

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Forsyth S23636

f41SC[sic VA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/16/09 rev'd 6/12/15 & 8/14/20

[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 Pennsylvania County of Allegheny

On this 31st Day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before Charles Shaler Pres. & his associate Judges the court of Common Pleas now sitting Joseph Forsyth [sic] a resident of Jefferson Township in the County of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania aged 70 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 7, 1832, -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated

That he was drafted in the Army in the month of October 1779 from Rockbridge County State of Virginia under the command of Capt. Thomas Bell, being then in the 18th year of my age, we marched to Stanton where we were inspected by Col. Sampson Matthews, from thence we marched to Hillsboro old Orange County State of North Carolina where we fell in with that command of Major Ridley where we remained for some time in the Spring of 1780 we marched to Salisbury where we remained a short time from thence we marched to Carlotte [sic Charlotte] in the County of Macklinburg [sic, Mecklenburg] State of South Carolina [sic, North Carolina] where we fell under the Command of General Greene [Nathanael Greene] from thence we marched to the Cheraw hills at which place we remained during the winter during which time General Greene send a company of men down the Pedee River after the Tories under the command of Col. Lea [sic, Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] of which I was one after being there a short time we received orders to return to General Greene, who was then on his march to Gilford [sic, Guilford] Court house at which place we joined General Greene's Army in the spring of 1781 on the next day after we joined the Army we were attacked [March 15, 1781] by Lord Cornwallis' Army our Army was divided into three lines the second line which I belonged to was troops from Virginia during the time of the Engagement was very warm I received a wound inflicted by a bayonet in my left thy [thigh] which rendered me unable to continue on with the Army after I recovered the term of eighteen months for which I was drafted having expired I did not follow the Army to get a discharge or to draw my pay in the first of May, I went as a substitute for Lattimore Edmons who attended to my wound for the term of one month as a militia man to General Merians [sic, Francis Marion's?] Camp on my arrival in Camp I enlisted under Capt. Henry Lenew [sic, Henry Lenud] attached to Col. Peter Oreas [sic, Peter Horry's] Troop of Horse for the term of one year immediately after my enlistment we had a small engagement at Bigen [sic, Biggin] Church<sup>1</sup> which place the British burned and marched off the

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<sup>1</sup> July 16, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/bigginch.htm>

next day General Marion sent a small detachment of us to learn which way the Enemy marched after we had proceeded a few miles we fell in with Col. Lee's Troop of Horse who also pursued on after the enemy to we came up with them at Hewgees [or "Newgus" ?] Brige [sic, Huger's Bridge?] cut off their rear guard took 80 prisoners 6 baggage wagons and 6 field pieces Just as this battle was over Generals Marion and Sumter with their Brigades arrived and pursued the enemy to Qunby Brige [sic, Quinby Bridge]<sup>2</sup> where we had a small skirmish with the enemy retreated across the bridge and took shelter in a large frame house and some small Negro houses where we had a severe engagement which was on the 17 of May 1781 immediately after that I was ordered to Georgetown South Carolina to join Col. Horry's Troop for which I had enlisted soon after a part of our Troop had received their equipage we were sent back to General Marion to do duty. I remained in Marion's camp to the Battle of the Eutaw Springs<sup>3</sup> which I was on that day attached to Col. Lee's troop the next engagement that I was in was the battle of Wambaw Creek<sup>4</sup> when Col. Horry's men were defeated in February 1782 after serving 9 months and about 16 days of my enlistment I was discharged on condition that I would enlist for a longer time I then enlisted in the foot service for the term of 3 years under William Swinton a recruiting officer on Pedee River Darlington County South Carolina from which place I was sent to George Town [sic, Georgetown] where I was under the command of Capt. Alexander Rooks and done duty with artillery men commanded by Capt. McCure we continued there during that summer soon after the British left Charleston we marched then at this time I was attached to Capt. Phelix Warleys [sic, Felix Warley's] Company to serve out my time our company was attached to Major Hern's Battalion Col Thompson's Region, Gen. Hewgus Brigade [sic, Huger's Brigade] in the Spring of 1783 I was sent along with a company of men to the State of Georgia with the goods for the Indians at the request of Gov. Benjamin Garrett and 1 June returned back to Charlestown and was discharged on the 9 day of June 1783 Signed by General Greene -- after serving one year and some days of my Enlistment which discharge I have since lost --

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 --

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Wm Mc Candlness

S/ Joseph Forsyth, X his mark

[Thomas D. Baird, a clergyman, and Michel Snee gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

Questions:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: In Chester County Pennsylvania in the year 1762

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer/ I had a record of my age and I left it at my Grand Father's in the State of Virginia

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?

Answer -- I lived in Rockbridge County State of Virginia when I was drafted and since the war, I have been over several States for the last 30 years I have been a resident in Washington and Allegheny Counties Pennsylvania

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer -- I was drafted for the term of 18 months the first tour

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served,

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<sup>2</sup> July 17, 1781, <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/quinby.htm>

<sup>3</sup> September 8, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/eutaw.htm>

<sup>4</sup> February 24, 1782 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/wambaw-cr-br.htm>

such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer -- Capt. Henry Lenud, Col. Peter Horry, Col. Lee, General Marion and General Sumter and General Greene were all officers which I served under and was in several engagements with them

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?

Answer -- I received a discharge given by General Greene on the 9th day of June 1783 which discharge I have since lost.

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.

Arthur Morrow, Michel Snee, Peter Hayer, Matthew Morris

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For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828 I Joseph Forsythe of Allegheny County in the State of Pennsylvania do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental Cavalry of the Revolution in the month of May 1781 under Colonel Peter Oree in South Carolina on the waters of Santee [River]. That previous thereto I had served and 18 months draft into the Continental Army made in Virginia at Rockbridge County & out of which I enlisted under Colonel Oree into the Cavalry as aforesaid for one year. That in 9 months & 14 days afterwards the Cavalry being defeated, I got my discharge from it, on condition of joining in the foot service – I did so and in May 1782 I enlisted in the foot service for 3 years & was under Colonel Thompson, Major Herron & Captain Walley all under General Huger. That in this service I continued to the end of the War at which period I was a private in Colonel Walley's Company and was honorably discharged and my discharge was signed by General Green – that long since that period I lost my Pocketbook, containing my Certificate of discharge. And I also declare that I received a certificate for the reward of \$80 to which I was entitled under a resolve of Congress passed the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1778.

And I further declare that I was not on the 15 day of March 1828, on the Pension List of the United States.

Test S/ M. B. Lowrie  
City of Pittsburgh

S/ Joseph Forsyth, X his mark

Before me an Alderman of said City and a Notary Public by authority of the State of Pennsylvania duly commissioned and sworn personally came John Warner of Allegheny County Pennsylvania to me well-known as an old soldier of the Revolution having for many years assisted him in preparing his papers for drawing his Pension both for the Philadelphia & the Pittsburgh Agency – and being duly sworn according to law did depose and say that during the War the Revolution he was acquainted with Joseph Forsythe by whom the foregoing declaration was subscribed. That he knew him both in the horse and foot Service in South Carolina. This deponent left Carolina about a month before Peace was declared & he knows well that said Joseph Forsythe was then in the Infantry service of the United States and he well knows him to be the same man, and he firmly believes that the facts set forth in the foregoing declaration are just & true.

Sworn & subscribed before me this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1824  
S/ M. B. Lowrie S/ John Warner

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Revolutionary Claims  
Treasury Department,  
September 13, 1823

Joseph Forsythe of \_\_\_ in the County of Allegheny in the State of Pennsylvania has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that he enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, for and during the war, and continued until its termination, at which period he was a Private in Captain \_\_\_ 's Company, in the \_\_\_ regiment of the South Carolina line; and that he received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars, provided by the resolve of the 15th of May, 1778; and further, that he was not on the 15th of May, 1828, on the pension list of the United States, and that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March, 1826, nothing

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary  
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department,  
Third Auditor's Office,  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 1828

~~It appears by the records of this office, that a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars has been issued to \_\_\_ in the \_\_\_~~

It further appears that Joseph Forsythe is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been so since the 3rd March 1826—~~at the rate of \_\_\_ dollars per month.~~

The name of Joseph Forsythe cannot be found among those of the South Carolina line to whom Certificates for the gratuity of 80 Dollars were issued.

S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

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Western District of Pennsylvania County of Allegheny

On this 21st day of October 1829 personally appeared in open court, being a court of record of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylvania, now sitting at the City of Pittsburgh, Joseph Forsythe, resident in said County, aged 68 years in February last past, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818, and the first of May 1820; that he the said Joseph Forsythe enlisted, for the term of one year, on the first day of June in the year 1781, in the State of South Carolina, in the company of "Horse" commanded by Capt. Henry Lenew [sic, Henry Lenud], in the Regiment commanded by Col. Peter O'Rea [sic, Peter Horry], in the line of the State of South Carolina on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in said Corps until February 1782, when the company to which he belonged was destroyed by a defeat at Wamba Creek [sic, Wambaw Creek], & he was discharged from the "Horse" on condition that he would enlist in the infantry; that he did enlist about the 15th day of March 1782, in the same State, in the company commanded by Capt. Felix Warley, in the Regiment commanded by Col. Thompson, in the line of the same State; that he continued to serve in said last-mentioned Corps until the 9th day of June 1783 when he was discharged from the service in Charleston in the State of South Carolina; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present; that his name is not on the roll of any State,

except South Carolina; and that the following all the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension: -- first that he did make application in the year 1819, but that he was not able, at that time, to swear that he was not worth \$200, which he understood was necessary; and that since that time he has lost all the property which he then had; & further he says that he could get no witnesses to identify him until now.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or otherwise disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. That, since the 18th of March 1818, the following changes have been made in my property -- to wit -- that, since that time, all my property has been sold for the rent of the house in which I then lived, by virtue of a landlord's warrant except the property contained in the list signed by me, and that the list signed "D. Darragh" is a true account of the property sold by virtue of said warrant.

Sworn to and declared on the 21st day of October 1829 before

S/ E. J. Roberts, Clk

S/ Joseph Forsythe, X his mark

Schedule of my property

One Horse worth	\$15
One Milch Cow	\$10
Corn in the Stack	3
Farming Utensils	3
Kitchen Furniture	<u>5</u>
	\$36

I am by occupation a farmer. But am old and unable on account of "Rupture" to pursue it. I have no family except myself & my wife: she is, I think 81 years of age, and of course is unable to contribute to our support. I owe upwards of \$50, which I am unable to pay. I have never received any compensation from government for my services. Since the 18 March 1818, I have not myself disposed of any of my property; but, as will appear in the deposition of D. Darragh Esquire, the most of my property was sold on a Landlords warrant. What was left is contained in the above schedule.

The sale of the landlords warrant took place in August 1821.

Test:

S/ W. H. Lowrie

S/ Joseph Forsythe, X his mark

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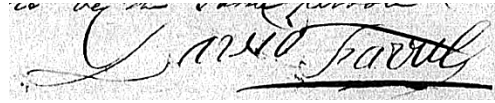
City of Pittsburgh SS

Before me an Alderman in and for said City personally appeared David Farrel to me well-known as a United States Pensioner and a man of veracity being duly sworn according to law doth depose and say that Joseph Forsyth who is applying for a United States Pension and who is now present is known to the Deponent. That he knew him in South Carolina to be in the Army at the Cheraw hills on the big Pedee [River] about the year 1780 or '81 in the Service of the United States and that he now recognizes him to be the same person.

Sworn & Subscribed before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September [year not stated]

S/ M. B. Lowrie, Ald.

S/ David Farril<sup>5</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Farril", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 21]

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States  
The petition of Joseph Forsythe a soldier of the Revolution [not dated]

Respectfully presents –

That your petitioner was a soldier of the revolutionary war – that he was enlisted by William Livinton for the term of one year on the first day of June in the year 1781 in the state of South Carolina in the company of "Horse" commanded by Captain Henry Lenew, in the Regiment of Colonel Peter O'Rea, in the line of the State of South Carolina – that he continued to serve in said Corps until February 1782, when the company to which he belonged was destroyed by a defeat at Wamba Creek, & he was discharge from the Horse on condition that he would in list in the infantry, – that he did in list about the middle of March 1782, in the same state in the company commanded by Captain Alexander Rooks, & that this company was after was divided amongst the other companies of the Regiment & he was put into that commanded by Captain Warley, in the Regiment of Colonel Thompson, that there was a Captain Joseph & a Captain Felix Warley in the Regiment, & he does not now recollect in which of the companies he was, but thinks he was in Captain Felix Warley's , & recollects that he was in the Battalion of Major Hern & Adjutant Hamilton, and that the two Warleys were in different battalions – that he continued to serve in said Corps until he was discharged on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 1783 –

Your petitioner has been endeavoring for some years past to obtain such evidence as would enable him to show his right to a pension agreeably to the laws of the United States. After long inquiry & anxious search he has been enabled to obtain from old soldiers the enclosed depositions of his having been engaged in the service, which, in connection with his own accompanying affidavit, he thought would be sufficient to satisfy the War Department of his right to a pension. These he sent to the War Department & received in reply the enclosed letter of objections marked A. In answer to said objections, he enclosed the last annexed affidavit, & in reply received another letter stating further objections to the evidence of his title as will be seen by reference to the letter Mark B. Your petitioner then began to despair of being able to procure a pension under the existing laws for the relief of Soldiers of the Revolution.

Your petitioner further represents that he is poor & infirm – that he has a wife who is unable to do anything towards her support – that if he does not receive some assistance from that government which he assisted to establish and aided to support, he will need to apply for relief at lease for his wife, perhaps soon for himself to the Poor Laws of his County.

Your petitioner therefore earnestly praise that relief may be given him under the existing laws for that purpose, & that, if he cannot get relief under those laws, they may be extended so as to give him such assistance as will be consistent with the liberal spirit of our government, and the urgent & imperative necessity of his case.

Annual petitioner will ever pray &c

S/ Joseph Forsythe, X his mark

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<sup>5</sup> I was unable to identify this veteran as a federal pensioner for service in the Revolution.

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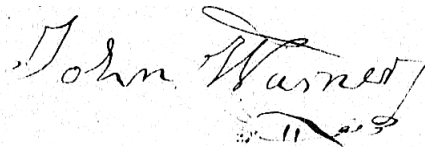
City of Pittsburgh

Before me an Alderman in and for said City personally appeared John Warner<sup>6</sup> to me well known as a Revolutionary Pensioner, and generally reputed and believed to have been a Soldier of the Revolution, and a man of veracity, who being by me duly sworn according to law to depose for the whole truth in his knowledge of what he may know of Joseph Forsythe who is also now present, and is making application to be put on the Pension List Roll as a Revolutionary Pensioner -- doth depose and say -- That he was first acquainted with said Joseph Forsythe in South Carolina while the deponent was under the command of General Marion. That he well recollects of seeing and knowing said Forsyth at that time in the regular Service & of having been on duty with him. That both this Deponent and said Forsythe were part of the time in the Cavalry and deponent knew him well -- part of the time was under Lee & part under Marion -- & when I left that part of the Country the said Forsyth was in the foot Service & remained there but under whose command deponent cannot say. The next acquaintance that Deponent had with said Forsyth was about, or within 2 years past, and by comparing our experience & talking over our old exhibits -- we fully recognize each other, and deponent knows that said Forsythe to be the same person who served with him in South Carolina during the War of the Revolution -- & further deponent saith not

Sworn & subscribed before me September 15, 1829.

S/ M. B. Lowrie

S/ John Warner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Warner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ John Warner".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$87.77 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 4 months and 14 days in the Infantry and for 9 months and 16 days in the Dragoons.]

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[Note: There is an Audited Account for Joseph Forsyth in the South Carolina records, but it contains only the same petition as is transcribed in Peter Horry's SC2090 file in this database. The folder number is 2496B.<sup>7</sup>]

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<sup>6</sup> This MAY be the same man whose application as [John Warner S40641](#). This claimant lived in Allegheny County, Penn. when he made his first claim in 1820, but I cannot find in his HeritageQuest file any reference to his having served under Marion in SC. I looked at the other "John Warners" listed on HeritageQuest and couldn't identify a more likely candidate.

<sup>7</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.