

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abner Corley [Cauley] S21707

f72SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/11/08 rev'd 11/18/14 & 7/11/19

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

State of South Carolina Edgefield District

On this tenth day of April personally appeared in open Court for the Court of Common Pleas of said State now sitting at Edgefield Court House, Abner Corley, a resident of said District & State aforesaid, aged seventy-five 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That he volunteered as well as he can recollect about the first of May 1781 under Captain Moore in this district, he does not recollect his age but was very young his Company was marched immediately to Ninety Six & joined Colonel Pickens' [Andrew Pickens'] Regiment General Greene [Nathanael Greene] was the commander. His Company was employed as a scouting party & to collect forage around Ninety Six -- during the siege [May 22-June 19, 1781] which lasted about a month after the siege was raised he immediately joined Captain Turner's [Sterling Turner's] Company who was from the neighborhood where he was raised. He remained in Captain Turner's Company which belonged to Colonel Pickens' Regiment -- until December 1781 -- when Turner was killed in an engagement with Colonel Cunningham a Tory -- on Clouds Creek¹ in this District he was not in the engagement, but had been sent on an express to Ninety Six. He then with the remnant of Turner's Company joined Captain Watson's [Michael Watson's] Company, in a few days. He remained under Watson about two months as well as he recollects -- was marched to rocky swamp where he was in an engagement & where Watson was killed.² Lieutenant Butler [William Butler] then took the command of the Company, but received a Commission in a few days to raise a company of light horse & the applicant joined his company which he thinks was in March 1782. (Colonel Butler the son of Captain Butler testifies that the Applicant's name is on his father's roll of light horse) -- He remained under Captain Butler until December 1782 as well as he can recollect. He was in several engagements with the Tories under Butler, & remained under him until he was finally discharged in December 1782 as above stated -- He was a private during the whole time of his service -- & has no certificate of his discharge & no documentary evidence of service.

Hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

¹ November 17, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cloudscreek.htm>

² May 24, 1782. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/deanswamp.htm>. This engagement is usually referred to as occurring at Dean's Swamp.

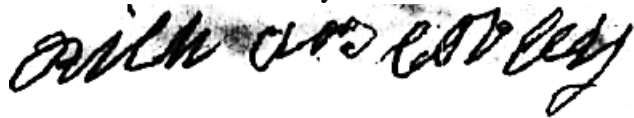
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court before
S/ J. Richardson, C. C. P.

S/ Abner Corley, X his mark

I, Richard Corley, residing in Edgefield District South Carolina, hereby certify that I am acquainted with Abner Corley who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration & know that he was a soldier of the revolution & served as the above states as well as I recollect & was with him the whole time of his service.

S/ A. B. Addison, QU

S/ Richard Corley



[Samuel Cartlege, a clergyman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I certify I have seen the name of Abner Corley on the muster roll of my father who commanded a company in the latter part of the revolutionary war.

S/ A. P. Butler

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace &c -- Abner Corley who being duly sworn deposed & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades -- For one month and a few days I served as a private under Captain Moore. For about 6 months under Captain Turner. For 2 months under Captain Watson & for about 10 months under Captain Butler and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to before me

S/ A. B. Addison, Q U

S/ Abner Corley, X his mark

Amended -- the applicant was born in Bute County North Carolina & has resided in Edgefield District SC since the revolution.

Sworn to before me.

S/ A. B. Addison, Q U

S/ Abner Corley, X his mark

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South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally came before me David Richardson of Edgefield District South Carolina who now resides on the plantation where his father lived before the revolutionary war and has lived on the place during his life, this deponent was not of age during the war to do service, but recollects seeing Abner Corley about the close of the war with the Americans and further saith he heard Major General William Butler state that during their service General said he William Butler was Lieutenant under Captain Watson and that when Captain Watson was shot in an engagement with the Tories below Orangeburg that he Lieutenant Butler ordered A. Corley to take Watson's powder horn from him for they were scarce of ammunition and although Watson was mortally wounded he refused to give it up but A. Corley took it by force and that Corley acted very brave in the engagement with the Tories and believes he the said Corley was a true friend to his country Sworn to before me this 22nd day of November 1842 --

S/ David Richardson



[signature partially obliterated]

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South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally came before me William Smith³ of Edgefield District and made oath that he this deponent was acquainted with Abner Corley in the revolutionary war, but himself and the above A. Corley being attached to different Companies and serving under separate Captains can only say he often met him when their Captains joined their commands to scout after the Tories in protecting the people from being killed and from their property being taken off by the said Tories, this deponent further saith he believes the said Abner Corley was a true soldier to his Country and that he rendered all the services in his power.

Sworn to before me this 15th day of November 1842.

S/ Robt Bryan , Magt.

S/ William Smith, X his mark

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Capt Butler's Company of Volunteers according to the pay Bill from September 1st to March 1st 1782 Including 182 Days

1. Lieut Jno. Corley [John Corley]	1 st Starling Turner, Capt. 70 Days
2. Fred ^k Sissoin, Quarter Master [Frederick Sission]	2. Wm Butler ⁴ Lieut. 70 [William Butler]
3. Danl. Jones [Daniel Jones]	3. Wm Sison 2 nd Lieut. 70
4. Thos. Butler [Thomas Butler]	4. Fredk Sison 70 [Frederick Sison]
5. Jas. Alen [James Allen?]	5. Nathaniel Corley 70
6. Russell Wilson	6. Abner Corley 70
7. Owen Fort	7. Amos Richardson 70
8. Saml DeLoach [Samuel DeLoach]	8. Bartlett Bledsoe 70
9. Lewis Clark	9. Zachus Corley ⁵ 70
10. Sherod Corley	10. Robt. Davis [Robert Davis] 70
11. Abner Corley	11. Peter Foy 70
12. Zachus Corley	12. George Mason 70
13. Jno Berry [John Berry]	13. Berryman Bledsoe 70
14. Jas Edson [James Edson]	14. Joseph Nunn 70
15. Jno Edson [John Edson]	15. Handley Webb 30
16. Joel Pagget	16. Danl. Jones [Daniel Jones] 38
17. Josiah Pagget	17. Hezekiah Watson 38
18. Josiah Warren	18. ..*. Cate 70
19. John Wilson	19. * Harrison 60
20. Jas. Troop [James Troop]	20. * Harrison 60
21. Zakhiah Watson	21. * Humphreys 30

³ [William Smith W22272](#)

⁴ [William Butler W20803](#)

⁵ [Zaceous \(Zaccheus\) Corley S16736](#)

22. Richman Watson	22. Burrows Whittle 60
23 Willis Watson	23. Sherard Corley 20
24. Saml Williams [Samuel Williams]	24. John Smith 38
	25. Thomas Davis 30
	26. James Butler, Senr. 70
	27. Jas. Butler, Junr 70
It is probable they were pd for 70 days	28. Burdett Eskridge 70
A. P. B.	29. Zachariah Davis 70
	30. Smalwood Smith [Smallwood Smith?] 70
	31. Mathew Jones 70
	32. Gideon Nicholson 70
	33. John Douglass 70

* "Mutilated" [meaning the original could not be read—not that the men were mutilated.]

South Carolina Edgefield District

I J. Richardson Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for the District aforesaid, do certify that Colonel Andrew B. Butler the son of the late General William Butler has placed in my possession 3 muster rolls of men commanded by him (Genl. William Butler) as Captain in the Revolutionary war and that the within is a true copy of one of them.

Given under my hand and seal of the said Court this 22 July 1833

S/ J. Richardson, C. C. E.

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South Carolina Edgefield District

The applicant Abner Corley makes the following statement in open Court, upon oath, in explanation of and in addition to his declaration. He served under the officers mentioned in his declaration at the time he was entered into service, or rather when he volunteered the Government of South Carolina had scarcely assumed its regular functions. Officers were chosen without any regular commissions -- some who served afterwards received Commissions -- This in some measure will account for the want of precision in his references. He served the time specified in the muster roll -- and refers to that roll for the precise time -- to wit 182 days -- of this he can speak with perfect confidence. Sides this time he served at different periods of alluded to in his declaration. He cannot state with more precision than he has done as to any time except that mentioned in the muster roll of his last Captain -- William Butler -- he served in the partisan Corps [?] principally. He served with no regular officers -- He was engaged in a war with the Tories -- and from the time he first volunteered -- he was continually in a state of preparation & service -- He can state with confidence it was more than 3 months besides the 6 months he served under Captain Butler --

He answers the interrogatories as follows

1st He was born in North Carolina in 1758.

2nd he has his father's Bible in which his birth is written --

3rd he lived in Ninety Six district South Carolina, on Saluda River & he resided in Edgefield a part of old 96 ever since

4th He volunteered --

5 He served with no regular officers He refers to the declaration for this answer

6th No

7th he refers to Colonel Z. T. Brock, Daniel Bullock, Capt. Belcher Cate Sheriff, James Edson⁶ who served with applicant -- the surviving shorter and of William Butler -- Daniel Richardson whose father was with applicant in service -- John Cethran the P. M [indecipherable word or words] the residence of applicant; & whose fall of was wounded. As to the tradition of his service he can refer to all who know him.

Sworn to before me in open Court the 8th November 1833

S/ H. Boulware, C. C. P.

S/ Abner Corley, X his mark

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South Carolina Edgefield District: Amended declaration of Abner Corley in order to have his pension increased

He refers the Department that his application made in the year 18__ on which he was allowed the sum of __ He was at that time unable to procure any other proof, but has since obtain[ed] proof as here with fortified. He also states that the proof furnished does not cover near all the services rendered that was its not for the lapse of time and a few persons now living that he would be unable to prove services rendered under 9 different Officers. He further states that he is extremely poor and very infirm depending for a support of his children (who also very poor) his pension not being sufficient to furnish, the necessary means to support home. He therefore prays the Department to increase his pension, as he conceives from the proof here with adduced, in addition to the proof heretofore, will entitle him to full pay from the 1831

Sworn to before made this 16 December 1842

S/ Abner Corley, X his mark

S/ Robt. Bryan, Magt.

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South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally came before me Abner Corley and made Oath that he this deponent was acquainted with Joshua Dean, and hath perfect recollection of being in Company with the said Joshua Dean on a scouting expedition after a gang of Tories who had come in the settlement as their custom was to plunder property and burn people's houses the said Captain Dean bore Arms with himself under a man by the name of William Beal, he this deponent thinks they were out about 2 weeks on service and that some short time afterward the said Joshua Dean was married to Tabitha Mays -- this deponent was at the marriage and also at the infare [?] the next day, and further saith that he was personally acquainted with the said Dean until his death which he thinks is some 40 years past and also has frequently seen his widow since that time and knows her to be the widow of said Joshua Dean.

Sworn to before me the 21st day of November 1842

S/ Abner Corley, X his mark

S/ Robt Bryan

N. B. the above services was rendered [in] the District of Edgefield and State of South Carolina

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South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally came before me Daniel Rogers⁷ a Revolutionary Soldier and made oath that he this deponent is well acquainted with Abner Corley of said District one of his old associates in

⁶ Will Graves suspects this is a reference to the man who obtained a pension for service in Butler's company by the name do James Eidson. [James Eidson S17939](#)

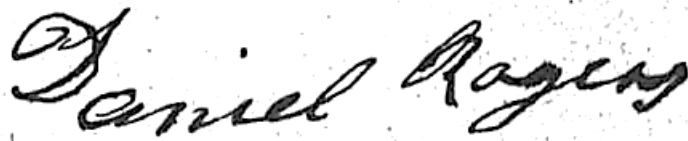
⁷ [Daniel Rogers S18186](#)

the revolution -- saith on oath that the first interview he recollects was at Liberty Hill in the said District opposite Augusta on or about the 1st of January 1779, the said Abner Corley was then under Captain Solomon and himself and the said Abner Corley remained stationed at that place from the first of January 1779 until about the last of May following which was 5 months services rendered at that station, after which time the British and Tories overran the State and he was scattered among the State until some time and May 1781 I again met with the said Abner Corley in service of his country under Captain Starlin Turner [Sterling Turner] in the district of Edgefield and that they were often together and scouting after the Tories until peace and Independence was fully settled and further saith that the said Abner Corley was a true friend and good soldier, and that he believes suffered as much in rendered as great service for his country as any other revolutionary soldier.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 15th day of November 1842.

S/ Robert Bryan, Magistrate

S/ Daniel Rogers



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State of South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally came before me James Eidson⁸ of said District & State who makes oath that he was with Abner Corley also a Soldier of the Revolution at the Siege of Augusta at Liberty Hill under Captain Solomon Pope then Commanding at that Post -- the time of their services was from the first of January 1779 to the latter end of May following a period of 5 months.

Also was with the said Abner Corley in the Service of his Country under Captain Sterling Turner in the district of Edgefield a period of 6 months & also I was with him for about 15 months in the service of his Country under Captain Mike Watson.

Captain Watson was shot when William Butler became our Capt & converted the Company to one of mounted troops in which capacity we acted until the close of the war & got our discharge from the Governor of the State at Amos Richardson's in the said District.

Sworn to before me 10 July 1844.

S/ A. B. Addison

S/ James Eidson, X his mark

[p 9, power of attorney dated May 3, 1852, given by Sarah Ann Devore, who says she is the daughter of the veteran; given in Abbeville Dist. SC]

[Facts in file: veteran was born in 1758 in Bute County, NC; children, Sherwood Corley, Frances Rodgers and Sarah Devore or Sarah Ann Devore; veteran died July 25, 1844 in Greenville District, SC]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry & cavalry for 15 months in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁹ relating to "Abner Cauley"

AA3

⁸ [James Eidson S17939](#)

⁹ 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

Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1154A
Transcribed by Will Graves

7/11/19

[p 2: Printed form of Indent No. 233 Book U dated July 11, 1785 issued to Abner Cauley for the sum of twenty-seven pounds two Shillings and 10 pence farthing Sterling for militia duty as a private per account audited.]

[p 3: Reverse of the above Indent bearing an endorsement by the veteran signing with his mark]