

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John James S18051

f61SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/24/06 rev'd 1/26/16

[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.]

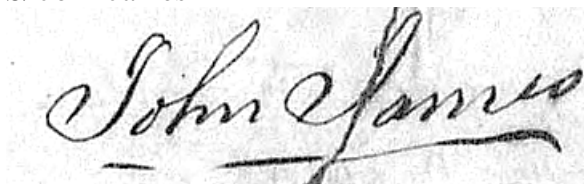
[p 3]

State of South Carolina, Sumter District

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the District & State aforesaid, John James of the district and State aforesaid, who after being duly sworn according to Law in addition to the facts already furnished the War Department & hereunto appended, deposeth and says that he is now in his Seventy fifth year, that since the year 1830 he has been very much afflicted, so as to confine him almost entirely to his house a great part of the time to his bed, that in consequence of his great infirmity his memory has become much impaired, he therefore cannot with precision swear to the length or the periods of his services during the revolutionary war but according to his best recollection he served as follows, viz: about the last of November or the first of December 1776 – he volunteered as a private in a company of militia under the command of Captain John Singleton, the company was ordered to march with others to Purysburg on the Savannah River under the command of General Richard Richardson whose son Richard Richardson Junior was the Colonel and Fulwood [William Fullwood] (whose given [name] is not recollected) was the Major – that on their way to Purysburg they struck a camp near Moncks Corner in the State aforesaid called Mossy Camp where they remained one month & then moved on towards Purysburg – that when within a few miles of that place, say eight or ten, the order was countermanded, when they were marched home & discharged having been absent from home at least two months;--that in the summer of 1777 he received an Ensign's Commission in a company of militia commanded by Captain John Singleton, the said commission was handed to him by Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Moore, but as well as his memory serves him he thinks it was signed by Colonel Richard Richardson, that he soon after marched to the ten mile spring near Charleston South Carolina under the command of Lieutenant Colonel N. Moore, he thinks Fullwood was the Major, that he was ordered out for a three months tour and served out the full time as an Ensign in the said John Singleton's company when the troops were discharged and he returned home – that in July 1778, he in company with Captain John Singleton and several other officers (none over the grade of Captain) amounting in the whole to about twenty five or thirty volunteered to go to the State of Georgia with the intention of placing themselves under the command of Cols White & Baker, that being unable to find either Col White or Baker – they returned home after an absence of three or four weeks – that sometime in 1779 he was appointed a first Lieutenant in a company of militia commanded by Captain Armstrong [John Armstrong] which commission was signed by Colonel Richard Richardson – the given name of Armstrong not recollected – that he was then ordered out on a three month tour & marched to Williamson's [Andrew Williamson's] camp as it was called, on the Savannah River near where is now situated the Town of Hamburg –Matthew Singleton commanded as Colonel – Fullwood as Major – Williamson as Genl – that he recollects distinctly

one circumstance which occurred at this camp, which was the arrest of Col Singleton by Genl Williamson – the former whom charged the latter with carrying on an illicit intercourse with the enemy – that he there served out his full tour to wit: three months as a first Lieutenant in the said Armstrong's company – when he returned home – that in the latter part of the summer of 1780 immediately after the defeat of General Gates [Horatio Gates] at Camden South Carolina [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], he joined Genl Francis Marion, his brigade not being properly organized he thinks as well as his memory serves him that Marion had not then been commissioned as a General but then held the rank of Colonel, that he was with Marion when he surprised a body of British near Nelson's Ferry [Nelson's ferry, December 14, 1780]<sup>1</sup> on Santee River who were escorting about two hundred American prisoners from Camden to Charleston, that they succeeded in rescuing the Americans & taking about eighty or one hundred of the enemy; on this occasion Marion [had] but few [men] that he had hastily collected together & deponent thinks there was no other field officer present. Deponent served as a Lieutenant under Captain John Singleton, that from that time he continued to serve under Marion until Genl Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] came to the State when he or said Colonel Lee [Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee] of the Continentals to join Marion, that they marched against Georgetown S. C. and drove the British from that place – that on this occasion in addition to Lee & Marion, Fullwood was a field officer – then they marched against Fort Watson [April 16-23, 1781]<sup>2</sup> on Scott's Lake Santee River S. C.; that on this occasion deponent served as a Lieutenant under Captain William Dukes, his former Captain John Singleton having returned home from Georgetown, deponent thinks that Colonel Richard Richardson & Lieutenant Colonel John James both of the militia were present at the taking of Fort Watson. In a short time after the fall of Fort Watson Marion was joined by Colonel Irving [sic, John Ervin?] & deponent was ordered in a detachment under said Irving against the Tories near Camden South Carolina – that he was still acting as a Lieutenant under Captain William Dukes.

S/ John James

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John James". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

Sworn to before me this 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1830  
S/ John N. Carpenter, J. P.

[p 11]

The State of South Carolina Sumter District

On the thirtieth day of November in the Year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Richard Gant one of the Associate Judges of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of the State aforesaid, John James a resident of Clarendon County in Sumter District in the State aforesaid and now in his seventy fourth<sup>th</sup> Year, who being first Sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God makes the following declaration to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832, Deponent was born near the village of Statesburg Sumter District South Carolina on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1761 and has resided here ever since with the exception of about ten months in 1782 & 1783 when he resided in Virginia, That about the last of November or the first of December 1776 he volunteered as a private in a Company of Militia under the command of Captain John Singleton and marched to

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_nelsons\\_ferry\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_nelsons_ferry_2.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_fort\\_watson\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_2.html)

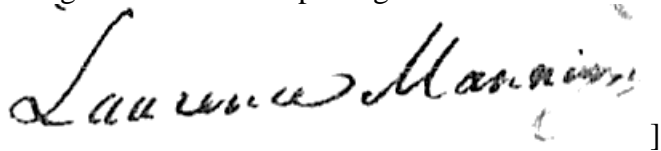
Purysburg on the Savannah River under the command of General Richard Richardson, but was detained some time at the Mossy Camp near Moncks Corner before he marched to Purysburg, that he then returned home with his company having been absent Two months.

That in the summer of 1777 he received an Ensign's Commission in a Company of Militia commanded by Captain John Singleton and was marched to the 10 mile Springs near Charleston under command Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Moore that he remained at the 10 mile Springs about three months when he again returned home with his Company, that in July 1778, Deponent with Captain John Singleton & others went to the State of Georgia to join Colonels White & Baker but not being able to find them again returned home – That in 1779 he was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in a company of militia commanded by Captain \_\_ Armstrong and marched under the command of Colonel Matthew Singleton to what was called Hamburgh on the Savannah River, there joined General \_\_ Williamson, that he there [served] near three months when he returned home. That after General Gates was defeated at Camden South Carolina Deponent joined General Francis Marion as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and continued to serve under General Marion until the latter part of 1782, that deponent was with General Marion when he attacked a body of British on Santee River who were escorting from Camden to Charleston about 200 American Prisoners whom they succeeded in rescuing and took the British Prisoners amounting to about 90 or 100, Deponent was with General Marion at the retaking of Georgetown South Carolina when upon the approach of the Americans the British evacuated the place – Deponent was also with General Marion & Colonel Henry Lee at the taking of Fort Watson on Scott Lake South Carolina, Deponent states that there is but one minister of the Gospel living in Clarendon County & that he resided about 18 miles from deponent's & that he has no acquaintance with him, having only moved into the County about 2 years ago – deponent also states that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State whatever and that he hereby relinquishes every claim to any annuity or pension whatever except the present one, Deponent further states that in the winter of 1780 [could be 1781] his father's house was burnt by the Tories and that his Ensign's commission was burnt – that his Commission as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant is either lost or mislaid. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court before

S/ Richard Gantt, Presiding Judge

S/ John James

[Lieutenant Colonel Laurence Manning, 49, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment of US Infantry gave a supporting affidavit in which he states he has known John James since the affiant's infancy; that affiant was also acquainted with Captain John Singleton and Colonel Richard Richardson, both of whom frequently spoke of John James as a good Whig during the revolutionary war and having served with James in that war; that he, the affiant, is also well acquainted with Francis Marion's widow who repeatedly told the affiant that during the revolutionary war John James brought her letters and packages from her husband.



Laurence Manning

[p 25]

State of South Carolina Sumter District

Personally appeared before me Josiah J Crosby a Justice of the Peace for the District & State aforesaid David Garrot<sup>3</sup> a pensioner under the pension Laws of the United States & brother to Thomas Garrot Senior whose affidavit as to the Revolutionary Services of John James is hereunto annexed &c (the date of his pension certificate is not stated as he has not exhibited it to

---

<sup>3</sup> [David Garrett S38719](#)

me but the fact will appear from reference to the records of the War Department) who after being duly Sworn according to law says that [he] is acquainted with John James of the District & State aforesaid, that he became acquainted with the said John James sometime during the Revolutionary War, that he served as a private in Captain Armstrong's Company of militia when the said James was acting as Lieutenant in a Company of militia commanded by one Captain Furman he thinks his given name was Josiah – that he was with the said John James when General Marion laid an ambuscade for the British near Parker's ferry [August 31, 1781]<sup>4</sup> on Edisto River in South Carolina that said James then acted as Lieutenant but does not recollect whether he was 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant – that on that occasion a Colonel Stafford [William Stafford] & a Colonel Hardin [William Harden] had command that a good many of the Enemy was killed & taken prisoners – deponent further says that he was out frequently with said James during the Revolutionary War on the side of the Americans but that he is now very infirm & his memory much impaired, he cannot therefore undertake to state with certainty what periods the said James served, but that from his knowledge of Mr. James' Character, together with what he has heard ever since the Revolutionary War of Mr. James' services he believes in implicitly his declaration which has been read to him & thinks it entitled to full faith & credit.

Sworn to before me this 21 November 1835

S/ Jos. J. Crosby, JP

S/ David Garrot, X his mark

[p 38: On November 21, 1835 in Sumter District South Carolina, Richard Richardson, 67, gave testimony that he is the son of Colonel Richard Richardson who commanded the militia under General Francis Marion during the Revolutionary War; that he, affiant, has been acquainted with John James ever since the affiant was a child and lives in the immediate neighborhood of said James; that during the Revolutionary war, the affiant saw James in the militia twice acting as a private once and as an officer, he thinks an Ensign, the other time; that affiant has often heard his father Colonel Richard Richardson say that John James acted as a Lieutenant in the militia during the revolutionary war and was a faithful and zealous Whig.]

[p 42]

State of South Carolina Sumter District

Personally appeared before me Josiah J Crosby a Justice of the peace in & for the District & State aforesaid Thomas Garrot Senior<sup>5</sup> a very old man a pensioner under the laws of the United States of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 & 1<sup>st</sup> March 1823 whose pension certificate is dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 1825 who after being duly sworn according to law says that he is personally acquainted with John James of the District & State aforesaid & who is about to make application to the War Department of the United States for a pension – that he was acquainted with said James before the Revolutionary War and ever since, that during the Revolutionary War (he is not certain whether before or after the fall of Charleston South Carolina) he saw Mr. James acting as a Lieutenant under Captain Armstrong of the Militia, but he did not serve with Mr. James – but that his brother David Garrot Served with said James, he further says that from what he has heard from his brother David Garrot as well as the neighborhood report he believes that Mr. James did serve as an officer during the Revolutionary War on the Side of the Americans.

Sworn to before me this 21<sup>st</sup> November 1835

S/ Jos. J. Crosby, JP

S/ Thos. Garrot, Senr., X his mark

[p 33]

---

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_parkers\\_ferry\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_parkers_ferry_2.html)

<sup>5</sup> [Thomas Garrett S38722](#)

State South Carolina Sumter District

Personally appeared Captain Joseph West<sup>6</sup> who being duly sworn makes oath that he is acquainted with John James that in the year 1781 they both Served as Volunteers under General Marion in the United States Service, and this deponent has caused to believe that John James was in the United States Service before the year 1781, also believes that John James had a commission as he wore a Sword, which was not common for any to wear except officers.

Sworn to before me this 8<sup>th</sup> June 1836

S/ L. F. Rhame, JQ

S/ Joseph West, X his mark

[p 61]

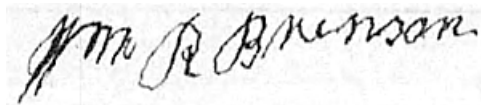
State of South Carolina Sumter District

Personally appeared William R Brunson<sup>7</sup> who being duly sworn saith that he was well acquainted with John James before the Revolutionary War, and during said War, the said John James was Drafted and done duty under John Singleton before the fall of Charleston, after that time the said John James volunteered and done Duty in General Marion's Company for a length of time in company with this deponent – it was about the years 1780 & 81. This deponent further States that John James bore a commission of Lieutenant or Ensign during part of the war, this deponent further states that he was in company with John James several times during the war and the said James done his duty Faithfully.

Sworn to before me this 8<sup>th</sup> June 1836

S/ L. F. Rhame, JQ

S/ Wm R. Brunson



[p 54]

Fulton Post Office South Carolina  
14<sup>th</sup> of December 1836

Dear Sir,

Respecting my application to the Government through the Pension office for compensation for my services during the Revolutionary War & which application has been rejected on account of the want of more substantial evidence as regards my offices as Ensign & Lieutenant & admits my pretensions to compensation as a Soldier in the American cause are in your possession. The few remaining persons within my reach who bear witness to my services & of my situation in the different campaigns – are Mr. Joseph West – two Garretts – & Mr. Brunson – Their Certificates are in your possession – with the circumstantial evidences of Colonel Manning, Doctor Boyd, Colonel Richard Richardson.

I now in consequence of the objections made for compensation as either Ensign or Lieutenant relinquish any claim but for services as a Soldier during the periods mentioned in my affidavit & authorize you to do for me whatever your judgment may dictate.

S/ John James

Honble. Col. John P. Richardson

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the South Carolina militia.]

---

<sup>6</sup> [Joseph West S18275](#)

<sup>7</sup> [William R. Brunson S21655](#)