

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Lister S32377

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 2 Dec 2015.

South Carolina }
Marlborough District }

I was born in Kent County in the state of Maryland, at about twelve years of age my father moved into Carlisle County [sic: Caroline?; Carroll?] in the same State. At the age of sixteen years I became a substitute for my father in the militia and Capt Elmira Andre (know not how to spell the name) Wm. Weatherly [William Weatherly], Ensign, Wm. Richardson [William Richardson] being the Col. – was stationed at Cambridge in Dorset County [sic: Dorchester County] to protect the town & the adjacent Country from the plundering of the British. A British vessel under the command of one Dunmore, lay at that time in the Chesapeake bay [Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, July 1776]. I staid there three months without having any engagement. I think that Gen'l. Sullivan was the commanding officer; There were some of the United States troops stationed there, but my memory has been so much impaired by age & disease that I cannot recollect the names of any of the officers. I obtained my discharge from Capt Andre & returned to Carlisle County. The discharge I have lost. – About six months afterwards I enlisted in the U. S. service under Capt Joseph Douglass & went down to Lewistown [Lewes] on the Delaware Bay as a guard against the British I think there were three other companies besides our own. We were at Lewis-town when the British fleet passed up to Philidelphia [sic: Philadelphia; Aug 1777]. We left Lewistown to join Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates to march on to the South [June 1780]. At the head of Elk River [now Elkton MD] we met with him – one Capt. James Andre took the command of our company vice Douglass who obtained his di[scha]rge and returned home. Col Harry Dickerson [Henry Dickerson] had charge of our detachment as it was marching on to join Gates. We passed through virginia and in Richmond County No. Ca. at a place, then called Duckery's old meeting house we were joined by the militia from Virginia & No. Ca. I think that Gen'l. [Griffith] Rutherford commanded the No. Ca. Militia The British under Cornwallis were then stationed at Cheraw So. Ca. [sic: see endnote]. We followed after them when they left Cheraw but nothing worthy of remark took place until we reached the battle ground near Camden So. Ca. [16 Aug 1780]. The British commenced firing on our lines at about day break in the morning. I was stationed at the right. our line was completely broken & I rec'd. a wound from the horse of a Dragoon. The Dragoon was starting at me, but I escaped his blow, owing to a blunder of his horse which threw him upon me & disabled me so that I could not leave the field. I surrendered myself several times, but as they were pursuing the American Army I succeeded in crawling off & finally escaped. We were ordered to meet at Charlotte No. Ca. I did so. I there obtained a discharge from Capt Andre having served during this enlistment Twenty one months I went on from Charlotte to Guilford Ct House & substituted myself for one Muckle Hutton in the Militia. Abram Philips Capt, John Cook 1st Lieut; our principal object was to keep down the Tories; for this purpose we went up & down the Yadkin, Little River & about the head of Drowning Creek until the three months had expired. I returned to Guilford Courthouse, obtained my discharge & then went off to Carlisle County in Maryland. After this I did no other service except as an Assistant to a Recruiting Officer (to one Capt John Dunlap) I remained with him one month which was the conclusion of my services as a soldier. I have no record of my age, can neither read or write and as to my age can speak only speak from what I have been told by my family. From their account I was born on the tenth of Apr 1760, & shall be seventy three years old on the tenth day of Apr next. Since the revolutionary war I have lived in Guilford County No. Ca. three years & [illegible] months. I have lived the balance of my time in Marlborough District to the present, where I now live. I have lost all the discharges I ever rec'd. & know of no person now alive by whom I can prove my services, nor have I any documentary evidence of the same. I do not receive any pension from this or any other state or Government & hereby relinquish all claim I may have to any other pension but the present.

Sworn to in open Court 12th March 1833

Wm. hisXmark Lister

South Carolina
Marlborough District
State of South Carolina

On the first monday in July AD 1833 appeared before me, James E. David, one of the Justices of the Peace of the State & District aforesaid, William Lister of the State & District aforesaid who made the following affidavit as an amendment to his Declaration for a Pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below under the Officers & at the times & places there stated
1st In the year 1776 he served three months as a substitute for his father in a militia company Commanded by Capt Andre at Cambridge as marked "A on original Declaration (In Maryland)
2nd Immediately after Gates' defeat at Camden he substituted himself for Muckle Hatton & served three months in the militia as marked "B: on declaration
3^d In 1782 One month as makked "C". He knows of no witness now alive who can prove his services as a "Regular Soldier"; he therefore withdraws his application in that character & applies only for services rendered in the militia. And the said William Lister further swore that for the periods above mentioned he served with an embodied Corps, called into service as he believes by Competent authority; that he was either in the field or in garrison & for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

William hisXmark Lister

NOTES:

The British troops under Cornwallis were not at Cheraw Hills in South Carolina prior to the Battle of Camden. Cornwallis arrived in Camden on the evening of 13 Aug after several days' march from Charleston. They were marching northward when they collided with Gates's army before dawn on the 16th.

On 13 April 1844 Lister applied to have his pension transferred to Alabama, having moved to Barbour County.