

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Copland [Copeland] S17889

f32SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/14/09 & 6/3/11 rev'd 12/2/19

[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.]

[p 12]

State of South Carolina Pickens District} On this fourth day of January in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared before us James [text missing, hidden by seal] Osborn, two justices of the quorum, William [text missing, hidden by seal] resident of the District & State aforesaid aged, as he says, about Eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to law, and doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered the service in York District in the State of South Carolina, a volunteer, soon after the British landed in Savannah, and was attached to a company commanded by Lieut. Kirkindald [sic, Kirkendall?], under the command of Major Ross [Francis Ross], for a 3 months tour. That he marched under the command of Major Ross from York District to Liberty Hill, and there joined General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], and was sent by General Williamson under the command of Major Ross to General Ash [sic, John Ashe] at the mouth of Brier Creek [Briar Creek] in the State of Georgia -- that he fought in the battle at the mouth of Brier Creek<sup>1</sup> -- that after the battle at Brier Creek, he returned to General Williamson's Army, and served out his tour, and was discharged by General Williamson at Liberty Hill -- that soon after being discharged, he received a Capt.'s [Captain's] commission signed by Col. William Bratton; and shortly after, was ordered by Col. Bratton to raise a company of drafted man, which was done, and he was ordered with them to Orangeburg in South Carolina, and there stationed to guard the goal [jail] and prisoners, and was continued there for 3 months, and then discharged. That shortly after being discharged at Orangeburg, he was sent in command of another drafted company to Friday's Fort on the Congaree River, and remained there until General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] arrived, and the Fort was taken,<sup>2</sup> and he and the men under him were discharged. That shortly after he was ordered by Col. Bratton in command of another drafted company to join General Greene's Army at Congaree River, and under the command of Col. Bratton was engaged for a length of time in scouting parties between Orangeburg and Charleston.

S/ James Dauthit, JQ

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Wm Copland

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<sup>1</sup> Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_fridays\\_ferry.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fridays_ferry.html)



[p 9]

In answer to the interrogatories<sup>3</sup> proposed by the War department to be propounded by the Court this deponent further swears in answer to interrogatory 1<sup>st</sup> I was born in Ireland in the County Down and think I was about 16 years of age when I came to America

2nd -- I have no record of my age it was entered in a Family Bible which I believe was burned or otherwise destroyed by the British in the revolutionary War.

3rd -- I was living in York District South Carolina I removed from York to Greenville District from thence to Pendleton district which has since been divided into Pickens and Anderson and left me in Pickens where I now live

4th -- I have answered that in my declaration before

5th -- I have answered that, likewise, in my declaration

6th I received a Capt.'s commission from Col. Bratton and after peace was made I returned it to Col. Bratton

7th I am well known by Major Thomas Henderson<sup>4</sup> a revolutionary soldier John Wilson<sup>5</sup> a revolutionary soldier Andrew Hughes<sup>6</sup> a revolutionary soldier James Dauthit Esquire James Osborn Esquire and a number of others who I think would testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of January 1833.

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Wm Copland

I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and do declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State --

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 18th day of January 1833

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Wm Copland

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State of South Carolina Pickens District

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<sup>3</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.

<sup>4</sup> [Thomas Henderson W10102](#)

<sup>5</sup> MAY be [John Wilson S21581](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Andrew Hughes W25805](#)

Personally came Capt. William Copeland before me James Osborn one of the Justices of Quorum in and for the State & District aforesaid and being first duly sworn deposed and saith that since making out his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 -- he this deponent recollects that he served a 6 months Tour a private in what was called Mounted militia under the command of Capt. Baron by the orders of Col. Bratton -- that the Company to which he this deponent belonged done duty as Rangers that during the whole of his service both as a private and an officer he considered himself as belonging to what was then called Mounted militia excepting one three-months Tour that he commanded a company of foot and this deponent on his oath further saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service: but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades for 9 months I served as a private in what was then, I think, called Mounted militia and for 6 months I served as Capt. of Mounted militia and 3 months I served as Capt. of a foot Company of militia and for such service I claim a pension -- that besides the services he was a number of times out in scouting parties and was at one time sent by General Morgan to the Lord Cornwallis's Army, and was on that service several weeks.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of July 1833

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Wm Copland

[p 16]

South Carolina Pickens District: Personally came David Hamilton<sup>7</sup> before me the Subscribing Justice and being duly sworn according to law on his oath saith that he was personally acquainted with Capt. William Copeland in the time of the American Revolution that he knew of the said Copeland bearing arms in defense of the United States against the British forces -- that the said Copeland was called Captain and that he had good reason to believe and does believe that he bore a Capt.'s commission and that this deponent was a soldier in company with him, the said Copeland, when General Greene marched to attack the British at Orangeburg. This deponent further saith that he thinks it probable that he was with the said Copeland at other times and places towards the close of the war but from his extreme age and forgetfulness he cannot exactly recollect.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of November 1832

S/ James Osborn JQ

S/ David Hamilton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Hamilton". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

State of South Carolina Pickens District: Personally came Major Thomas Henderson before me the subscribing Justice and made oath in due form of law that he is personally acquainted with Capt. William Copeland the present applicant for a pension. That he saw the said Copeland bearing arms in defense of the United States against the British forces in the time of the revolution but cannot recollect whether the said Copeland was an officer or private that his acquaintance with said Copeland during the revolutionary war was but slight -- and want of recollection prevents him from stating particulars.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of July 1833

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<sup>7</sup> [David Hamilton S17998](#)

S/ James Osborn JQ

S/ Thos. Henderson



[p 24]

State of South Carolina Pickens District: Personally came James Houston<sup>8</sup> Esquire before me James Osborn one of the Justices of Quorum in and for the State & District aforesaid and made oath in due form that he was acquainted with Capt. William Copeland in the time of the American Revolution that he knew that the said Copeland did command a Company attached to Col. Bratton's Regiment and this deponent served in General Sumter's Brigade to which Col. Bratton's Regiment was attached at the time of his acquaintance with the said Capt. Copeland. That he distinctly recollects of being with him at the Siege of Friday's Fort -- and at the Burned or Bigham [sic, Biggin] Church. That he does not know how many tours or how long the said Copeland did serve. That he has not seen the said Capt. Copeland for a number of years until this day, but that in conversation with him this day, he the said Copeland has brought a number of the transactions of the revolution to the recollection of this deponent that he had forgotten and that took place when they were both in the same Army -- and that this deponent is now satisfied and verily believes that the present applicant for a Pension is the identical Capt. William Copeland that he knew you in the time of the American revolution and thinks that he is justly entitled to a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of July 1833

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ James Houston



[p 26]

South Carolina Greenville District: Personally appeared Newman Wilson<sup>9</sup> before me Josiah Kilgore one of the Justices of the Quorum for said State & district and made oath in due form that he was personally acquainted with Capt. William Copeland (the present applicant for a pension) in the time of the American Revolution, that he this deponent was a private soldier under the command of the said William Copeland and was attached to Col. Bratton's Regiment, was under the said Capt. William Copeland commanded at the taking of these forts at Orangeburg, Thompson's & Friday's, likewise at the battle of Huger's Bridge: that he served 2 tours under the said Capt. Copeland: that he was never solved the said Copeland's commission but knew that he was called Capt., that he commanded a company as such & that this deponent served under him, he thinks to the best of his knowledge about 2 years: that the said Copeland was considered a brave & efficient officer in defense of the United States; but from extreme age & want of recollection this deponent cannot recollect the time when said service was rendered. Sworn to before me this 5th July 1833.

S/ Newman Wilson, X his mark

S/ Josiah Kilgore, JQ

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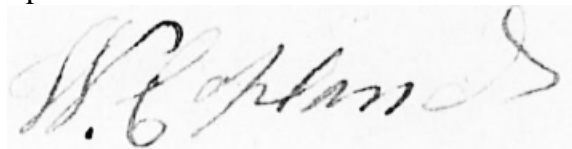
<sup>8</sup> [James Houston S21288](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Newman Wilson S22055](#)

State of South Carolina Pendleton District: Before me John Wilson one of the Justices of the Quorum for the district aforesaid personally came William Copland and being duly sworn and on oath saith that he this deponent did serve this Country as a private soldier in Col. William Bratton's Regiment of militia sometime and towards the latter end of the war he did serve as a Capt. in the said Regiment until the end of the war and that he did make return of the services by him done in defense of his Country in said war unto Capt. William Tate who was appointed as he understood by authority to take said Return with others and that he hath never since received any pay or discount either directly or indirectly for said services although often applied for and often petitioned the Legislature of this State for 2 allowing him some compensation for his services and all in vain for he can never obtained any satisfaction although he understands that his return appears upon the books of the treasury of this State

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of November 1809 before me  
S/ John Willson, JQ

S/ W. Copland



[p 31]

Pay Bill-- The State to Capt. Wm Copland	Dr.
1779	
Feb <sup>y</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> Commenced a Tour of Duty for Bryar [Briar] Creek	
& returned April 12 <sup>th</sup> being 46 days... at 20/ [20 Shillings per day]	46-0-0
To a Horse lost at same time Apprais'd to £240	240-0-0
To a Gun lost Apprais'd to £13	13-0-0
1780	
March 10 <sup>th</sup> Commenced a Scouting tour which ended	
the 10th of April...40 Days at 20/	40-0-0
1781	
Jany 2 <sup>nd</sup> Commenced a scouting tour which ended	
January 31 <sup>st</sup> 30 days at 20/	<u>30-0-0</u>
N.B. The above Duty was done as a Private	269-0-0 [sic, 369]
1781	
April 10th Commenced a tour for Friday's Ferry	
which ended May 3 <sup>rd</sup> 24 days and 70/	84-0-0
1781	
June 15th, Commenced a tour which ended	
July 12 <sup>th</sup> 28 days at 70/	98-0-0
1782	
February 25 <sup>th</sup> Commenced said tour which ended	
April 16th 1782 50 days at 70/	<u>175-0-0</u>
The above Duty was performed a Horse Man in	<u>726-0-0</u>
Col. Bratton's Regiment General Sumpter's Brigade	£89-0-6 3/8
	Sterling

These are to Certify that the above  
Accounts is Just

Certified  
by W. Bratton, Colo.

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[the following appears to be a partial pay bill of William Copeland's company—the document is not dated and is extremely faint—I have only tried to decipher the names but next to each name appears to be a listing of the days served and the pay due [or paid] to each man—all appear to be listed as being privates. The name in brackets is my attempt to decipher the man's name.]

Thoms brigis private [Thomas Briggs or Bridges?] [50 days at 10/ [Shillings]<sup>10</sup> per day £25.0.0]

Thos Tait pri<sup>t</sup> [Thomas Tate] [50 days at 10/ [10 Shillings] per day £25.0.0]

John morgin pri<sup>t</sup> [John Morgan] [50 days at 10/ [10 Shillings] per day £25.0.0]

John Ellis pri<sup>t</sup> [50 days at 10/ [10 Shillings] per day £25.0.0]

Wm Jinkins pri<sup>t</sup> [William Jenkins] [50 days at 10/ [Shillings] per day £25.0.0]

benjamine naile pri<sup>t</sup> [Benjamin Neal or Neeley] [50 days at 10/ [Shillings] per day £25.0.0]

Danniel guin [Daniel Gwin or Gwinn or Quinn] [50 days at £5 per day 250.0.0]

Charls morgin pri<sup>t</sup> [Charles Morgan] [24 days at £1<sup>11</sup> per day £24.0.0]

Thos brig pri<sup>t</sup> [Thomas Briggs] [24 days at £1 per day £24.0.0]

John Ellis [24 days at £1 per day £24.0.0]

Dannl guin pri<sup>t</sup> [Daniel Gwin, Gwinn or Quinn] [24 days at £1 per day £24.0.0]

Thos Collins pri<sup>t</sup> [Thomas Collins] [24 days at £1 per day £24.0.0]

Wm Willson pri<sup>t</sup> [William Wilson or William Willson] [24 days at £1 per day £24.0.0]

? Jones [24 days at £1 per day £24.0.0]

Newman Willson pri<sup>t</sup> [24 days at £1 per day £24.0.0]

[two more names at the bottom of the page covered up by a fold in the paper]

Captain William Copeland's pay Bill in Bratton's Regiment

This account does not agree with the Auditor's entry see return Book No. 15 the original Account not to be found in the office does not appear it was paid by the Books

<sup>10</sup> Indicates pay as a foot soldier

<sup>11</sup> Indicates pay as a horse soldier



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$81.25 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 3 months & 12 days service as a Captain and 3 months and 26 days service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>12</sup> relating to  
Audited Account Microfilm file No.

AA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/4/19

[p 2]

Petition of William Copland 13<sup>th</sup> of December 1794

<sup>12</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.

Committee  
Colonel Bratton  
Mr. Bowman  
Mr. Peyre

[p 3]

To the Honorable David Ramsey President of the Senate  
Mr. President and Gentlemen

The humble petition of William Copland humbly Sheweth that your petitioner has a demand against the state for service done in defense thereof and your petitioner hath made several demands and applications to your public Treasurer for his indent but could not obtain it for want of it being properly Certified though it was given in due time prescribed by law your petitioner hath got his account now Certified therefore prays that your Honorable house will take his case under your Consideration and grant him such Relief as you in your wisdom shall think fit as your petitioner is in duty bound shall ever pray

S/ Wm Copland



[p 4: The same document transcribed from page 31 of his federal pension application above]

[p 5]

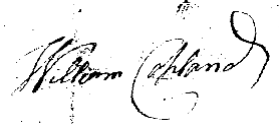
South Carolina Greenville County } Personally before me Appeared Captain William Copland and being Duly Sworn made Oath that the within bill is Just and true and that he never Received any Satisfaction for the Same, and that this is the Original bill that was by him returned to the Office in Charleston for the services within mentioned.

Sworn and subscribed before me

February ye 5<sup>th</sup> 1794

Robert McAfee, JP

S/ William Copland



[p 7]

In the Senate December 16, 1794

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of William Copland [sic]  
Report

That they have examined the same & find in the books of the Commissioners on Public accounts a statement of the petitioner's Account, which was rejected for want of proper vouchers, but as he has since produced the same to the satisfaction of the Treasurer at Columbia, they recommend that the said Treasurer be directed to issue an Indent to the Petitioner for £98.11.5 being the amount of his Account, which Indent from 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1783.

Resolved, that this House do agree to the Report

Ordered, that the Report & Resolution be sent to the House of Representatives for their concurrence



By Order of the Senate  
S/ Felix Warley, C. S.

[Note: Similar report and action by the House of Representatives]

[p 11]

To the Honorable John Ward President and the Rest of the Members of the Senate of South Carolina now met and sitting in General Assembly.

The Petition of William Copland

Humbly Sheweth that your petitioner was an active friend to the American Cause during the late war with Great Britain and that he did serve as a private soldier in Colonel William Bratton's Regiment for some Considerable time and was appointed a Captain in said Regiment in which office he did serve until the End of the war and made out his Returns for the services by him done and delivered the same together with the proper vouchers unto Captain William Tate Commissioner appointed for the purpose of receiving such Returns but your petitioner has never since been able to get an indent or any other satisfaction for said services although your petitioner has often applied your petitioner therefore prays that your Honorable body will take his Case (which he thinks is a hard one) into your serious Consideration and Grant him such Relief as in your wisdom shall be meet, and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

S/ William Copland

[p 13]

The Committee on Public Accounts to whom was referred the Petition of William Copland, setting forth that he has accounts and vouchers in the Treasury to the amount of £89.8.6 for Services done during the late War, but that he cannot obtain an Indent for the same.

Report

That it does not appear to your Committee that the Petitioner's account was ever Audited, or delivered within the time limited by Law; your Committee therefore recommend, that his Petition be rejected.

[p 14]

Amount of William Copland's Account Currency	£726.0.0
deduct error of 8 days charged 18 <sup>th</sup>	
March 1780 as private at 20/	£8.00
Do 8 days at 70/ charged April	
the 18 <sup>th</sup> 1781 as Captain	£28.0.0
	<u>36.0.0</u>
[old South Carolina] Currency	<u>£690.0.0</u>
is Sterling	£98.11.5

Ex'd S/ B. Waring Tre<sup>r</sup>.

[p 18: Note: Petition addressed to the South Carolina House of Representatives the body of which is word for word the same as the petition to the Senate on page 11 as transcribed above.]