ Zaccus Corley, X his mark

I do hereby Certify that I saw the above Named Zeceheus Corley Signed the above Order for the  
use above mentioned Certified the date as above

By me S/ Solomon Boyce, JP

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<sup>5</sup> 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.