

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Eddins S32230

f45SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/8/08 rev'd 4/2/13 & 12/29/20

[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' 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 8th 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 Alabama Madison County

On this 29th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before William J. Adair George of the Circuit Court of the County & State aforesaid now sitting, William Eddins Senior, a resident of said County & State aged sixty-eight years on December 7, 1831 -- 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 seventh, 1832. -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That in the latter part of the year 1778 he thinks in the latter part of December of that year, when he was about fifteen years of age he states his father was drafted as a militia man in a company commanded by Captain William Freeman, from the County of Abaville [sic, Abbeville] in the State of South Carolina where they then resided -- that he entered the service of the United States as a substitute in the place of his father at the age of about fifteen years & at the time above stated -- he states the Company was raised for the purpose of guarding & protecting a little town called Ninety Six in said County, from the Tories, he states that they went on to Ninety Six & remained about three months there guarding the place under the command of Captain Freeman, at the end of which time the company was discharged & they returned home, he states that he has no recollection of any of his company officers except his Captain as he has before stated. He further states that shortly after his return home he thinks in the month of April 1779 he entered the service of the US as a volunteer in a company commanded by Captain John Calhoun -- he states that the company was raised for the purpose of opposing the common enemies of the country -- British, Indians, & more particularly the Tories who were then committing horrid depredations through the Country -- He states that the company consisting perhaps of about a hundred men marched up to Michael Blanes plantation near Saluda River adjacent to Swansy's ferry [sic, Swancey's or Swansea's ferry]¹ where they stationed for six months, during which time they were constantly engaged in scouting about through the country in pursuit of the Tories -- he states that nothing of note took place during this campaign, except that on one occasion General Andrew Pickens came on with a company of men -- that they joined him & went down to Saluda old Town in pursuit of some noted Tories called Turners [?] & drove them out of the Country -- and that on another occasion under the command of the same Captain, they went up the Savannah River to Tugaloo & Keewee [Keowee?] were in pursuit of the Cherokee Indians & Tories, & drove the Cherokees from the country -- he states they returned home that General

¹ Later, an engagement occurred at Swancey's ferry. See, <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/swanceysfy.htm>.

Andrew Pickens -- Colonel Robert Anderson, Major Samuel Taylor, were the commanding officers this campaign; That on another occasion his company joined General Pickens & that they went with about eight hundred men down towards Charleston crossed the Cochran Swamp, where they took a good many Tories prisoners -- From thence they marched across Bull Swamp - - & to the head of Edisto Swamp in pursuit of the Tories -- & also down to the plantation of one Black a noted Tory who made his escape as they approached -- he states they then returned to their encampment at Blames plantation where they remained occasionally scouting about through the country in pursuit of the Tories until the six months expired -- when they were discharged & he returned home -- he thinks about the first of October 1779 -- He states that immediately after his return home, he thinks in the month of October 1779 -- he joined a Company of Dragoons Commanded by Captain Robert Maxwell & Lieutenant William Mitchell -- that the company consisted of about three hundred men -- he states he joined the Company in the County of Abbeville in the State of South Carolina until the end of the war with Great Britain -- after the company was formed they marched up to the Saluda River, & were stationed at the plantation of one Norris in Abbeville County, where they remained occasionally reconnoitering the country until General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] came on with his Army; he states however that before General Greene arrived at their company of Dragoons had taken about thirty of the British soldiers that the British were then in Ninety Six -- that they continued scouting about through the country demolishing & destroying the houses of the Tories on Little River & Mudlick [Creek] -- that they killed George Moore & shot Jo. Box [? Boe]² two noted Tories -- that he the applicant guarded a noted Tory by the name of Robinson to the gullis [gallows] he was hanged -- He states that when General Greene came home the company of Dragoons & General Pickens whole Army joined General Greene's Army -- that they then went on to besiege Ninety Six where the British Army was forced in & under the command of Colonel Cruger -- that he was at the Siege of Ninety Six -- that Lord Raddon [sic, Rawdon] came home with a reinforcement to Colonel Cruger, & the American Army then retreated & abandoned the siege -- the Company of Dragoons to which the applicant belonged went on towards North Carolina with a view to join General Washington -- until they heard of the defeat of Corn Wallis [sic, Cornwallis] at Little York -- He states that after the abandonment of the Siege at Ninety Six his Company were greatly scattered & dispersed, through the Country, & were not in actual Service for about four months after the Siege, but were not dismissed from Service, but having fled from the enemy, were engaged assisting the women & children on towards the North in different routes until they heard of Cornwallis's defeat at Little York when they all returned, which was he thinks in the month of November 1781 to the best of his recollection -- He states that immediately on their return they collected themselves together, still under the command of Captain Maxwell & Lieutenant Mitchell rendezvoused at Benjamin Mitchell's plantation & continued reconnoitering & guarding the frontiers from the Indians & Tories, until February 1782 -- when with General Pickens Regiment they all set out on a tour after the Cherokee Indians & Tories the Indians having joined the British -- He states that General Andrew Pickens, Colonel Robert Anderson, & Major Samuel Taylor were some of the field officers that were along, & commanded what was called the Long Cain Brigade -- that they marched up the Savannah River & crossed at the Cherokee-Ford, from thence across the Broad River in Georgia -- thence up to & around Curahee [Currahee the] Mountain up to Chota town on Chota Creek --

J. Boe

where the applicant states himself & several others assisted in burying the bones of eleven of the American soldiers that had been murdered by the Indians, & they had been taken prisoner at the Ford of Long Cain with the baggage wagons by a company of Tories commanded by Captain Williams & by him given up to the Indians -- He states they then marched up Chota Creek, & out at Chota gap, where Captain Maxwell & 45 [could be 55] of his chosen Dragoons (the applicant being one & in front of the charge) charged through a little town called Togajoy [?]- that the warriors firing fled -- He states they encamped there about one week reconnoitering about, finding cribs of shelled corn & hollow trees of shelled corn -- from thence he states they marched to Quawasee [Wawasee?] town, at the three forks of Tennessee River, took the town & burnt it, He states that whilst here the applicant & 12 others were ordered to go & burned some Indians cabins in sight of the town on the opposite side of the River -- that when they were proceeding to do so & as they approached the cabins, they were fired on by a body of Indians -- that two of the men (one by the name of George Patterson) were thrown from their horses they maintained their ground until about five hundred men came to their relief -- He states they encamped that night on the spur of a mountain in sight of the town -- that there fell a very heavy snow that night -- that it was half thigh deep next morning -- From thence they marched to the Horse Shoe town burning several little villages on their way, where they killed many Indians, & where they took Jack Doherty a half breed, prisoner, & killed a noted Tory by the name of Hal Crittenton -- they encamped there for some time reconnoitered the country -- from thence they marched to & took Ellejoy [?] town, encamped there for some time & took many cattle -- From thence they marched towards the State of Georgia, & while on the march & on the second morning of the march from this place General Pickens sent about 300 of the soldiers back to bring up a fine mare that had "tired down" the evening before -- This applicant states that he was one of the number ordered back -- that on their way back, they were attacked by a body of Indians -- that in this engagement the applicant discovered an Indian endeavoring to get a shot at him -- that he charged upon him, the Indians broke, ran to a Creek, jumped in, dove under the water, after he rose the applicant states he shot him -- wounded him, others of the soldiers came up a [sic, and] killed him -- They then returned to the balance of the Army & proceeded on their march to the State of Georgia, & returned home, about the last of April 1782, making a Tour of about three months -- He states that this was a hard & fatiguing campaign -- that the Army lived on parched mill & Indian cattle when they could get them -- He states they then remained at home about 12 months, guarding the frontiers of the Country, occasionally under arms taking Tories -- That in the spring of 1783 in the month of April of that year, the applicant states they then, (the whole Brigade) set out upon a tour to the lower part of the Cherokee nation -- that they crossed Savannah River, crossed Broad River -- took up Long Creek, from thence on the Oconee River just below the mouth of the Apalachicola -- where Colonel Clarke's Regiment from Georgia joined them & part of Colonel Hays Regiment & part of Colonel Brandon's from thence they marched to the Chattahoochee River -- crossed at the old Indian Ford about 3 miles below Van's [?] town where 45 of the soldiers (the applicant being one) took Vanstown -- From thence they marched to took [sic, take?] Hightines [?] Town where they encamped for some time -- From thence they marched to another Town called Vanstown about the middle of the nation where they encamped for some time & took several Tory prisoners, Negroes & horses -- where two noted Tories named Sam Williams & Sam Tillett were tried condemned & Williams was hanged -- after remaining here some time they marched to Selacoa [?] town, where they found a basket full of white men's scalps -- From thence to the Pine log town & took it, stationed ourselves there for some time -- about 300 men (the applicant one of the number) went from there & took old Coosa town on

Coosa River, returned to Pine log Town to the balance of the Army where an old Indian by the name of Tirapin [? Sariapin] came in to intreated [sic, entreat] for peace. He states they then ceased their hostilities against the Indians & returned home, he thinks about the 20th of October 1783 being out this tour about five or six months, where they were discharged -- He states that the field officers were of the same that he has mentioned before, -- that he has no documentary evidence of any of his services -- but that he expects to be able to prove some of his terms of service by the Testimony of Joseph McCluky³ & Thomas Holland⁴ That upon this declaration & the following certificates herein his claims to a pension & hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid & in open Court.

S/ L. Mead, Clerk

S/ William Eddins, Senior



State of Alabama, Madison County

This day personally appeared in open court Joseph McClaskey & Thomas Holland the said McClaskey residing in Lincoln County in the State of Tennessee & the said Holland residing in the County of Limestone in the State of Alabama do hereby certify that they are well acquainted with the said William Eddins Senior who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration -- they state that they believe him to be 68 years of age -- they further state they were with him in most of the Campaigns which he has mentioned in his foregoing declaration -- that the facts set forth therein are substantially true. -- that they have known him for a great many years -- That he has for many years been a clergyman of the Baptist order & a man of undoubted piety & veracity. Sworn & subscribed to this 29th day of October 1832 in open court.

S/ L. Mead, Clerk

S/ Joseph McClaskey, X his mark

S/ Thomas Holland

[James Childers, a clergyman, and Absalom Rhodes gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 38]

The Amended declaration of William Eddins Senior

State of Alabama Madison County

On this 24th day of April 1833 personally appeared before me Horatio G. Perry Judge of the Circuit Court of said County, now in session, William Eddins Senior, who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise periods & length of his service as a soldier of the revolution, but according to the best of recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, & in the following grades: "For three months I served as a private as a substitute in the place of my father Benjamin Eddins, in a militia company commanded by Captain William Freeman, commencing in the latter part of December 1778, & ending in the latter part of March or first of April 1779 -- For six months I served as a volunteer in a company commanded by Captain John Calhoun, & as a private, commencing as well as I can recollect in the month of April 1779 & ending in the month of October 1779. In the month of October 1779 I enlisted -- as a private in a regular company of Dragoons commanded by Captain Robert Maxwell, I enlisted until the end

³ [Joseph McClaskey \(McCloskey, McCleskey\) W1449](#)

⁴ FPA S32327

of the war, & was discharged in October 1783, I served as a private in this last named company commanded by Captain Maxwell & between the last named periods for at least three years & seven months, for which service I claim a pension;" The applicant further states that he was born in the County of Lunenburg in the State of Virginia on the seventh day of December 1763 -- he states that his age is recorded in a Bible which he now on & has in his possession, taken from the records of his father. He states that he recollects Captain Richard Pollard of the regular Army in the state of South Carolina, he also recollects Colonel Hammond, he is inclined to believe however that he was a militia Colonel, that he has no recollection of any other officers except those mentioned in his original declaration hereto appended. He states that Thomas Holland one of the witnesses who testified to his the applicant's service in his original declaration has , as he has been informed, lately been so crippled that he is incapable of attending at this time, to give testimony. He refers to his original application & statement of Joseph McClaskey for his claims to a pension. Sworn & subscribed to in open court this 24th day of April 1833.

S/ William Eddins, Senior

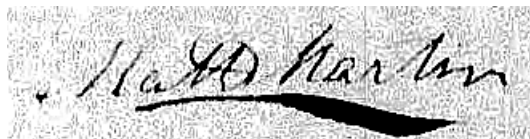
[p 16: On November 7, 1837, in Madison County, Alabama, Hannah Eddins made oath that she is the widow of William Eddins; that he died in Lincoln County, Tennessee on July 28, 1837. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 35]

State of Tennessee Bedford County October 17, 1833

The Undersigned residing in the State and County aforesaid do hereby Certify that he has been acquainted with William Eddins of the County of Madison and State of Alabama between 50 and 60 years that they were school boys together but have not lived neighbors since our growing of during which time he has supported the character of a man of honesty truth and integrity, and I have just cause to believe that he was an acting soldier in the Revolutionary War although I cannot recollect the time and place when and where we were together, yet I feel confident that I have seen him in actual service of his Country, But on account of my memory failure, I cannot now distinctly pointed out, after such a long lapse of time, but from a letter received from him a few days ago, and from circumstances stated in it I have no doubt but what we were in an Indian Campaign under the command of General Pickens in the Cherokee Nation, and I also think we were together elsewhere.

S/ Matt Martin⁵

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matt Martin". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Sworn to and subscribed before [me] this 17th of October 1832

S/ J. L. Neill, JP

[p. 37]

I write these few lines to the Secretary of the War Department and other Gentlemen who may be with you that when I come to look at the opinion of the Court there was a mistake or rather a misunderstanding in respect of Brother Absalom Roads being a clergyman. He is not but an old standing member of the Baptist Church who has known me upwards of thirty years & is a man of Good Character as I do not want anything Done wrong through a mistake to which the best of

⁵ FPA S2726

men is liable. The brother Childers mentioned is a in good repute and I myself & him has preached together about 17 years and attended the Churches as ordaining Ministers & Deacons and sitting things in order there I and my Dear father whose soul I hope is now in Heaven was taken with many others of the Whigs prisoner by the British. I had the good fortune to make my escape shortly after taken they kept my father one whole winter & members in Ninety Six jail while there they plundered his property, Negroes & horses carried them off & he never got them anymore was through the whole revolution war & never got paid & I have been attached to the Baptist Church upwards of forty years have never received any contribution but have preached the Gospel near forty years and work for my living with my family and have a Daughter the youngest Child that has been on our hands afflicted with fits near thirty years I could not feel clean to send my papers without showing you the mistake made by the Court not blaming any my Dear wife died and left me the 17th of November passed aged about 62 [last digit unclear] a wonderful – fine woman and I have no more at present I pray the Lord to save the States of America bless our ruling men teach our senators wisdom & our Counselors Counsel nothing more but to remain yours till Death December the 3rd 1832.

S/ William Eddins Senior

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Eddins Senior". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some loops and flourishes characteristic of the early 19th century.

[p. 43 is also a handwritten letter from Eddins and Thomas Holland and Joseph McClaskey to the War Dept. –the text is very faint and what I thought I could discern of the text doesn't always make a lot of sense.]

[First 7 or 8 lines are so faint that I cannot make out enough words to warrant transcription] ... that we William Eddins Senior, Joseph McClaskey, Thomas Holland all three belonged to the Regiment known by the name of the [one or more words too faint to discern, MIGHT be "Long Cane"] Regiment under the command of General Andrew Pickens Colonel Robert Anderson & Major Samuel Taylor our head Commanders through the war I being a listed [an enlisted] Dragoon was commanded by Captain Maxwell and Lieutenant William Mitchell During the war as you may see referring you to my paper of application and perhaps you may think that they are not a [one or more words too faint to discern] parts but you may [indecipherable word] that to the failure of memory in old brother Joseph McClaskey and also [indecipherable word] in the Clerk also to let you know that our Country being the seat of war British Tories Indians murderers and plunderers that we had to be out in scouts upon all directions and had to find our own clothes [one or more indecipherable words] Horses carry our bags of provisions for ourselves & horses & often nothing but parched corn to eat when we went into the Cherokee Nation we lived upon the Indian cattle & parched corn meal & parched corn &c – Also we desire that if we should be thought by our sons worthy Soldiers of having pay allowed us according to the provisions made by the act June the 7th 1832 or a pension that it could be as near to where we live as possible as we are so old for if we have to go two or three hundred miles to draw our money there is numbers that will not be able therefore if Judge C C Clay is informed we can know as he will do our business with please [sic, pleasure?] also to inform you that brother Sturdy Garner⁶ whose papers is with mine & McClashy's desires me to write to you also as he lives not very far from me and has lived in the Baptist Church under my pastoreal [sic] care and a Deacon in the Church

⁶ [Sturdey Garner S16819](#)

and as he lives in Madison North of Huntsville he wishes a return to come to Huntsville with mine that we may know what you please to do for us Joseph McClasky stays in Tennessee Lincoln County just over the line from Madison County State of Alabama. T Holland lives about 12 miles west of me as I live on Limestone Creek 16 miles North of Huntsville as I have nothing more at present but to [one or more indecipherable words] your dear friend till death October the 30th 1832.

NB we all [indcipherable word] in this and it was intended for Holland's papers to be with hours but it is sent on.

S/ Wm Eddins Senior
S/ Joseph McClask [sic]
S/ Thomas Holland
S/ Sturdy Garner

[I'm reasonably comfortable in speculating that Eddins signed the letter for all the other men as the handwriting is identical in all the signatures.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Dragoon for 3 years in the South Carolina service.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁷ relating to William Eddins [Eddings] pp4
Audited Account No. 2150B

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/29/20

[p 2: Printed form of indent No. 400 Book O dated April 20th, 1785 “delivered to Mr. William Eddins this our Indented Certificate for the Sum of Fifty two pounds Seventeen Shillings & One penny half penny Sterling duty done in the Militia in 1779 & 1783 per Account Audited.”]

[p 4: retake of p 3: Reverse of the above Indent bearing endorsements by William Eddings with his mark, Benjamin Eddings with his mark, Robert Pollard, William Robinson, Philip Hart and T. M. Gibbes [?.].]

⁷ 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.