

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Polk S3706

f51NC/SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/29/08 & 8/21/17 & 12/26/17

[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.]

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State of North Carolina, Wake County} Superior Court of Law Spring Term 1833

On this the 4th day of April personally appeared before me Robert Stronge one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law & Equity for the State & County aforesaid in open Court William Polk of the State and County aforesaid aged Seventy-Five years on the 9th day of July next ensuing, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered into the Service of the State of South Carolina in the war of the revolution in the capacity as a Second Lieutenant in the month of April 1775 in the company commanded by Ezekiel Polk Captain in the 3rd Regiment of South Carolina State Troops of mounted infantry commanded by Col. Wm Thompson [sic, William Thomson], Major __ Mason [sic, James Mayson]. The company rendezvoused in what is now York District South Carolina and marched thence to Ninety Six thence to Dorchester thence to Granby where we were Joined by the militia of South Carolina there assembled to oppose the Tories embodied at Ninety Six and marched thence to Ninety Six, where we pursued the Tories to a place called the great Cane break [sic Great Cane Brake],¹ where an engagement took place – in which action this declarant was on the 22nd day of December 1775 wounded in the left shoulder. With this wound he was confined for a space of 8 or 9 months and immediately after his recovery to wit on the 26th of November 1776, he was appointed a Major in the 9th North Carolina Regiment on Continental establishment – in the war of the Revolution – he having held his commission of Lieutenant in the South Carolina State Troops from April 1775 to the said 26th November 1776. That having been so commissioned as Major I joined my Regiment at Halifax North Carolina in the month of April 1777, he having in the interim been on duty by the command of General Moore at Charleston S. C. & Wilmington N.C. The Colonel of the 9th Regiment was John Williams, and the Lieutenant Colonel John Luttrell; the command of the Regiment by reason of the absence of the Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel devolved upon this declarant – and he marched with the Regiment to Georgetown then in the State of Maryland, now District of Columbia where they were inoculated with the small pox. From thence after their recovery from the small pox, they marched to Trenton New Jersey where they joined the Grand Army under General Washington and marched thence with the Grand Army to meet the enemy at the head of Elk [River]. That he was in the battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] & Germantown [October 4, 1777] in the latter of which he was wounded by a musket Ball in the cheek, he continued with the Army until it went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, where he remained until the Regiments were reduced

1 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_cane_brake.html

when he with other officers returned to North Carolina to superintend the recruiting service for the purpose of filling up the Regiments. The particular length of this Service he cannot now recollect – nor the precise day of its termination but upon a further reduction of the Regiments which he thinks took place in the spring or summer of 1779, when he was put out of service. For the precise length of his service as a Major on Continental establishment he refers to the annexed Certificate of William Hill Secretary of State – as the best evidence now within his power to command, and as affording a more precise data than his own memory now affords. After the termination of his Service on Continental account in the year 1779, he continued out of service except as an occasional volunteer in the militia until the fall or winter of 1780, the day and month not now recollected, but he received a commission of Lieutenant Colonel commandant from John Rutledge then Governor of South Carolina, in the State Troops of that State – and had the command of the 4th and then the 3rd Regiments of that State. That he first mustered his Regiment under the command of General Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] on Broad River in South Carolina. The first active service rendered under his view commission was in an attack upon a block house near Granby² on the Congaree [River] which was carried by his own and Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiments – that he was at the Siege and reduction of Forts Motte³ & Orangeburg⁴; and at the battle of Eutaw Springs⁵ where he had a horse killed under him and subsequently at the reduction of Watboo Fort [sic, Wadboo Bridge?]⁶-- and at the battle of Quinby⁷ – making the whole of his Service as a Lieutenant Commandant in the South Carolina State Troops a period of 10 months – Making his entire Service as of officer in the different grades of Lieutenant, Major, and Lieutenant Colonel of five years and two months – besides occasional service as a volunteer in the Militia between the fall of 1779 and the date of his commission as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1780. On one of which occasions he served as a volunteer aid to General Caswell [Richard Caswell] at the battle of Gates defeat at or near Camden. This declarant is not informed whether there is preserved a Roster of the Officers of the State Troops of South Carolina, but for his The service as a Lieutenant Colonel in the State Troops of that State, he would refer to the declarations on file in the Pension office of Isaac Alexander,⁸ Archibald McCurdy,⁹ Jonas Clark¹⁰ and William Hutcheson [sic, William Hutchinson]¹¹ who served under him. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court.

S/ Will. Polk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will. Polk", with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

[handwritten note: "Died Jany. 14, 1834"]

This declarant statement is not on the Pension Roll of any State, & he hereby relinquishes all claims to a Pension except the present.

The following Interrogatories were propounded by the court – which have their respective answers annexed.

2 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html

3 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fort_motte.html

4 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fort_motte.html

5 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

6 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_wadboo_bridge_1.html

7 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quinbys_bridge.html

8 [Isaac Alexander S6487](#)

9 [Archibald McCurdy W7414](#)

10 [Jonas Clark W1386](#)

11 [William Hutchison \(Hutchinson\) W10133](#)

Q. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In Mecklenburg County North Carolina on the 9th day of July 1758.

Q. Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have none, but arrive at it from the information from my parents in their lifetime.

Q. Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in Mecklenburg County N. C. when I entered the Service. I continued to live in Mecklenburg until 1783 when I removed to Davidson County, Tennessee where I resided occasionally for three years – returned to Mecklenburg County and continued to reside there till 1799, since which time I have resided in the County of Wake – as the Mayor of the City of Raleigh – where I now live.

Q. How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: By commission first as a Second Lieutenant – next as a Major – then as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Question: Did you ever receive a commission – and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer – I received my first commission as a Lieutenant from the public authorities of South Carolina and does not now recollect by whom it was signed. I received my commission as a Major in like manner by appointment of the General Assembly or Legislature of North Carolina, and do not recollect by whom it was signed – the state not having been organized under its present Constitution – and I received my commission as a Lieutenant Colonel commandant from John Rutledge Governor of South Carolina by whom it was signed, and I lost the two first at Charlotte Mecklenburg County – My papers having been seized by the British, and my last commission as Lieutenant Colonel commandant, I have lost – how where when I do not know. I knew in the Service Generals Washington, Lafayette, Gates, Greene and many others – and Colonels Parker of Virginia, Williams, Howard, Smallwood of Maryland and many others-- the Pickneys [sic, Pinckney] and Hugers of S. Carolina and the whole field officers of the North Carolina line.

Sworn to & in open Court.
S/ John C. Stedman, Clerk

S/ Will. Polk

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State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that it appears from the Warrant book in this Office that Colonel William Polk received a Warrant for thirty three months service as a Major in the line of this State in the revolutionary war, which warrant was issued at a time when warrants of that description were issued on Certificates of Field Officers.

Given under my hand this 4th April 1833.
S/ W. Hill

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a Major in the North Carolina Continental line.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹² relating to William Polk

¹² The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of South Carolina
The petition of William Polk humbly Sheweth

Whereas your Petitioner in the year 1775 was an Officer in the Third Regiment of your State & in an expedition against the Tories on Reedy River did there received a wound and as there was not any hospital then near enough for your petitioner to be carried to, in your State he thought proper to return to North Carolina and employ Surgeons to there attend him, which was attended with considerable expense to your petitioner as will appear by a statement of his account accompanied by receipts from the Executrix of one of the Gentlemen & also a receipt from another and as Your petitioner was then an Officer in the Line of your State of course should have been furnished out of the Public Hospital prays your Honorable Body will cause him to be reimbursed and he will ever pray &c

S/ Will Polk

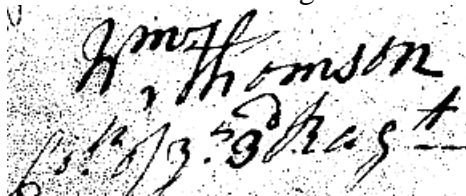


The State of South Carolina
to William Polk

To Cost paid Doctor Joseph Kennedy for his attendance & furnishing medicine	£89.6.0
To cost paid Thomas Polk Executor to Doctor Brevard ¹³ for Medicine	27.14.0
To Cost paid to Doctor Thomas Charleston for his attendance	<u>17.0.0</u>
	£134

I do hereby Certify that in the year 1775 on the expedition against the Loyalist William Polk Cornet in my Regiment received a dangerous wound in the joint of his left Shoulder and it was thought proper to remove him under the care of Doctor Charlton to the nearest place where he might be taking care of and Doctor Joseph Kennedy was employed to attend him.

S/ Wm Thomson [William Thomson]
Colo. Of 3rd Regt.



Received of William Polk 27 pounds 14 Shillings for Medicine furnished him by the Doc Ephraim Brevard while lying in a wound which he received at Reedy River in South Carolina

S/ Thos. Polk, Extr.
Jany 1st 1785



¹³ Ephraim Brevard

March the 16th , 1777 Received of William Polk 89 pounds 6 shillings for my attendance as a Surgeon & finding Medicine to him whilst in a Wound.

S/ Jo Kennedy



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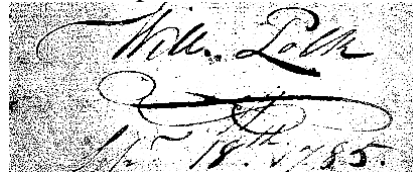
To the Honorable the President & Gentlemen of the Senate for the State South Carolina

The Petition of William Polk humbly Sheweth –

That whereas your petitioner being an Officer in the State Brigade under the command of General Sumter did whilst in service contract agreeable to the instructions of the said General Sumter with a certain George Rice of the State of North Carolina for Fifty Horsemen's Swords which were received & applied to the use of the State, which your Petitioner on behalf of your State, did promise to give a small Negro, though whilst in Service never was furnished with said Negro to discharge the debt. That your petitioner has since suffered Suit & cost in the sum of One Hundred forty-two Dollars & a half and also the further Sum of Twenty-two Dollars & three eighths of a Dollar cost on said suit all which money hath been fully paid by me, as by the Certificate from the County Clerk hereto annexed doth fully show – And also the further sum of Twelve Dollars & an half in a suit by him brought against a certain John Long at the instance of General William Henderson for a Balance of pay due to the State of South Carolina in which your petitioner was non-suited for the reasons in the Clerk's Certificate assigned which Sum he hath also paid. Your Petitioner therefore prays that your Honorable house will take into consideration this matter your Petitioner begs leave to remind you of his Local Situation being an inhabitant of a Sister State, when should he be paid off in Indents they cannot be of any real advantage to him therefore prays to be reimbursed in equal value – And your Petitioner will ever pray

S/ Will. Polk

September 18th 1785



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The Committee to whom was Referred the Petition of Colonel William Polk

Report

That they have Considered the Same & the prayer thereof to be Just.

Therefore Recommend that an order do issue on the Public Treasury for the full amount of his account.

Res'd that Mr. Pringle & Colonel Waters

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In the House of Representatives February 11th 1786

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of Colonel William Polk

Report

That they have considered the same, & the prayer thereof to be just.

Therefore recommend that an Order do issue on the public Treasury for the full amount of his Account.

Resolved that this House do agree with the Report

Ordered that the Report and Resolution be sent to the Honorable the Senate for their concurrence

By order of the house
S/ John Sandford Dart. CHR

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The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of Colonel William Polk
Report

That the facts set forth in the said Petition are true, and recommend that he be allowed an Indent for 134 pounds North Carolina Currency – equal to £78.3.4 Sterling

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Gentlemen

be Pleased to deliver to Thomas Polk, William Mitchals [William Mitchell?], William Philops [William Phillips?], Willm Samples [William Samples], Philop Cress [Philip Cress] & my own Indents for our Services in the State Brigade under Brigadier General Sumter and you Will oblige

your Humble Servant

October 30th 1786

To the Commissioners to Settle
for that Brigade

S/ Wm Polk