

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Hemphill S21277

f27SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/17/15 & 5/31/22

[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 8th 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 Tennessee, Lincoln County: County Court October Term 1832

On this 16th day of Oct. 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of the County Court of Lincoln County, Tennessee now sitting, James Hemphill a resident of said County & State, aged eighty three years the 19th day of November next who being first duly sworn according to said oath on his oath makes the following declarations sign order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officer & served as herein stated. Sometime in the month of December 1775 he served two months in the regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Neil [sic, Thomas Neel] in Camden district South Carolina, the company to which he belonged was Commanded by Capt. William Bratton & Lieutenants Hugh & John Bratton, Major Kirkpatrick [Thomas Kirkpatrick?]¹ also commanded in said regiment—in the same month our regiment joined the forces under the command of Col. Richardson [Richard Richardson] on the Congaree River, a few miles from which Columbia is now situated. A larger body of Tories near Reedy River [sic, probably Reedy River] were collected against whom we marched. We had some skirmishing with the Tories & took several prisoners some time in June 1776 I volunteered under the same officers to go against the Cherokee Indians who had murdered several people & burned many houses on the Seneca River. Our regiment was then under the command of Gen. Williams or Williamson [sic, Andrew Williamson] I now forget which was his name -- we destroyed three of Indian towns on the Seneca River which towns I think was called Eastatoe [Estatoe], Sugar Town & Keiwa [sic, probably Keowee]—we had two fights with the Indians one called the Ring fight [August 12, 1776]² —about five miles from Sugar town, another skirmish with the Indians placed to guard the squaws & children who after firing fled & succeeded in their escape by the night setting in—we were out against the Cherokee I suppose about two months.

In November or December 1777 our regiment was drafted to go against the Creek Indians on the South side of the Ockmulgee River [sic, Ocmulgee River] in Georgia. We marched through Ninety Six District & camped on the Savannah River about twenty miles above Augusta -- but we had no battles with the Creeks. We were out on this expedition about two months. I was in the same regiment & camp & under the same officers -- except that I commanded as 2nd Lieutenant having been elected in the place of John Bratton. In May 1779 one half of our regiment was again drafted, Col. Neel commanding. Capt. William Bratton being elected

¹ [Thomas Kirkpatrick R2991](#) [widow's claim—Major Thomas Kirkpatrick died in Charleston of disease in 1782]

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_ring_fight.html

Major—Hugh Bratton Captain & myself 1st Lieutenant in our company -- we marched down through the head waters of Edisto [River] by orders of Gov. Rutledge [John Rutledge] to avoid being taken by the British who were in our way by going a direct course & joined the army commanded by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] at Bacon's Bridge off Ashley River. The army was engaged in reconnoitering the enemy & were marched about several places in that vicinity not now recollected—until about the first of August when our army attacked the British who had fortified themselves on Stono River [Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779]³—where our army suffered considerable loss and failed in driving the British from their fortifications—shortly after the Battle at Stono the North Carolina troops came in & our regiment was discharged, we were out on this campaign about three months. Samuel Watson was also with our regiment during this campaign as Lieutenant Colonel. Sometime in the summer of 1780 (having moved to Mecklenburg County in North Carolina after the taking of Charleston by the British [Charleston, SC, fell to the British on May 12, 1780]), our regiment then under the command of Lieutenant Col. Watson & Major Bratton (Col. Neel having died) joined the forces commanded by Col. Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] & a few days afterward moved down to Hagler's Branch in S.C. & after staying there between one & two weeks went about eighteen or twenty miles to the westward having understood that there were several British Dragoons & Tories in that neighborhood & where we had a battle with about four hundred British & Tories commanded by a Capt. Hook [sic, Christian Huck] [Battle of Brattonsville or Williamson's Plantation, July 12, 1780]⁴ whom we defeated very badly—about three weeks afterwards we marched to a place called "rocky mount" where the British were encamped, commanded (as I now think) by a Col. Bull [sic, Lt. Col. George Turnbull], with whom we had a battle [Battle of Rocky Mount, July 30, 1780],⁵ but not decision of victory for either side. Three or four weeks afterward I was engaged in the Battle on the Catawba River, near the mouth of Fishing Creek where Col. Sumter's army & us among the rest were defeated [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780].⁶ We crossed the Catawba after our defeat. Returned to Mecklenburg County North Carolina. I think I was in service during the year 1780 between four & five months. In May 1781 I again volunteered. Major Bratton being Col. of our regiment & I being still 1st Lieutenant & marched down about 100 miles to a place called Friday's Fort [Fort Granby, May 14, 1781?]⁷ where the British & Tories were encamped, where we joined the camp under Col. Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee]. Shortly after we arrived the British surrendered. After this our regiment was principally engaged in scouting parties in destroying the British outposts.

I was not engaged in any other battle. I think we were out about four months on this tour. I never received any written discharge. I was acquainted (in addition to the officers already mentioned with Genl. Marion [Francis Marion], Cols. Brandon [Thomas Brandon], Hill [William Hill], Lacy [sic, Edward Lacey], Winn [one of the brothers named John, Richard or William Winn], Lee, Washington [William Washington], also Gen. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] & Count Pulaski. I have no documentary evidence nor do I know of any person ~~by whom~~ I can procure to verify to my service. I was born in Ireland Londonderry County on the 19th November 1749 & came to America in August 1767. I lived in Camden District S.C. at the time I entered the service. I have no record of my age but speak from information & recollection. After the

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_williamsons_plantation.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html

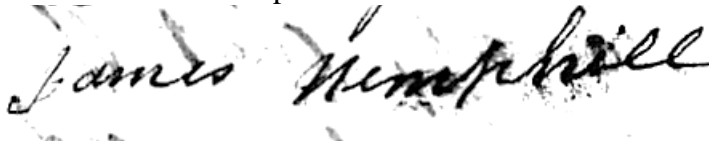
⁶ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

⁷ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html

Revolutionary War I lived in York & Chester districts in South Carolina until 1815 when I moved to Williamson County, Tennessee & lived there about nine years & then moved into this County where I now live. I had a commission both as 1st & 2nd Lieutenant, which were given by Gov. Rutledge of South Carolina but they are both now lost. I would refer for my character for veracity & to Dr. Alexander Roseborough & Capt. G. W. C. Edmiston & would also state that there is not any Clergyman in my neighborhood to whom I can refer. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & disclaim that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any [State.]

Sworn to & subscribed this day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Hemphill



Testimony: Robt. S. Inge, Clk.

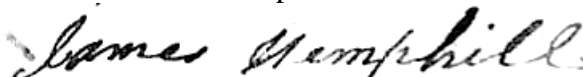
[Alexander Roseborough and G. W. C. Edmiston gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Lincoln County

Personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid James Hemphill who being duly sworn depose and 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 the year 1775 two months as a private soldier in the militia; In the year 1776 two months as a private in the militia; In the year 1777 for two months as 2nd Lieutenant; In the year 1779 for three months as first Lieutenant; In 1780 three months as first Lieutenant; In 1781 for four months still as first Lieutenant, and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 24th day of April A.D. 1833

S/ James Hemphill



S/ Enoch Rust, JP

[Cumberland Wilson, a clergyman, gives a supporting affidavit.]

[p 16]

I wish [to] accept the pay of a private for Mr. Hemphill for the present, until evidence can be obtained of his having served as Lieutenant as mentioned in his declaration this 15th of January 1835

S/ Wm M. Inge⁸

⁸ INGE, William Marshall, (uncle of Samuel Williams Inge), a Representative from Tennessee; born in Granville County, N.C., in 1802; attended the schools of North Carolina; moved to Tennessee and continued his school studies; studied law; was admitted to the bar and practiced; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-third Congress (March 4, 1833-March 3, 1835); moved to Livingston, Sumter County, Ala., in 1836; resumed the practice of his profession; member of the State house of representatives in 1840, 1844, and 1845; died in Livingston, Sumter County, Ala., in 1846; interment in Livingston Cemetery.
<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=I000014>

M. C. [Member of Congress]

[p 24: transcribed as written with corrections in brackets where necessary to show the meaning of the author]

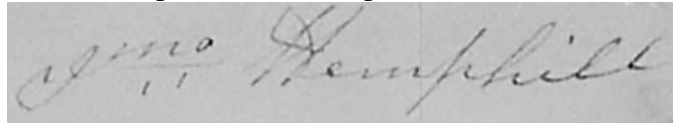
State So. Carolina York District August 28th 1834

Deer father

I recived your peapers with plesure for to prove you a Luitenant in the revilutionary war but I have faild for all the geanuin Sougers [genuine soldiers] that was out in the war with you is all dead but Jas. Wallis and he is got Childesh that we Cant git no Sence out of him for he Cantt draw his [pension] and the resion [reason] is that he makes diferent Statements I went to Robt. Hanah [Robert Hannah?] but he Could not do aney thing for me and I went to Ruben McConnel [Reuben McConnell?] (all that he Said that he was in the ingen war [Indian war] with you) and I have been at a heape of the oald [?] me that was in the ware [war] the [they] wear [were] all young the [they] all Say that you done a hepe of duty I do feel myselfe hurt that I have for to returne your peapers as I got them & Deer father I am in a good State of helth at this time thank be to the greate givour of all blesings hoping that these few lines will find you and all the famley ingaying [enjoying] the blessing I have none of my famley with me but myself my wife departed this life on the 9th day October last and daughter Nancy on the 4th day November last my Sones [sons] were all left me and my daughter Marthew I have going to Schoal my Sone Jas. S. Hemphill and Jas. Meek is now gone a trip to the alabama and the [they] Said the [they] would Call for to See you tell them there famleys is all well at this time and theres is nothing rong [wrong] Since the [they] left home I ad [add] no more but remains your affetionated Sone till dath

Jas. Hemphill

S/ Jno Hemphill [John Hemphill]



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 16 months in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁹ relating to James Hemphill
Audited Account No. 3517

pp10

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5/31/22

[p 2]

[No. 495 Book R]

Mr. James Hemphill his Account of Sundries for Militia use in 1780 & 1781

Charged £375.7

add more 7.

⁹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) 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. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

Currency £382.7
deduct less 19.10
Currency £362.17
Stg. [Sterling] £51.6.8 ½

N: B: a Horse, Saddle & Saddlebags charge £45.10 – receipt a Guinea Cash charged £7.7 – does not say for what, both Sums or £52.17 – or £7.11 in [balance of the document is illegible as posted online]

[p 3]

South Carolina Camden District} the Public Stand in dated to Mr. James Hemphill in the following [word too faint to discern] and Services viz.

			£	S	D
1780	25 August	£10 less 58 days horse service as Lieut.	140.	10	
1781	22 March	£9.10/ 62 days as Lieut.	149.	0	0
1781	23 June	40 days as private	40.	0	0
1779	10 Deer.	48 days on foot, Lieut.	188.	0	0
1780	18 August	1 Horse – 30 £	30.	0	0
1780	18 Ditto	1 Saddle & Bags	19.	10	0
Ditto		to cash 1 guinea		<u>7.</u>	<u>0</u>
			Total	498.	7.0
					£375.7

(Bratton)

[p 4]

James Hemphill

Received 10 June 1785, full Satisfaction for the Within, in an Indent No. 495 = R for James Hemphill by an order

S/ John Adair

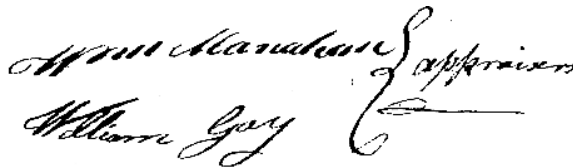


[p 5]

Camden District} William Gaye and William Manahan being Called on to appraise a horse Saddle & saddle Bags the property of James Hemphill taken by the Enemy at General Sumter's Defeat do appraise the same at £45 pound Sworn to 30th of June 1783

Before

S/ Edward Lacey, JP



[p 6]

Received this 27th day of May 1784 Edward Lacey [undeciphered word or abbreviation] Sundry Articles on Store in full for an Indent to the amount of three hundred & sixteen Pounds old

currency Due me from the Public of South Carolina which Indent I obligate myself to make
Good to the above Edward Lacey as witness my hand Stand [sic] the Day & Date above written
test

S/ Willey S. Brown [?]

S/ Jas Hemphill

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jas Hemphill", enclosed in a rectangular box.

[p 8]

I do hereby Impower John Adair Esquire to receive an Indent for the amount of my Account
against the Public of South Carolina whose Receipt Shall be a sufficient Discharge from
Gentlemen your very Humble Servant

June 23, 1785

S/ Jas. Hemphill

To the Treasurers of
the State of South Carolina

[p 9: Printed form of Indent No. 495 Book R]

[p 10: Reverse of the above Indent.]