

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Meritt [Merritt] S21883

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 4/27/09 & 4/6/17

[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.]

State of South Carolina, Anderson District} SS

On this tenth day of June, in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared before me, James Douthit, a Justice of the Quorum in & for the District aforesaid, James Meritt, a resident in the said district of Anderson & State of South Carolina, aged Seventy-Eight 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated --

First: -- That he volunteered in a company of Infantry, in Surry County North Carolina, being then a citizen of the same, under Captain Richard Goode, Major Winston [Joseph Winston] and Colonel Williams [Joseph Williams]; and under their command he was marched from said County to a place near Fayetteville called the Scotch Camp then called "Cross Creek," on Cape Fear River. The Scotch were subdued & taken without fighting and after a tour of four weeks we returned home. This was in the beginning of the War; the exact date he can't remember.<sup>1</sup>

Secondly: -- That he volunteered, for three months, in a company of Infantry volunteers raised in Surry County & commanded by Captain Goode to go against the Cherokee Indians. This company was raised soon after our return from the "Scotch Camp," & was marched under Captain Goode to Long Island, on Holston River, where the troops from Virginia and North Carolina were united under the command of Col. Christie [sic, William Christian].<sup>2</sup> From Long Island Colonel Christie marched the forces to the Cherokee nation. In this expedition he declares that Captain Goode, Major Winston, Col. Williams and Christie, were the officers under whom he served. That on their arrival in the Cherokee nation, the Indians fled from their huts and villages -- that they afterwards came in and agreed with the officers to make a treaty, & accordingly they did hold the treaty in the following spring. To the best of his recollection this tour commenced early in the month of August and was not ended until the last of November -- he believes that the term of service extended to very nearly four months, but is well assured that it was not less than three & a half months.

Thirdly: -- That his next tour of service was under Captain Camplin [Jacob Camplin], in whose Company of Infantry he volunteered for three months, and was marched from Surry County in North Carolina into South Carolina opposite to Augusta in Georgia; thence down the Savannah River to a place thereon called "the two Sisters." Thence across the state to Bacon's Bridge. Here we were associated with the Army under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] &

<sup>1</sup> Veteran appears to be referring to the time at which the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge occurred on February 27, 1776 even though he says no fighting occurred.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776\\_TN.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776_TN.html)

General Butler [John Butler]. Our Camps were moved about from one rice-field to another for many days until we had an engagement with the British. He was in this action during the engagement. General Lincoln was the commander of the Americans, & Provost that of the British. After this action, & ten days before the expiration of his term of service – (in three months) he was taken sick in camp, & was then sent home.<sup>3</sup>

Fourthly: -- That after his return home, he again volunteered in a troop of Cavalry commanded by Captain Minor Smith in Surry County North Carolina to go against Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] and the forces under him. Under Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] he came upon Ferguson at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780].<sup>4</sup> Here he was in the action on Kings Mountain, in which Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] had the command and in which Ferguson was defeated. After this action he was appointed as one of the Guard, and as such, under orders proceeded with the prisoners to Moravian Town, where he was stationed to guard them until the guard was dismissed. This tour was commenced for no definite term that he can recollect – the troop being raised specifically for the purpose to assist in defeating Ferguson. The time he was in actual service in this tour, to the best of his recollection, was not less than three months. At the end of his several tours of service he was dismissed, but he never received any formal discharge. He has no documentary evidence that would be of any use in the investigation of his claim – But is acquainted with William Southerland, resident in an adjoining District (Pickens) who can testify to a part of the services at the least, which he rendered the United States in the War of the revolution.

That he has never received any pension, and that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

He further adds to this declaration, and under solemn oath, declares, that, by reason of old age, extreme affliction of body, and a consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear to the precise length of his services nor to the exact periods of the War when they were rendered; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned above in this declaration, and as herein stated; i.e., he firmly believes he served in the Infantry, as a private, not less than seven & a half months; and as a private in the Cavalry, three months; and for this service he claims a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.

S/ James Douthit JQ

S/ James Meritt, X his mark

[John B. Chappell, a clergyman, and John Wilson gave the standard supporting affidavit. They also noted as follows: "... and, that, from the effects of a Cancer (which has deprived him of his left eye & corroded the surrounding flesh so as to leave the socket & left side of his face, almost entirely lax) we are satisfied that he has not been able for many months past to attend personally before any of the Courts of the District, and that, by the progress of the disease his life must necessarily soon be terminated."]

1. I was born in Essex County, Virginia March 1, 1755.
2. I have no record of my age. But asserts it from the declaration of my parents, to be as above stated.
3. When called into service, I was living in Surry County North Carolina, where I continued to live after the War ended for one or two years; thence I moved into Newberry District

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<sup>3</sup> Veteran appears to be referring to the action at Stono Ferry on June 20, 1779.

[http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_stono\\_ferry.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

South Carolina where I lived 14 years & from there I came to this place where I have lived ever since until the present day.

4. I volunteered in every instance when there was a call made for men to be raised out of each Captain's company. I never stood a draft.
5. I don't recollect the names of any of the regular Officers in command where I served unless General Lincoln and Andrew Williams [sic, Andrew Williamson] were – Williams was Colonel or General I can't say which.
6. I never received a formal discharge.
7. Many of my neighbors will testify to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier in the revolution – namely John H. Roseman, William Holcombe, George Dilworth

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South Carolina Pickens District: Be it known, that before me Joseph B. Reid a Justice of the peace in and for the District aforesaid personally appeared William Southerland Senior who being first duly sworn according to law, saith, that, James Meritt, of Anderson District, did serve three months, to his own personal knowledge, with him in the service of the United States during the Revolution, in Capt. Richard Goode's Company, which was commanded by Col. Williams & Major Winston, all of Surry County in North Carolina.

Sworn to & subscribed the 10th day of June A.D. 1833

Test:

S/ Jos. B. Reid, JP

S/ William Southerland<sup>5</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Southerland". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.97 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months and 13 days in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>5</sup> It appears that this veteran did not file for a pension under any of the federal pension acts.