

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Gordon S30441

f30SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/21/08 rev'd 9/14/15 & 8/8/21

[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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Kentucky, County of Todd: SS

On this 14th day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Todd County Court now sitting Samuel Gordon a resident of the County of Todd and State of Kentucky aged seventy-one 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 the 7th 1833.

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

In the year 1778 on the 15th day of December I was appointed first Sergeant in the company of Captain Bratton's [William Bratton's] company of militia and to which I was that they entered as a volunteer for the term of three months. I entered and served as first Sergeant under said Captain Bratton Lieutenant Arter Latamore [sic, Arthur Lattimore<sup>1</sup>?] and field officer Colonel Neil [Thomas Neel] and served under them as first Sergeant in volunteer militia man for the full term of three months during all which time I was constantly bound to military duty in the field and followed no civil pursuit during said term of three months, I resided at the time I entered the service in York County South Carolina where I continued to reside during all my after services we met at Major Ross<sup>2</sup> on Turkey Creek in York County South Carolina we marched from there to Philips Fort in Georgia on the Ogeechee River where we remained until the 5th of March 1779 when we were sent home, we were allowed from the 5th to 15th to return home him, we received no written discharge at all. I was with no regular this tour & in no battle.

I was drafted into the militia as a private militia man on the 20th of November 1779 into the service and as a drafted private militia man on the last mentioned day & year entered the service in the company of Captain Robert Howe [sic, probably Joseph Howe], under him Lieutenant James Lattimore -- field officers Colonel Watson<sup>3</sup> & Major McGriff [Patrick McGriff], I was drafted & entered as a private for the term of three months, which I served under the mentioned officers. We met at York & marched then to what was called the 10 mile house, ten miles from Charleston here I met with 13 regiments of South Carolina militia one of which was commanded by Colonel [indecipherable name, appears to be spelled "Steone" or Strone" or

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<sup>1</sup> Not listed in Moss, *SC Roster*.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Francis Ross.

<sup>3</sup> Probably Samuel Watson

“Sloane” possibly],<sup>4</sup> no regulars, here we continued to the end of our tour. I was discharged on the 15th day of February 1780, I received a written discharge signed by Captain Howe, which was the only written discharge I ever did receive in my time of service and has been lost by me long since, during the whole of this tour I was constantly bound to military duty and followed no civil pursuit whatever.

When I returned home Colonel Watson was raising a Regiment of volunteers to suppress the Tories & on the first of March 1780 I volunteered as a militia man in the company of Captain J. Howe & under him & first Lieutenant William Campbell & 2nd Lieutenant William Davis, field officers Major McGriff & Colonel Watson. I was elected by the company and appointed orderly Sergeant on the day & year last mentioned, and served as such during this tour in all the time I remained in this service, we were mounted militia men and furnished our own horses and our own arms except ammunition which was furnished by government we did not enter for any particular term, but for as long as was necessary to put down the Tories in the Country, I still resided in York SC I continued to serve as first Sergeant under the last named officers until the 15th of June 1780 all the time in the field and bound to military duty and followed no civil pursuit during said time, and in fact no man in the part of the Country where I resided could remain at home attending to his civil avocations, we marched to Fishing Creek where we met Watson and we marched on to Mobley's Meeting House<sup>5</sup> near Winnsboro where we fought and defeated a large party of Tories we made a good many prisoners we marched back to Crowder's Creek and the prisoners took the oath of allegiance and were discharged, ~~we~~ and part of us there were put as a detachment under Colonel Brandon [Thomas Brandon] & Captain Love [Andrew Love] and sent to Stalions [sic, Stallions' or Stallings' Plantation]<sup>6</sup> on Fishing Creek, where we had an engagement with the Tories we defeated them and returned to Colonel Watson at Crowder's Creek. We then joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas, and both regiments were called to Hill's Iron Works to guard the Works, there we were driven off by Colonel Hook [sic, Christian Huck] a British officer and the Works burned,<sup>7</sup> this was the 15th of June 1780, and Colonel Watson refused to command us any longer and we were disbanded after having served three months and a half all the time in the field as a Sergeant, and mounted volunteer militia man, saw no regulars during this tour.

The whole country was at this time so over run with the enemy it was impossible to return home, myself & 26 others started without going home from Hill's Iron works where we had then disbanded to joined the Army of the Whigs wherever we could find them, we were under the command of Colonel Neel, who only had us 27 soldiers we all volunteered were mounted militia man. I still resided at same place as before stated, I still held the office of first Sergeant under Neel and we marched under him until we met Colonel Wind [sic, Winn] & General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] which was on the day after we were disbanded and on the 16th of June I think, I then entered the service as a volunteer under General Sumter as a militia man and as a Sergeant and Captain Howe had the command of our company, and Davis was still our 2nd Lieutenant and Campbell our first Lieutenant, under these officers I was marched by Sumter to meet a Regiment of 450 militia from Rowan County NC under the command of Colonel Locke [Francis Locke] & Major Falls [sic, Captain Galbraith Falls] and we met them at

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<sup>4</sup> *Col. Sloane,*

<sup>5</sup> May 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_mobleys\\_meetinghouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_mobleys_meetinghouse.html)

<sup>6</sup> July 12, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_stallions\\_plantation.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stallions_plantation.html)

<sup>7</sup> June 18, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_hills\\_iron\\_works.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hills_iron_works.html)

Ramsour's Mill,<sup>8</sup> where we fought the memorable battle of Ramsour's, we whipped 111 Tories under the command of Colonel Moore Major Fall [sic, Capt. Galbraith Falls] was killed in this engagement I entered the service this tour for no particular time, as it was known that Sumter's Army was raised by him in this way, from Ramsour's Sumter ~~ordered a detachment to which I belonged to March down the Catawba we did so under Colonel Neel down to Loves~~ marched us down the Catawba River near the old Nations Ford where we stopped and here Colonel Neel received a challenge from Colonel Burntfoot Brown [Thomas Brown] a Tory, that he could whip him at Love's Ford each to have 200 men Colonel Neel accepted the challenge, and a detachment to which I belonged was by Colonel Neel marched down to Love's Ford on Broad River, and we had the River to cross, Brown's men broke and ran and [we] had a victory without a fight, we then returned to Sumter's Camp we then marched to Rocky Mount in SC we there drove old Colonel Floyd, a Tory commander into the Fort we had a smart engagement,<sup>9</sup> in which Colonel Neel was killed, we then marched to Lands Ford on the Catawba, we crossed and met Major Davie [William Richardson Davie] and his horsemen, we then marched directly to the Hanging Rock, arrived there at daybreak, we attacked Colonel Bryant's [sic, Samuel Bryan] Regiment, who was reinforced by the Prince of Wales Regiment, and we defeated them, the commander<sup>10</sup> of the Prince [of] Wales Regiment was wounded, of which Regiment we killed all but 18 before they would surrender, I was still first Sergeant & a mounted volunteer militia man, and had entered this term of service 16th of June 1780 and was all this time constantly bound to military duty in the field, this battle at the Hanging Rock was fought on Sunday I think about the last of August 1780<sup>11</sup> we fought under Colonel Watson this battle who had joined us and took command after Neel fell at Rocky Mount, we then marched to Steele Creek Meeting house, we then marched along Lynches Creek through the Waxhaw settlement then down the Catawba River nearly as low as Camden recrossed the River and came up again, near Fishing Creek and were there surprised and defeated by Tarleton,<sup>12</sup> our Captain Howe was there taken prisoner, Davis then took command of the company to which I belonged and Campbell was made first Lieutenant and James Clinton was made 2nd Lieutenant, Colonel Watson here left us & Colonel Hawthorn [James Hawthorn] took the command of our Regiment, we then marched up to Biggers bottom there we recruited, about this time gloomy prospect lay before us, the country was flooded with the enemy, we maneuvered for some time to avoid the enemy, we marched down the Congaree River and fought a battle at rights bluff [sic, Wright's Bluff<sup>13</sup>], here Thomas Neel was killed, we then made a long march to Bratton's old field, the battle of King's Mountain<sup>14</sup> was fought while we were on the Congaree, there at King's Mountain Shelby [Isaac Shelby], Campbell [William Campbell], Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] & Sevier [John Sevier] had defeated Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]; prospects were then brighter and as above stated we marched on to Bratton's old field there we defeated Colonel Hook [sic, Christian Huck]<sup>15</sup> and his Regiment Huck was killed, we then marched to the fish dam Ford on Broad River SC we were

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<sup>8</sup> June 20, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ramseurs\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html)

<sup>9</sup> July 30, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_rocky\\_mount.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html)

<sup>10</sup> Major John Carden

<sup>11</sup> The battle actually occurred on August 6, 1780

[http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_hanging\\_rock.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html)

<sup>12</sup> August 18, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_fishing\\_creek.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html)

<sup>13</sup> <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/watson.htm>

<sup>14</sup> October 7, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

<sup>15</sup> July 12, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_williamsons\\_plantation.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_williamsons_plantation.html)

there attacked by the British in the night, we killed their commander and totally defeated them,<sup>16</sup> we then recrossed Broad River and marched all night, next day about 10 o'clock we met Colonel Clarke from Georgia with 500 Georgia militia, a consultation was held and we turned our course and marched down the Saluda River to Shirers Ferry<sup>17</sup> where we expected to catch Tarleton but he got over the River where Cornwallis lay with his Army. General Sumter dispatched Colonel Hawthorn with a detachment of 30 men to fire on some of the British who were in the boats washing clothes and I belonged to this detachment, we fired on them and our fire was returned by the grapeshot of the enemy we then took our march directly to the Blackstocks SC where Tarleton followed us, we there had a hard battle with him and gained over him a decided victory.<sup>18</sup> Sumter was wounded in the engagement, we took up our march and all night, being afraid to stay where we were; General Sumter was incapacitated, and Colonel Lacy [Edward Lacey] took command of our Regiment, Sumter was carried to Charlotte Hospital; where he remained one or 2 months, this battle was fought the 20th day of November 1780, I had been constantly in the service up to this time from the 16th of June, as Sergeant, all this time bound to military duty in the field and followed no civil pursuit, now Lacey directed us to recruit our horses, and went up into the edge of NC where he lay until the first of January 1781 during which time for one month & 10 days I do not know whether I am allowed by law to claim to be in the service, I followed no pursuit except to recruit ourselves and horses being in parties of 5 or 6.

On the first of January 1781 we were called together by General Sumter who had recovered of his wound and General Greene [Nathanael Greene] had called for General Sumter to meet him at Orangeburg, again under Sumter Colonel Bratton and the last mentioned company officers I did on the first of January 1781 enter the service as above stated, as first Sergeant in which capacity I served and as a mounted volunteer, our forces had by this time increased to 1700 men, and we marched to Orangeburg; we met General Greene about 10 miles before we got to Orangeburg, this was the first time I have ever seen any regulars, we met him about the last of January, I was acquainted with the regular officers General Greene; Colonel William Washington, Colonel Henry Lee; also Colonel Wade Hampton who commanded the 18 months men; our company under Captain Davis, was put under the command of Colonel Hampton, we all then marched to the quarter house<sup>19</sup> in 4 miles of Charleston where we defeated a party of British, we then marched to Moncks Corner, where we met Lee & Sumter whom we had left, before, we arrived late in the evening the British lay here, when we appeared they came out and we exchanged a few shots, they soon retired, in the night we saw the Church<sup>20</sup> on fire and correctly concluded they had retreated, Colonel Lee pursued them & we followed but his horses were much superior to ours & he overtook them far before us at [indecipherable word, looks like "Uges"<sup>21</sup>] Bridge,<sup>22</sup> which they recrossed and had it partly destroyed, to prevent our

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<sup>16</sup> November 9, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_fishdam\\_ford.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishdam_ford.html)

<sup>17</sup> <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/shirersfy.htm>

<sup>18</sup> November 20, 1780 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_blackstocks.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html)

<sup>19</sup> Applicant appears to be describing the engagement that occurred on July 15, 1781 between the forces commanded by Wade Hampton and those commanded by Lieutenant David Waugh of the South Carolina Royalists. [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_quarter\\_house.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quarter_house.html)

<sup>20</sup> I think the applicant is referring to Biggin Church where an engagement occurred on July 16, 1781. The British/Loyalists burned the church before retreating to Charleston.

[http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_biggin\\_creek\\_bridge.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_biggin_creek_bridge.html)

<sup>21</sup> This could be the writer's attempt to interpret "Huger's" but I have never seen anyone refer to Quinby Bridge as Huger's Bridge.

crossing; we could not sufficiently repaired it to cross and then we returned to Moncks Corner, we then returned to headquarters, we then marched across the Santee River to where Sumter resided where we arrived the first of August 1781 I had then been out constantly in the field and bound to military duty from the first of January on this tour, all the time orderly Sergeant and a mounted volunteer militia man.

It will now be observed that I had been constantly in the service on five tours of duty excluding from the 20th of November 1780 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1781 (and which to I conceive I was still in the Service twenty months & twenty days, all of which time I had served as Sergeant except three months and including the time of one month & ten days from November to the first of January, I had served twenty months, all as Sergeant but three months so far as I have stated dates I have stated them from my best recollection, coupled with circumstances I do recollect I never was a regular, or enlisted soldier in my life, we stayed at Sumter's some time, and to my best recollection on the 25th of August 1781 I again entered under Colonel Bratton and some company officers as a volunteer and mounted militia man and was first Sergeant and Colonel Bratton was ordered by Sumter to go back to the upper part of the State of South Carolina to chastise the Tories, we therefore left Sumter on the 25th and marched to a place between the Congaree & the mountains, we had volunteered for as long as was necessary to put down the Tories, who had become very troublesome and ill treated the women & children Colonel Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon] was made a Justice of the Quorum for the purpose of trying the Tories we might catch, he had a block house on Fairforest in Union County we ranged on the Catawba, on Broad River, on Sandy River, on Fairforest on Tiger River [sic, Tyger River] and on Enoree whipping and chastising the Tories, we caught Zachariah Spencer during this service, a noted Tory, we had many skirmishes with them and took a great many prisoners some were made to take the oath of allegiance, and others were dealt with very roughly. While we were in the service the battle of the Eutaw Springs was fought, I think about the 10th of September 1781, I continued in this service of chastising the Tories from the 25th of August 1781 under the command of Colonel Bratton &c constantly in the field and bound to military's duty as orderly Sergeant and a mounted volunteer until August 1782. It would be impossible to state every minute circumstance in relation to this service. The conduct of the Tories to the women and children in the absence of the men was more outrageous than could now be believed.

I hereby relinquish every claim to an annuity or pension except the present and declare my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state, and I have no documentary evidence of my service and know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service..

Answer to 1<sup>st</sup> intg. I was born in 1761 on the Susquehanna River in Maryland

Ans. 2<sup>nd</sup> I have no record of my age but have it only from the information of my family and circumstances

Ans 3<sup>rd</sup> intg: When I was very small my father moved to North Carolina Rowan County we lived there 4 years, then we moved to Crowder's Creek York County South Carolina where I lived when I entered the service and where I continued to live during all my service, directly after I left the service I moved to union County South Carolina there lived 4 years. I then moved to Greenville counties SC under the mountains lived there 4 years. I then moved to Kentucky Garrard, they're not quite 2 years and from there I moved to the place I now live and County Kentucky and have lived there ever since.

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<sup>22</sup> The applicant appears to be describing the action at Quinby Bridge and Shubrick's Plantation which occurred on July 17, 1781. [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_quinbys\\_bridge.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quinbys_bridge.html)

Ans 4<sup>th</sup> intg: I was a volunteer in my first tour and was drafted in my 2nd and always afterwards a volunteer, and never a substitute

Ans 5<sup>th</sup> intg: I have stated the names of the regular officers with whom I was acquainted. I was but a short time with Greene's Army. I was acquainted with Colonel Hampton's Troop and with Colonel Lee's troop and Colonel William Washington's troop

Ans 6<sup>th</sup> intg: I never received but one discharge which is long since lost and was given and signed by Captain Howe, sergeants had no written commission.

Ans 7<sup>th</sup> intg: I am acquainted in my present neighborhood with the following individuals who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my military services to wit Francis W. Drew, John S. Wilson, John Hollingsworth, Joshua C. Prewitt, Ephraim Porter, John A. Bailey, Charles A. Bailey, George McLean, Finis McLean, BH Logan, Gideon Thompson, John Brown and I have no doubt more than 100 others I am also well acquainted with John Breathitt Governor of Kentucky who knows my character well and also that I have always been reputed a soldier of the revolution I here referred to a letter of recommendation of his to Lew Cass Secretary of War, I was for many years before the late war and officer in the militia of Kentucky and rose to the grade of Colonel. I commanded a company in the late war up to the Wabash. Subscribed & sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Samuel Gordon



[John Graham, a clergyman and Francis W. Drew and John Brown gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Facts in file: Veteran died July 7, 1840; there is no family information in the file; there is a 2-page letter from Gov. John Breathitt at pp18-19, in which he states his support for Gordon.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$115 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 3 months and as a Sergeant for 21 months in the South Carolina militia.]

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South Carolina Audited Accounts <sup>23</sup> relating to Samuel Gordon	pp 10
Audited Account No. 2980	
Transcribed by Will Graves	8/8/21

[p 2]

[No. 258 Book I 20<sup>th</sup> September 1784]

Mr. Samuel Gordon his Account of 220 days Militia Duty Amounting to £27.2.10 ¼ Sterling  
Ex<sup>d</sup>. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]

J. M<sup>c</sup>. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

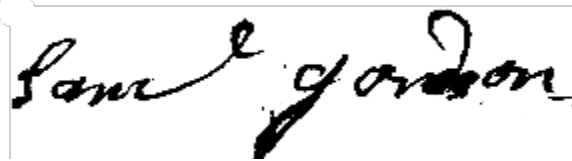
Received the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1784 full Satisfaction for the within Account in an Indent No. 258

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<sup>23</sup> 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.

Book I for £27.2.10 ¼

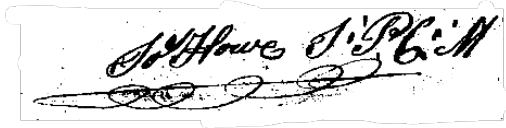
S/ Saml Gordon



[p 3]

State of South Carolina To Saml. Gordo Dr. for actual service in Camp and full Losses sustained By the Enemy in	Dollars	
To one Tower [tour] from ye 1 <sup>st</sup> of June 1780 to ye 10 <sup>th</sup> of Sept <sup>r</sup> one hundred and nine Days at 20/ <sup>24</sup> per Day 67 Dollars £109		067
To one Tower from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of November 1780 to ye 30 <sup>th</sup> thirty days at 20/ per Day 18 Dollars ½ £30		018 ½
To one Tower to ye Quarter House 21 Days at 20/ per Day £21 thirteen Dollars		013
To one Tower in Georgia under Colonel Thomas Neel sixty Days at 10/ <sup>25</sup> per Day Eighteen Dollars ½ £30		018 ½
	Total in Dollars	117
	[Currency]     £190	
	Sterling        £27.2.10 ¼	

The above account duly Attested before Me  
S/ Jos Howe JP C. M.



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[Note: The balance of the documents in this file relate to claims for supplies provided for military use and the loss of a horse in service but no details are given as to the circumstances of the loss of the horse.]

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<sup>24</sup> 20 shillings [£1] old South Carolina currency was the per diem pay rate for a mounted militia man  
<sup>25</sup> 10 shillings old South Carolina currency was the per diem pay rate for a militia man serving on foot  
<sup>26</sup> This is the signature of Captain Joseph Howe of the New Acquisition District Regiment