

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Duboise S3311

f26SC

Transcribed 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 '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 Tennessee Rutherford County: County Court Term 24th of August 1832

On this 24th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Henry Trott, James C. Mitchell and Varner D. Coner Justices holding said Court, Stephen Duboise a Citizen of said County of Rutherford aged Seventy three 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 7th of June 1832 -- That in Darlington County State of South Carolina, Cheraw district, he was born in the year 1758, and in the year 1775 or 1776 he at Mars Bluff on big Pedee [River] South Carolina enlisted in the Service of the United States as a soldier in a troop of light horse under Captain John Cotraire [?] and in a month after his enlistment he rendezvoused at Charleston, under Colonel Daniel Horry -- Some months after declarant reaching Charleston, Colonel Washington [William Washington], Colonel White¹ and Count Pulaski [Casimir Pulaski] came to the neighborhood of Charleston with troops of horse and some Infantry -- Declarant thinks that the Army remained at Charleston, and in that section of country four or five months -- and the Army was then marched to Savannah² -- under the command of General Marion [Francis Marion] -- after the command had encamped at Savannah three or four weeks, the French fleet under the command of Count DeGrass [sic, Count d'Estaing] arrived on the coast and disembarked at a place called thunderbolt -- and after the French fleet had landed, the Count DeGres [sic] took command of the Army -- The British had possession of Savannah before and at the landing of the French -- and after the disembarkation of the French forces the General summoned the British to surrender the city and the British refused, and asked a certain length of time to consider of the demand -- General Marion and other American officers, urged the Commanding General and protested against delay and granting the request of the British commander, but DeGriss [sic] feeling confident in his strength and ability to reduce the British, and beat them, then or at any time thereafter granted the truce solicited. At this time General Pulaski commanded the whole Troops of horse there encamped -- On the day that the British forces were attacked, before Savannah General Pulaski drew up the horse, and Grenadiers to charge the breast works -- against the advice of Washington, White and Horry, but Pulaski persisted in his determination, and the charge was ordered, and after advancing one or two

¹ This MIGHT be a reference to Anthony Walton White, but I could find no evidence of his having been at the Siege of Savannah.

² The Siege of Savannah described by the veteran occurred between September 16-October 18, 1779.

<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

hundred yards on the breast works, the General received a cannon shot in the thigh, and he was taken off the ground, and the troop under Colonel White the senior officer after the fall of Pulaski was ordered to fall back out of the range of the enemy shot -- and remained there waiting orders from head quarters -- The Troop remained inactive that day -- No further attempt was afterwards made by the horse on the lines of the Enemy. The troop remained at their encampment, before the British lines 3 or 4 weeks -- and was marched after the expiration of that time back to Charleston -- under the command of Colonel White, Washington and Horry -- after encamping here some short time, each Colonel took command of his own troop; and scoured the Country where their presence was wanting -- Declarant was engaged in this service for some time, when he was taken sick, and was furloughed by his commanding officer and he returned home for his health -- this was not long before the capture [May 12, 1780] of Charleston by the British, and before the furlough of declarant had expired, hearing of the approach of the enemy, declarant set out to join his Troop, and on his route between Cheraw and Fraley's ferry, declarant was taken prisoner by the Tories -- He made his escape from them, and returned home, his term of enlistment having expired -- Declarant omitted to state, in his narrative, that he was in the skirmish at Stono, and that he was present when Colonel Lauranes [sic, probably John Laurens] received a wound in the arm; in that skirmish³ --

Declarant would state though without any great precision, thinking it not necessary in his case, that he was a volunteer militia man before his enlistment, two tours under Colonel John Baxter, the first he was marched to Charleston and the second to Hadley's Point [sic, Haddrell's Point] -- and served in both three months or upwards -- And declarant would state that after his term of enlistment had expired, he joined General Marion on Black River as a volunteer trooper in the State of South Carolina and was with him at the taking of Col. Tines [Samuel Tynes]⁴ and his party of Tories -- and was with him at the defeat of a party of Tories at Black Mingo bridge⁵ - - and Marion to rest his Troop marched to Wackamaw [Waccamaw] neck -- and news reaching Marion at this place that the Tories were collecting to attack him, a march was ordered, and the Troop rode 70 miles to the neighborhood of the Tory encampment, and there lay in ambush, until the Tories were collected in force under Colonel Jesse Barfield their commander -- Marion waiting until nightfall -- charged the Tories, killed many, took several prisoners and dispersed the rest -- Declarant served under Marion during the War.⁶ He was an enlisted soldier sixteen months; and a volunteer militia man two years and upwards -- Declarant did not receive a discharge for any part of his service, regular or militia.

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 any agency or State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid
S/ John R. Laughlin, Clerk

S/ Stephen Duboise

³ Lt. Col. John Laurens was wounded May 3, 1779 in an engagement on the Coosawhatchie in Beaufort District, Jasper County, SC. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_coosawhatchie.html He was mortally wounded August 25, 1782 in an engagement at Combahee Ferry, SC.

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_combahee_ferry.html Presumably the veteran was referring to the former engagement. There is no evidence that Lt. Col. Laurens was at the battle of Stono ferry on June 20, 1779.

⁴ Tearcoat Swamp, Oct. 25, 1780. https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_tearcoat_swamp.html

⁵ Sept. 28, 1780. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_black_mingo.html

⁶ The veteran appears to be describing the engagement at Blue Savannah, September 4, 1780 in which the Tories were commanded by Maj. Micajah Gainey under whom Capt. Jesse Barfield served in said engagement.

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_blue_savannah.html

Stephen Duboise

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The amended declaration of Stephen Duboise to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

State of Tennessee Rutherford County May Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court Stephen Duboise, who subscribed and swore to the annexed original declaration on the 24th of August 1832 and made oath, that he was born in the State of South Carolina in the year 1758, when he joined the service as set forth in his declaration hereto annexed, and remained there after the war some years and then moved to the State of Tennessee Rutherford County. Declarant well recollects the Count Pulaski, Colonels Washington, White & Horry and General Marion, General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter], Hezekiah Mayham [Hezekiah Maham] -- he has no record of his age.

Declarant never did receive a discharge, either for his services in the militia or for his services in the regular Army. Declarant can mention the names of Charles Reed, John Brandon, Isaiah Wright, Jo. Gowen, Arnet Jones, Leven Jones who would he believes testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, and who reside in the neighborhood where he lives.

And declarant further makes oath that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services in the Militia under General Marion, but he knows that he enlisted in the regular service for 16 months, and served that period, and according to the best of his recollection he served in the militia 2 years and for such service I claim a pension.

Subscribed & sworn to 22 May 1833

S/ John R. Laughlin, Clk

S/ Stephen Duboise

[Joseph Gowen and Leven Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Facts in file: Veteran died October 15, 1842 in Franklin County, Alabama, where he had resided about 10 years; he left surviving a widow named Liddy.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$93.32 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private for 8 months in the Infantry and 16 months in the Cavalry of the South Carolina Continental line and militia.]