

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Edmonson S32229

f104SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/9/08 rev'd 4/2/13 & 10/2/20

[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.]

[p 3]

State of Alabama Jackson County}

On this 27th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open Court before me Thompson M. Rector Judge of the County Court in and for said County John Edmonson a resident of said County of Jackson and said State of Alabama aged Seventy one the 13th day of February who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1778 as his recollection now serves him with one Captain Benjamin Tutt and served in the Regiment under Captain Benjamin Tutt Lieutenant Richard Tutt Colonel Leroy Hammond [LeRoy Hammond] and General Andrew Williamson he states that he resided in the Abbeville District State of South Carolina when he entered the service he was when he enlisted turned in his Seventeenth year. He states that when he Entered under said Tutt he was marched to Fort Rutledge in South Carolina to guard said Fort and was continued at said Fort for the purpose of guarding the same for two years and six months he states that while at said Fort it was attacked by one Camp [sic, Captain] Smith sent by the British Army at which time the Fort was given up without a fire of a gun it was believed that General Williamson acted the part of a Trater [sic, traitor] and gave up the Fort without suffering any defense he states that he was taken prisoner at said Fort by the Enemy and detained for several days until he sought an opportunity and ran off with several others taken at the same time, he then went and joined one Captain Robert Macksfield [sic, Robert Maxwell] under Colonel Andrew Pickens Colonel Pickens shortly after took the command of General in the place of Williamson Colonel Robert Anderson then succeeded Colonel Pickens these were Militia officers I served as a militia man while under them I served under the last mentioned officers fourteen months at which time peace was proclaimed between the United States and Great Britain he states that he was then permitted to go home he has no recollection of having received a discharge he further states that he served all his service as a private --

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any State in the United States except the State of Alabama.

That he did apply under a former act of Congress but did [not] succeeded [sic] in drawing anything

Q 1st Where and in what year were you born

Ans: I was born in __ and State of Virginia near Rock bridge in the year 1761 or 2 as I

think

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

Ans: I have no record of my age at this time my age was recorded in a Book called Watt's Salms [sic, Psalms?] and Hymns but was informed by the family of my Mother that the Tories got the Book and burnt it up

3rd Where were you living when called into the service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Ans: When called into the Service I lived in Abbeville County South Carolina from South Carolina I removed to Nolachucha [Nolichucky] Tennessee from there I removed [to] Blount County Tennessee where I resided about Eleven years from that I removed [to] Lincon [Lincoln] County Tennessee where I resided about Sixteen years from there to Jackson County Alabama where I now live

4th How were you called into the Service were you drafted did you Volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom

Ans: Answer I first inlisted for three years or during the War, but was taken a prisoner as stated in my Declaration I then ran away from the Enemy joined the Militia under Colonel Pickens who shortly after became General Pickens

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

Ans: Lieutenant Richard Tutt Captain Benjamin Tutt Colonel Leroy Hammons [sic, LeRoy Hammond], General Andrew Williamson I can't now recollect the different regiments

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

Ans: I never received a discharge

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity [p 9 out of sequence] and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution

Esq: John Berry, Hugh C. Berry, William Berry, Malem Woods, Jesse Weaver, Caswell Binick [?], William Sanders

S/ John Edmonson



Sworn to and subscribed this 27th day of November 1833 before me

S/ Thompson M. Rector, Judge of the County Court

[Stephen W. Donathan, a clergyman, and David Robinson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 94: The following is heavily edited as to grammar and spelling]

State of Alabama Jackson County} Personally appeared before me Ezekiel Harris an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid appeared John McCutchen¹ and being duly sworn says that John Edmonson Did serve as a Regular Soldier in the Revolution War in the State of South Carolina and served under Captain Benjamin Tutt first Lieutenant Richard Tutt

¹ [John McCutchen S32406](#)

second Lieutenant Thomas Farrar, James Hutchins Ensign and Colonel LeRoy Hammond and served two years and between five and eight months and then giving up to the enemy by General Andrew [paper damaged and text missing, but the reference would have been to General Andrew Williamson who commanded the South Carolina militia at the time Charleston fell to the British on May 12, 1780] left Fort Rutledge formerly called Seneca Fort

Sworn to and subscribed

before me Ezekiel Harris

Justice of the peace

this 30 day of October 1832

S/ John McCutchen



[p 77: The following is very heavily edited as to spelling and grammar]

State of Tennessee Lincoln County} This day came James Edmiston before me Barnabas Boyles an acting Justice of the peace for said County and State and made oath that he was well acquainted with John Edmiston when in the United States service as a regular soldier under Captain Benjamin Tutt in General Andrew Williamson's Regiment under Colonel Andrew Pickens to the best of my knowledge in the year of 1777 and was well acquainted with said Edmiston he was a good Soldier and at this time is not less than Seventy one or two years old.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of October 1833

S/ Barnabas Boyles, JP

S/ James Edmiston



[p 8]

State of Alabama Jackson County}

Before me Ebenezer Bryam an acting Justice of the peace in & for the County personally appeared John McCutchen and after being duly sworn, deposed and saith that he came to Seneca Fort or Fort Rutledge and upon my arrival became acquainted with the within named John Edmonson who was an enlisted Soldier at that time under Captain Benjamin Tutt and called General Andrew Williamson's Regiment and Colonel Andrew Pickens and am convinced he served two years or upwards and was sold [out] but by General Williamson & Tutt for Deer Skins &c and took off by Colonel Brown [presumably Thomas "Burnt-Foot" Brown, a noted Tory] to White Hall in Abbeville County South Carolina the year I do not recollect I am of opinion that Edmonson was a good soldier and suppose him to be about 70 years old.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of February 1834

S/ Ebenezer Byram, JP

S/ John McCutchen

[p 23]

State of Illinois Fulton County} SS

On this 7th day of December A.D. 1835 personally appeared before the County Commissioners Court of Fulton County and State of Illinois John Edmonson a resident of the

County and State aforesaid aged 74 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 A.D. 1832 -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated -- That Leroy Hammond was Colonel and that he had command of Fort Rutledge (or it was then called) Fort Seneca on the Seneca River in South Carolina -- That Captain Benjamin Tutt was his Captain and Richard Tutt was 1st Lieutenant in Thomas Farris [sic, Thomas Farrar²] was 2nd Lieutenant and James Huggins was Ensign of the company in which he served -- That from his being young at that time and from his great age now he is unable to recollect the Regiment in which he served -- That he entered the service about the first of March A.D. 1777 and that he left it about the last of October A.D. 1779. Then he resided in Abbeville County in South Carolina when he entered the regular service -- That he enlisted in the regular service for three years or during the war. That he was not engaged in any battle during his term of service but in several skirmishes with the Tories -- That he was engaged as a guard in Fort Rutledge during the whole period of his regular service -- That Captain John Moore's company was in Fort Rutledge part of the time with his company (viz. Captain Benjamin Tutt's company) That Captain Benjamin Tutt surrendered him with the balance of his company to the British under the command of Captain Smith at Fort Rutledge³ -- And that he and some more of his company made their escape from the British about the last of October A.D. 1779 [sic, 1780] at great danger to their lives and joined Captain Robert Maxwell's company as a volunteer -- General Andrew Pickens⁴ was then his commander in chief -- That he continued under command of Captain Robert Maxwell about eighteen months from the last of October A.D. 1779 -- Then he marched under command of Captain Robert Maxwell near Camden and through North Carolina -- thence from North Carolina down Kongaree [Congaree] River and captured there a great number of Tories -- thence to where Lord Rawdon had evacuated Ninety-Six and then home to Abbeville County where his company under command of Captain Robert Maxwell had many skirmishes with the Tories until about the last of April A.D. 1781 when his company under Robert Maxwell was disbanded & returned home -- That he dressed his brother in his sisters clothes and sent him to the camp of Colonel Robert Anderson and gave them intelligence of the approach of a company of Tories to take their lives at their Camp at Norwood's mill [probably Samuel Norwood's Mill on Saluda River] in the dead of the night and thereby saved their lives -- And that he has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. 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 in open Court.

S/ John Edmonson

John Cameron, a clergyman, and Hugh Lemaster and John P. Boice gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Quest. 1st. Where and what year were you born

² [Thomas Farrar R3449](#)

³ The surrender of Ft. Rutledge to the British occurred in 1780 after the fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780 and after the three leading backcountry militia officers, General Andrew Williamson, Col. LeRoy Hammond and Col. Andrew Pickens lay down their arms and took protection from the British, on June 10, 1780.

⁴ Colonel, later General, Andrew Pickens broke his parole December 1780 when the British under Major James Dunlap plundered his plantation in the mistaken belief Pickens was harboring Col. Elijah Clarke of the Georgia militia. He took the British action as a violation of their obligations under the parole, so he felt freed from it. See, www.southerncampaign.org > [wordpress](#) > [wp-content](#) > [uploads](#) > [2014/05](#)

Ans-- I was born near Rockbridge, old Virginia in the year A.D. 1761

Quest. 2nd Have you any record of your age: if so where is it.

Ans-- I had a record of my age: and the Tories burned it while I was absent on the Campaign with General Pickens, so reported when I returned home.

Quest. 3rd Where were you living when called into service Where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you live now.

Ans-- I was living in Abbeville County South Carolina near Ninety Six. I have lived a while in Green County East Tennessee, thence I removed to West Tennessee – thence Jackson County Alabama – from thence to Fulton County Illinois where I now live

Quest. 4th How were you called into service, were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a Substitute for whom.

Ans-- I enlisted voluntarily in the regular service.

Quest. 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 services

Ans-- I recollect General Pickens, Colonel Anderson, Captain Roseman, Captain Davison, Captain Bocis and Captain Benjamin Tutt and Captain John Moore – from my great age and my youth at the time of my service I am unable to recollect the names of the regiments – I suffered great pain in performing labor for the Fort Rutledge in making Shingles and brick and much fatigue in my march during my trip under command of Robert Maxwell in marching through North Carolina and down the Kongaree River and fighting & capturing the Tories.

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

Ans-- I never did receive a discharge being taken a prisoner of war: Our company was never discharged to my knowledge – I made my escape from the British and joined the Militia of South Carolina under command of General Pickens, which service when we quit there was no discharges given to my recollection.

Quest 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 of your services as a Soldier of the revolution.

Ans-- Reverend John Cameron, Hugh Lemaster and John P Boice are persons to [with] whom I am well acquainted in my neighborhood.

S/ John Edmonson

[p 16]

State of Illinois Fulton County

On this seventh day of June A.D. 1836 personally appeared in open Court before the County Commissioners the Court of Fulton County now sitting John Edmonson a resident of Fulton County and State of Illinois aged 74 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in addition to one made in December last in order to attain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th A.D. 1832 --

That he entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated. To wit his Captain was Robert Maxwell Colonel Robert Anderson and General Andrew Pickens. General Pickens had command in chief of about 2000 men and among the number of the following named captains viz. Robert Maxwell, Joseph Davison & Samuel Roseman. He entered the service about the first of September A.D. 1779 and left the same on the first February

A.D. 1781. He was only engaged in the militia service but once -- But was engaged in the Continental Establishment as described in his declaration of December last under command of Captain Benjamin Tutt Lieutenant Richard Tutt and Colonel Leroy Hammond in the defense of the Seneca Fort or Fort Rutledge. He lived in the County of Abbeville within 15 miles of Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina when he entered the service -- he was a volunteer -- he was engaged in several skirmishes with the Tories from whom he received a severe wound on the head in an engagement with them (the Tories) about 19 miles above Ninety Six (now Cambridge) on a long and tedious march from near King's Store on the head of long Cane Creek when Captain Robert Maxwell completed the full number of his company to the Saluda River about 9 miles below the Maxwell's Bridge where his Company joined the Army under command of General Andrew Pickens thence the whole line marched on through the country to Fuises [?] Ford on Broad River and crossed Then marched on to Rutherford Court house in North Carolina then he marched to near Camden and took a British officer dressed in his red coat Then he marched to the Congaree River and there encamped at a place that was called an old Indian Town -- he then marched up to Ninety Six after an Express had been received by General Pickens that Lord Rawdon had Evacuated and burnt Ninety Six. He then returned home having been engaged in the service about 18 months. After which time he and his neighbors were much harassed by the Tories under the command of Devil Bill Cunningham He was acquainted with Captain John Moore Major Buoy [probably Major John Bowie] his brother was under command of General Greene when he besieged Ninety Six of the Continental Establishment. He has no documentary Evidence to testify as to his services as he never received a discharge being taken a prisoner while in the Continental service and made his Escape and enlisted in the militia service as above set forth and then there was no discharges given to his knowledge: And he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. 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.

S/ John Edmonson

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Stephen Dewey, Clerk

Quest 1st Where and in what year were you born

Ans: I was born near Rock Bridge in the State of Virginia A.D. 1762

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

Ans: I have no record of my age at this time. It was recorded in the Salm Book at my father's house and was burnt in the same by the Tories while I was engaged in the militia service under General Pickens in A.D. 1781

Quest 3rd Where were you living when called into service Where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live? Ans: I was living in Abbeville County South Carolina near 96. I have lived in Pendleton County & Abbeville County South Carolina about 10 years since the revolutionary war and I then lived on Nolichucky River near Greene Court House in North Carolina about 18 months I have built in East Tennessee near Mayville about 11 years. I have lived in West Tennessee in Lincoln County about 14 years. I have lived in Jackson County Alabama near Bellefonte about seven years I have lived in Fulton County Illinois where I now reside nearly 2 years since the revolutionary War. Quest. 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom? Ans I was a volunteer. Quest 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 Ans: I was acquainted with General Greene, General Pickens, Colonel Leroy Hammond, Colonel Robert Anderson and Captains Earls, Tutt & Moore and Major Buoy [probably John Bowie] in Lieutenants Johnston Tutt & Farrar I cannot recollect the names of any particular regiments owing to my youth at the time in my great age now my recollection has failed me much. I entered the Continental Establishment at Fort Rutledge on the first March 1777 and there remained two years & seven months and was taken a prisoner of war by the British when our officers Hammond and Tutt having as we understood turned traitors and surrendered us to the British. I remained a prisoner about eight days when I made my escape and joined the militia in the company of Robert Maxwell who commanded our company at a place near King's Store on the head of the long cane Creek and then marched to the Saluda River about 9 miles below Maxwell's Bridge we were in joined by General Pickens and his Army and then the whole Army marched through the country to Fuisis [?] Ford on Broad River where we crossed we then went to Rutherford Court House in North Carolina and then marched near Camden and took a British officer and then went down on the Congaree River and there Encamped at a place that was called an old Indian Town and then we on our return home marched past Ninety Six where the British under Lord Rawdon had evacuated and burnt and was smoking when we passed And then we returned home about 22 miles from Saluda River and 15 miles from Ninety Six where General Pickens disbanded us and told us to go home
Quest 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it signed: and what has become of it

Ans: I have no recollection of ever receiving a written discharge from any person, being taken a prisoner of war at Fort Rutledge while in the Continental Establishment and I do not believe that in need of General Pickens man received any discharge Except a verbal one when we arrived near our homes about 15 miles from Ninety Six & 22 miles from Saluda River

Quest 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 of your services as a soldier of the revolution Ans: Hugh Lemaster, John P. Boise, A. P. Miller and Patrick H. Hart
Subscribed and sworn to in open Court this 7th June 1836

S/ Stephen Dewey, Clk

S/ John Edmonson

[p. 37]

State of Alabama Jackson County

Personally appeared before me the Ezekiel Harris an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid appeared Robert McCutchen and being duly sworn says that John Edmonson did serve as a regular soldier in the Revolution, was in the State of South Carolina and served under Captain Benjamin Tut [Tutt], first Lieutenant Richard Tut [Tutt] second Lieutenant Thomas Farris [sic, Thomas Farrar], James Huggins Ensign and under Colonel Leroy Hammond and served two years and between five & eight months and then giving up to the enemy by General Andrew [Williamson] [part of affidavit sworn to and missing] left Fort Rutledge...
Sworn to and subscribed before me.

S/ John McCutchen

S/ Ezekiel Harris, JP

this the 30 day of October 1832

[p. 55]

State of Illinois Sangamon County}

On this 6th day of March 1843, Personally appeared in Open Court John Edmunson [sic] a Resident of the County of Fulton & State of Illinois aged Eighty-two years who being first duly sworn according to Law on his Oath doth make the following declaration in order to Obtain the benefit of the provision made by act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1778 in the month of February with Captain Benjamin Tutt for the term of three years or during the War. – And received \$30 of old Continental money which he never profited by, as a Bounty. That he enlisted when he lived in Abbeville County South Carolina and Served two years and four or five months, before we were surrendered to the British at Fort Rutledge commonly called Seneca Fort. That he was in the Fort and was one of the number that was surrendered. That he laid with the British only 7 or 8 days and ran away much to the Hazard of his life – That Richard Tutt was the 1st Lieutenant & Thomas Farrer was 2nd Lieutenant and J Huggins Ensign. That Colonel Leroy Hammons [LeRoy Hammond] had command of us part of the time – That afterwards Colonel Robert Anderson was our Colonel when he was in the military service. That he was in no battles during the Period he was in the regular Army but was occupied in guarding the Fort – That he was out in the militia service about Eighteen months under Robert Maxfield (or Maxwell) of whose company was attached to the aforesaid Colonel R. Anderson's Regiment General Andrew Pickens command –

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present claimant and that he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency of any State or territory – That he made application for a Pension once under the old Law, when he lived in Alabama and since that time in this State. But from some deficiency in form or evidence he has never been able to get to obtain his Pension and has dragged out a life of poverty ever since he applied 1st when he lived in Alabama

Test S/ John Dawson

S/ John Edmunson, X his mark

[p. 58—begins a handwritten letter dated March 1, 1834, from the veteran to the War Department stating his case in his own words. Makes reference to an old wife and deceased daughter who died of consumption... “that I saved the Lives of at Least Seventy men by Dressing my Little Brother in Ladys Cloths & sending him by night and gave the men notice by the approaching Enemy...”]

[Note: the file contains multiple copies of each of the applications filed by this veteran]

[p. 99—petition filed by Edmunson addressed to the House of Representatives of the US]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina service.]