

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Potts S31913

f16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/17/09: rev'd 8/7/20

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

State of Georgia are County of Jackson

On this 2nd day of October personally appeared in open Court before the Inferior Court of said County now sitting William Potts resident of the State & County above named aged 73 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 -- (viz.) -- He entered the service under Captain James Hall a Presbyterian preacher (afterwards called Doctor Hall), who raised a Company of Volunteers for 3 months, the service to Commence after joining the Main Army -- the date of entering the service he does not recollect but in the time of this tour the battle of Stono or Stono ferry [June 20, 1779] was fought by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] & the British -- This Deponent was not in the battle himself the Company to which he was attached having been ordered by General Lincoln to guard a particular point for the protection of a particular settlement 15 miles distant from Stono -- He enlisted for the above tour in Rowan County North Carolina. At the expiration of the above service he received a discharge from Captain Hall which has long since been lost or destroyed.

He was in no other service until after the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], when the Tories began to show themselves in the fork of the Catawba & Yadkin rivers, he again entered the service in the militia Commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] -- James Pervines [sic, James Purviance] commanded the company & Colonel Lock [sic, Francis Locke] the Regiment to which he was attached. He continued in this service about nine months defending the Country from the Tories & depredations of Lord Cornwallis's Army & during this time the battle of Ramsour's Mills [June 20, 1780]¹ was fought -- in that battle James Potts² an elder brother of deponent's was wounded for which he received (as he is informed) a pension from the U. S. before his death & if so his name will appear on the pension roll of North Carolina -- Deponent never received any discharge from the above service.

In the spring of 1781 he enlisted in the State Troops of South Carolina under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] -- Colonel Wade Hampton -- Major

¹ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

² [James Potts R8386](#) [James Potts was pensioned under the 1816 act as an invalid as a result of a wound to his foot sustained in the engagement at Ramsour's Mills. The "R" designation for his file reflects the rejection of a subsequent claim filed by the children of the veteran for the pension their mother should have received in her lifetime had she applied for one.]

Rutherford [James Rutherford] son of General Rutherford, & Captain John Reid, at which time the British had South Carolina & Georgia completely in possession. He was at the taking of Thompson's Fort [February 22, 1781]³ at the Junction of Wateree & Congaree Rivers also at the taking of one at Orangeburg [May 11, 1781]⁴ on Edisto River & a number of others names of which he does not now recollect. He never was in a general engagement of any particular note -- he was prevented from being in the battle at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], by having been sent by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] a short time before the battle with an express to Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] on Holston River & the battle was fought the day he arrived at the Hospital at which is now the seat of Government in South Carolina on his return from Colonel Shelby. He continued under General Sumter until the fall of 1781 & at his resignation was placed under the command of General Marion [Francis Marion], under whom he remained but 2 or 3 weeks until he (Deponent) was placed under the command of Major Moore (he thinks was the name) & sent to Georgia where he continued until the ten months service for which he enlisted had expired -- he received a discharge which has been lost or mislaid he does not recollect by whom it was signed -- He with was in no further service & in 1784 moved to Georgia Wilkes County & nearly ever since he was the head of a family he has resided in Jackson County Georgia.

He answers to questions⁵ asked by Department as follows.

1st -- I was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania on the 7th or 11th June 1759

2nd -- Has no record of his age -- was told it by his father.

3 -- I have answered that question above

4 -- I volunteered in the first service -- was drafted once -- & volunteered again --

5. Has stated them above --

6 -- Answered above --

7 -- Russell Jones, Samuel Barnett, George Shaw, D Witt

This Deponent has no Documentary proof to establish his claim, nor does he know anybody now living who served with him except General Wade Hampton⁶ by whom he can establish his claim, & he resides in South Carolina -- He has no claim except the present to any pension or annuity whatever nor is name on the roll of any State agency whatever.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 2nd day of October 1832

S/ Wm Potts

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thomsons_plantation.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html

⁵ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

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

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th 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.

⁶ [Wade Hampton W10078](#)



[John W. Glenn, a clergyman, and Edward Pharr gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Georgia Jackson County: Personally appeared in open Court Henry Potts and after being duly sworn saith that he was acquainted with William Potts person who now applies for a Pension in the Revolutionary War & that he served three months under Captain Hall at the time of the Stono Battle after the fall of Charleston he served under Captain Purviance until the ten months men were raised & then enlisted for the term of ten months under Captain John Read [sic, John Reid] in Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment.

Sworn to & subscribed in Open court

S/ Sylvanius Ripley, Clerk

I certify that Henry Potts who has sworn to the above affidavit is entitled to credit upon Oath & is a man of truth & good character – December 29th, 1832

S/ A. S. Clayton⁷ Member of Congress
from Georgia

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 21 months in the North Carolina militia and South Carolina State Troops]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁸ relating to William Potts
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 6072
Transcribed by Will Graves

AA5

8/7/20

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Gentlemen

Please deliver to Mr. John Reed [sic, John Reid] the indents due me for service done in the State Troops of South Carolina
February 5th, 1786

S/ William Potts



⁷ CLAYTON, AUGUSTIN SMITH, a Representative from Georgia; born in Fredericksburg, Va., November 27, 1783; moved with his parents to Richmond County, Ga., in 1784; attended Richmond Academy, and was graduated from Franklin College, Athens, Ga., in 1804; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1806 and commenced practice in Carnesville, Franklin County; moved to Athens; selected by the legislature in 1810 to compile the statutes of Georgia from 1800; member of the State house of representatives 1810-1812; clerk of the State house of representatives 1813-1815; served in the State senate in 1826 and 1827; judge of the superior court 1819-1825 and 1828-1831; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-second Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Wilson Lumpkin; reelected to the Twenty-third Congress and served from January 21, 1832, to March 3, 1835; resumed the practice of law in Athens, Ga., and died there June 21, 1839; interment in Oconee Cemetery.
<https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/Home/MemberDetails?memIndex=C000491>

⁸ 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. The "SC" file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.