

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Meredith Taylor S32547

f72SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

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[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 'indcipherable' 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 13]

State of South Carolina, District of Fairfield

On this third day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable William D. Martin, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the State of South Carolina, now sitting at Fairfield Court House, Meredith Taylor, a resident of the District of Fairfield aforesaid aged Sixty Eight 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.

Deponent was born near the line opposing North Carolina and Virginia, does not recollect the County. It was tolerably high up in the State. Has no record of his age and knows of none. Received his account of his age from his parents who informed a witness of the time when he was liable to do militia and other public duties.

Was living in Fairfield District then called Craven County when called into service on the waters of 25 Mile Creek. He has lived in the same District and neighborhood ever since the revolutionary war and still lives there.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He was first drafted in a tour of militia duty after the Florida expedition¹ and before the Eutaw Battles to the Savannah River opposite Augusta, called the Augusta campaign.² The British had possession of Augusta and their uniforms could sometimes be distinguished from the American camp. Went out under Lieutenant John Taylor, brother of Thomas Taylor,³ the latter still alive and was commanded by him as Captain. His Captain William Simmons

¹ The Whigs mounted three expeditions against the British and Tory strongholds in East Florida, an area ceded to the British by Spain in 1763 as part of the peace negotiated to settle the French and Indian War. All three expeditions were unsuccessful. Taylor is probably referring to the last of the three expeditions which ended in early July 1778 with the defeat of the Whig rear guard by British regulars. Randy Golden, *The Florida Expeditions*, <http://ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Revolution/revolution12.html> .

² Taylor is probably referring to what is known as the second Siege of Augusta, a campaign the story of which is masterfully told by Steven J. Rauch, "A Judicious and Gallant Defense" *The Second Siege at Augusta, Georgia (The Battle of Forts Grierson and Cornwallis) 22-May-5 June 1781*, *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution*, Vol. 3, Nos. 6-7-8, 2006 posted at www.southerncampaign.org.

³ Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1983) (hereinafter cited as "Moss, *SC Patriots*"), 920.

stayed at home, it not being his turn to go out. Robert Goodwyn⁴ commanded the Regiment and went out this tour. Genl Williamson⁵ [Andrew Williamson], Brigadier, commanded the Army. His brother Jeremiah Taylor⁶ was along. Also James Nelson,⁷ Cameron Cayon [?] & Doctor Justin Faust [sic, Jasper Faust]⁸, still living. [Our] Object was to prevent the British from cutting the Savannah [River] and to protect South Carolina. [He] Was out three months in this tour. [He] Never received a written discharge in any tour. The relief company arrived and the Captains were ordered verbally to take charge of their Companies and conduct them home.

The next tour was to the Eutaw [Springs].⁹ Thomas Trapp [sic, Thomas Trappe]¹⁰ was the Captain; Henry Hunter¹¹ [was] Lieutenant Col; Thomas Taylor [was] 1st Colonel. Was in the battle of Eutaw in the year 1781. General Greene [Nathanael Greene]¹² commanded the Army at the Battle. In the Battle, Genl. Greene was on the right and Genl. Pickens [Andrew Pickens]¹³

⁴ Moss, *SC Patriots*, 371.

⁵ Andrew Williamson (c. 1730-1786) was the commanding officer of the South Carolina backcountry militia from the inception of the war until the fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780. He led the South Carolina militia not only during the Cherokee Expedition in 1776 but also at Briar Creek, Stono Bridge and other engagements before taking parole in June 1780. He took parole in June 1780 along with such other notable backcountry Whigs as his brother-in-law, LeRoy Hammond and Andrew Pickens. Unlike Pickens and Hammond, however, Williamson never resumed active participation in the Whig militia causing him to be labeled as the "Arnold of the South." This label is unjust because, unlike Benedict Arnold, Williamson never took up arms against his country and he did provide Nathanael Greene with intelligence regarding British activities in and around Charleston until the end of the war. His spying on behalf of the Whigs lead the South Carolina legislature to lift the confiscation order against Williamson's estate, but his estate was amerced. Mark M. Boatner III, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 1994), (hereinafter cited as Boatner, *Encyclopedia*), 1210.

⁶ [Jeremiah Taylor S21527](#)

⁷ [James Nelson W9588](#)

⁸ [Jasper \(Gosper\) Faust R3468](#)

⁹ The story of the Battle of Eutaw Springs is wonderfully told by Dr. Christine R. Swager, *The Valiant Died: The Battle of Eutaw Springs September 8, 1781* (Westminster, Maryland, Heritage Books, 2006)

¹⁰ Moss, *SC Patriots*, 939.

¹¹ There is no listing for an officer by this name in Moss, *SC Patriots*.

¹² Nathanael Greene (1742-1786) was the commanding officer of the Southern Department of the Continental Army from December 2, 1780 when he assumed command from Gen. Horatio Gates in Charlotte, North Carolina, until the end of the War. Theodore Thayer, *Nathanael Greene: Strategist of the American Revolution* (New York, Twayne Publishers, 1960); Francis Vinton Greene, *Nathanael Greene* (New York, The Confucian Press, Inc., 1981) Terry Golway, *Washington's General: Nathanael Greene and the Triumph of the American Revolution* (New York, Henry Holt and Company, LLC, 2006); Lee Patrick Anderson, *Forgotten Patriot: The Life & Times of Major-General Nathanael Greene* (NP, Universal Publishers, 2002). See, also, Dennis M. Conrad, Ed., *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene*, Vols. I-XIII (Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press)

¹³ Andrew Pickens (1739-1817) was active in the campaigns against the Cherokees as early as the expedition commanded by James Grant in 1761. He was commissioned a captain in the militia formed by Andrew Williamson in the Ninety Six District and remained active until the fall of Charleston in May 1780. Along with Williamson, LeRoy Hammond and others, he took parole in June 1780 but re-entered the war in late 1780 after the British or Tories burned his plantation. As a man of the utmost honor, he had resisted repeated Whigs' urgings to resume his role as a Whig commander until he felt discharged from the terms of his parole by the burning of his plantation. He distinguished himself by the leadership demonstrated at Cowpens and was awarded a sword by the US Congress. After Cowpens, Governor John Rutledge promoted Pickens to the rank of Brigadier General in the state militia. Wounded at Eutaw Springs, he recovered and led an expedition against the Cherokees in the final stages of the military operations in the South during the Revolution. The brutality of that expedition led to its being known as the "Punitive Expedition." Boatner, *Encyclopedia*, 866-7.

on the left. Col Washington [William Washington]¹⁴ and horse were there and Colonel Washington was taken prisoner in the action. The battle was a very severe one. The British had possession of a large brick house and fought through port holes made in the walls. They fought from within and from without the house. The battle commenced by Col Wade Hampton¹⁵ of the horse driving in the pickets. The infantry engaged between daylight and sunrise in the morning and the battle lasted until between 8 and 9 o'clock. Genl Greene returned to his place of encampment the night before about 2 miles from the scene of action. And the British retreated to Charleston that night. Genl Greene lost in killed and wounded scarcely. The British were believed to have suffered more than the Americans. Was out about two months on this tour and believes it to have been longer.

Next tour [was] to Orangeburg after the battle of Eutaw. Lieutenant William Smith commanded the company. Sumter [Thomas Sumter]¹⁶ was not there this tour. [He] Belonged to Col. Thomas Taylor's Regiment but Colonel Taylor [was] not there this tour. A Wallace from Chester or York commanded the whole time out.

The next tour was also to Orangeburg. Captain William Goodwyn¹⁷ shot one ~~£~~ Stallions in jail for some language used by Stallions. This [occurred] a few days before deponent arrived there. Lieutenant Hicks Chappel¹⁸ was there. Captain William Robertson¹⁹ was there either at this time or the one preceding. Does not now recollect who commanded the whole. [He] Was out in these two tours to Orangeburg six months in all. Guarded some Tory prisoners to Orangeburg [illegible words] were put in jail there.

Next tour to the four holes [sic, Four Holes Swamp]. Went from home under Sergeant Ponds and was put under Captain Lester [sic, Andrew Leister?]²⁰ at the four hole bridge [sic, Four Holes Bridge]. Col William Bratton commanded the whole detachment. Jeremiah Taylor and Dr. Justin Faust were along. Was out three months in this tour.

Deponent is fully satisfied that he served the full period of fourteen months in the tours of duty mentioned and served several other tours and in scouting parties against the Tories in addition but cannot state with certainty the dates nor the length of time of these tours but is satisfied that in all these expeditions amounted to one month making fifteen months service in all.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

¹⁴ William Washington (1752-1810) was a Continental Line cavalry officer. He was a cousin of George Washington. Stephen E. Haller, *William Washington: Cavalryman of the Revolution* (Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, Maryland, 2001).

¹⁵ Moss, *SC Patriots*, 409.

¹⁶ Thomas Sumter (1734-1832) was a lieutenant colonel in the 2nd (later, 6th) Rifle Regiment of South Carolina State Troops in the spring and summer of 1776. He and his regiment were later transferred to the Continental Line. He resigned his commission as a Continental officer on September 19, 1778 and remained inactive until after the fall of Charleston in May 1780. He was promoted by Governor John Rutledge to the rank of Brigadier General in October 1780 and thereafter was the ranking officer of the South Carolina militia until the end of the war. Robert D. Bass, *Gamecock: The Life and Campaigns of General Thomas Sumter* (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1961); Anne King Gregorie, *Thomas Sumter* (R. L. Bryan Company, Columbia, South Carolina, 1931).

¹⁷ William Goodwyn's widow's application for a pension from the Federal Government is [William Goodwyn R4134](#). She makes no reference to her husband's having shot a jailed Tory during the war.

¹⁸ [Hicks Chappell W22758](#)

¹⁹ There is no likely listing in Moss, *SC Patriots*, for this officer.

²⁰ Moss, *SC Patriots*, 562.

S/ Meredith Taylor, M his mark

S/ J. Elliott, Clk, QU ExO

I Jeremiah Taylor residing in Fairfield District aforesaid hereby Certify that I am well acquainted with Meredith Taylor who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that I believe him to be sixty-eight years of age, that I served with him in the tours of duty mentioned by him to Augusta, to the Eutaw, to Orangeburg 2 tours, and to the four holes Bridge, and knew that he served as he has stated and that his statement including these tours are correct, and knows said Meredith his brother was out in service one or 2 tours in which deponent was not out on duty. And is pretty satisfied that he served as long as he has stated. That he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that I concur in that opinion knowing such to have been the fact.

Sworn, and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court

S/ J. Elliott, Clk QU ExO

S/ Jeremiah Taylor, X his mark

I Dr Jasper Faust residing in Richland District do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Meredith Taylor who has sworn to and subscribed the above declaration. That I served with him in the tours he has mentioned first to Augusta, 2nd to Orangeburg thinks in both tours, 3rd to the four hole bridge. His statements relating to these tours are correct. He was a faithful soldier. He is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and I know it to be true. He is a man of veracity and respectability.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this the day and year above in open court

S/ J. Elliott, Clk, QU ExO

S/ Jasper Faust

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jasper Faust". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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I James Nelson a resident of Fairfield District hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Meredith Taylor who has made the foregoing declaration that I served with him as a soldier in the revolutionary war in the tour he has mentioned to Augusta 3 months and have full confidence in the correctness of the declaration made and believe him to have served as he has stated. That he is a man of character and veracity, and believe him to be 68 years old.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this the day and year aforesaid in open Court

S/ J. Elliott, Clk, QU ExO

S/ James Nelson, X his mark

[p 36: On December 29, 1835, Meredith Taylor applied for a transfer of his pension benefits to Pickens County Alabama to which he had recently removed.]

[p 23: On October 12, 1837 in Pickens County Alabama, Meredith Taylor filed for a new pension certificate stating that he had removed from South Carolina to the state of Alabama in

company with his sons and sons-in-law. In this document the veteran described some of his service as follows:

"Your affiant would state, that he served a three months Tour at Augusta Georgia in the Army commanded by General __ Williamson, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Robert Goodwin, and in Captain William Simmons' company commanded at that time by Lieutenant John Taylor.

Your affiant would further state that he served another Tour of duty of three months at Orangeburg South Carolina in the aforesaid Regiment commanded by said Robert Goodwin Colonel in the said Captain William Simons' [sic] company, commanded at this time by Lieutenant William Smith.

Your affiant would further state that he served another Tour of duty of three months at the place last above said under the command of said Colonel Robert Goodwin in the said Captain William Simons' company (as well as memory serves) commanded at this time by Lieutenant Thomas Trap.

Your affiant would further state that he served another Tour of duty of three months at the Fore-holes [sic, Four Holes Bridge] commanded by the said Colonel Robert Goodwin, in the said Captain William Simmons's company, commanded at this time (as well as memory serves) by Lieutenant William Smith.

Your affiant would further state that he was in the Battle at the Eutaw Springs in the said Colonel Robert Goodwin's Regiment commanded at this time by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hunter in the said Captain William Simmons's Company commanded at this time by Lieutenant Thomas Trap, that this Tour lasted three months.

Your affiant would further state, that he served a Tour of duty with a part of the said Captain William Simmons' company, in guarding some Tories to Orangeburg Jail, who commanded he does not recollect, this tour lasted something longer than 2 weeks.

And your affiant would also further state, as a reason why Captain William Simmons name did not appear in the original declaration, is that Simons never commanded the company when you're affiant was in service, yet he did command the company on several Tours of duty and was the commander when the Company was at home. You will receive it was very natural for your affiant when asked who was his Captain in making out his documents to say Captain William Simmons."

The veteran signed this document with his mark.]

[p 17: in Pickens County Alabama on January 25, 1847, James Bonner in right of his wife Sarah formally Sarah Taylor, Daniel Gardner in right of his wife Elizabeth formerly Elizabeth Taylor, Thomas Taylor, John H. Taylor, Jesse D. Taylor and Henry R. Taylor made oath that they are the children and heirs at law of Meredith Taylor, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution.

James Bonner
David Gardner
Thomas Taylor
J. H. Taylor
Lebbe Taylor
Henry R. Taylor

[p 18: On January 25, 1847 in Pickens County Alabama, James Bonner *et al* gave testimony that Meredith Taylor departed this life March 29, 1844 leaving no widow.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]