

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin White S39123

f15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/2/10: rev'd 9/14/20

[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' 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.]

State of Tennessee Maury County: Circuit Court December Term 1824

On this __ day of __ 1824 Personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record, proceeding according to the course of the common law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount & keeping a record of their proceedings -- to wit the Circuit Court for the County of Maury & State of Tennessee Benjamin White aged sixty-eight years resident in the County of Maury & State of Tennessee, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820. -- That he the said Benjamin White, enlisted for the term of one year, sometime in the month of May 1776 as near as he can now recollect; he knows he enlisted a few months, he thinks about two months, before the battle of Sullivan's Island [June 28, 1776],¹ -- That he enlisted in Macklenburg [sic, Mecklenburg] County, in the State of North Carolina in the Company commanded by Captain Robert Smith in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk, in the line of the State of North Carolina on the Continental establishment -- That he continued to serve in the said Corps until about the month of May 1777, when he was discharged from the said service at Wilmington in the State of North Carolina -- He thinks as well as he can remember at the time he was discharged, he was under the command of Colonel Linton -- But of this he is not certain, nor does he distinctly remember, whether Captain Robert Smith under whom he enlisted, continued to command him, until he was discharged or not. -- But is under the impression that he was not under his command at that time. -- That during said service he was in no general engagement or battle, but was in a skirmish on Bald-head Island [sic, Bald Head Island]² at the mouth of Cape Fear River, & in several other

¹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_ft_moultrie_1.html

² **September 6-7, 1776 at Bald Head Island, North Carolina** - On September 6, during the night, Col. Thomas Polk sailed with 150 soldiers of the [4th North Carolina Regiment](#) landed on Bald Head Island. As they were travelling through the woods, they were discovered by 5 sailors from the HMS *Cruizer*. The Patriots captured the sailors but the alarm had already been sounded. The rest of the ship's crew took refuge at Fort George and fired on the Patriots. The fort's firing alerted the British ships near the island and a relief force was sent ashore. The sloop-of-war HMS *Falcon* fired its cannon into the woods at the Patriots. This was to give the relief party a chance to arrive safely. Polk decided to withdraw his force. As they were leaving, they burned a British cutter so that it would not pursue them. The *Cruizer* quickly mounted 4 of her 3-lb. cannon aboard the sloop HMS *Defiance*. Lt. Dickerson, commander of the *Defiance*, sailed with 5 other ships around the island to block any escape by Polk's force. **On September 7, at 1:00 A.M.**, Dickerson discovered 2 of Polk's boats at Buzzard's Bay, located near the mainland. The *Defiance* and the *Falcon* fired into the woods at the bay, but the Patriots returned fire with a 3lb. cannon. This kept the British ships away. The British were unable to destroy the boats and withdrew their fleet before sunrise. **Conclusion: Draw** <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/1776s.htm> &

skirmishes. That after he was discharged in 1777, he was again mustered into service in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina, for the term of nine months, in the same year that the battle of Stono³ was fought. -- This year he cannot distinctly recollect. -- But thinks that the battle of Stono was fought about two months before the nine months expired -- That he was entered into service in the Company commanded by Captain John Rhodes [sic, Joseph T. Rhodes] of the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Lytle⁴ in the line of the State of North Carolina on the Continental establishment -- that he continued to serve in the said Corps until he was discharged from the said Service about thirty miles from Charleston in the State of South Carolina at the expiration of the said time of service of nine months -- That during the said time of service, he was in no general engagement or battle -- That after he was discharged from the said last mentioned Service he Volunteered for the term of ten months in a Company of Dragoons or Cavalry a Company of Horse -- was about the close of the Revolutionary War in Mecklenburg County North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain John Martin [sic, Nathaniel M. Martin] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Polk in the line of the State of North Carolina [sic, Brigade of South Carolina State Troops (Light Dragoons) commanded by Brigadier Genl. Thomas Sumter]. -- he continued to serve in the said Corps until the expiration of the said ten months when he was discharged from the said service at Brown's old fields on the Savannah River in the State of South Carolina. That during the said Service, he was in no general engagement, but was in several skirmishes with the British and Tories and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said Services, except his own oath, and letter & certificate of William Hill Secretary of the State of North Carolina hereto annexed. -- That he is old & frail, his memory is much impaired by age & lapse of time. But from the best of his remembrance he does verily believe the facts stated above to be true.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

His family consist of himself & his wife Sarah aged about 60 years, who is very unhealthy, & unable to labor so as to support herself -- A Daughter named Polly aged about 22 years -- A son named James aged about 19 Years -- when able to labor any he is by occupation a farmer -- That he has been much afflicted with Rheumatic pains for the last 30 years -- is not able to labor any of consequence, not enough to support himself without the assistance of others, & that if he were able to labor & support himself & his aged wife he would not make the present application. That he is dependent for a support upon the benevolence of his government or the charity of Individuals -- That all he owns upon the Earth is contained in the following Schedule (to wit)

One horse of little value

\$55

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_ft_george_bald_head_island.html

³ June 20, 1779

⁴ Sic, at this time, NC's 4th Regiment on the Continental Establishment was commanded by Col. James Armstrong. I am unaware of NC Continental officer named "John Lytle" who held the rank of Lt. Col. or above. "William Lytle" held the rank of Captain in the 5th NC Regiment as of 1/28/1779.

One mare of little value	\$40
One Cow & calf worth	9
One other Cow & calf worth	6
16 Head of hogs	16
One Flax wheel	11.76
One Stew	12.00
One heifer	4.00
1 Do worth	4.00
1 Do worth	5.00
1 Do worth	3.00
1 Skellet worth	1.00
1 Broken Do	.25
1 Kittle worth	2.00
2 Pair of Drawing Chairs	2.50
2 Pair of ??	.87 ½
1 Axe	<u>1.25</u>
	\$162.62 ½
That he is indebted	<u>28.00</u>
	\$134.62 ½

and that he has no debts due you or owing to him.
5 acres of land not worth more than one dollar per acre.

S/ Robert White

Sworn to and declared on the 27th day of December 1824 before the Honorable Robert Mack Judge of the Circuit Court of the County of Maury, which Court is a Court of Record granted by Statute of the State having Jurisdiction in law & equity with power to fine & in prison.

Done in open Court

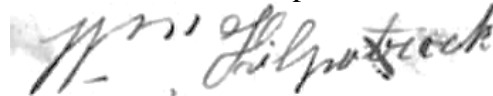
S/ George M. Martin, Clerk⁵

State of Tennessee Maury County: This day personally appeared before me James Walker an acting Justice of the Peace for said County William Kilpatrick and made oath, that he well remembers -- that Benjamin White enlisted in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina in the Revolutionary War for the time of twelve months in a company commanded by Captain Robert Smith, that he remembers the Company of soldiers to which said White along was called Continental Soldiers, -- that they were first marched towards the northward, and as he understood were in a few days marched back to the southward, and he understood at the time to Charleston. That affiant resided at the time of his enlistment and during the whole time of his service in the same family in which said Benjamin White lived before his enlistment, and in which he lived after his return from the service, -- and that he knows he was from home in the service of the United States twelve months and perhaps a little more. He remembers that he enlisted in the spring of the year, but of what particular year he cannot now remember, but it was not long after the revolutionary war commenced, he thinks between one and two years afterwards. Affiant was not grown at the time, and living in the same family with said Benjamin White as he did the fact of his service and absence from home as above stated was deeply impressed on his memory & he now well remembers it. Affiant further states that the said Benjamin White is still living & is now present before him; that he knows him to be the same

⁵ The clerk of court certified that the application was a true copy of the records in his office.

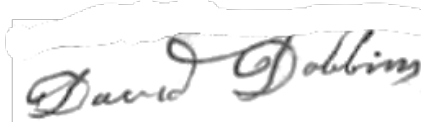
man who enlisted and served as above stated.

S/ William Kilpatrick



State of Tennessee Maury County: This day personally appeared before me Abraham Looney an acting Justice of the Peace for said County -- David Dobbins⁶ aged about seventy-two years -- and made oath that Benjamin White who is now present before him -- in the spring of 1777 -- in Mecklenburg County North Carolina, joined the Revolutionary Army -- that said White and affiant at that time joined what was called the New Levies, -- said White was first Sergeant in Captain John Hardin's company and affiant was first Sergeant in Captain David Cowan's Company -- but they belonged to different regiments -- the two companies were marched under the command of General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] -- to Moon's Creek on Dan River in North Carolina, -- and after serving about three months, were furloughed home. Affiant further states that in the fall of the same year 1777 -- said Benjamin White & himself -- both enlisted in the Continental Army at Charlotte in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, for the term of nine months, -- that said Benjamin White enlisted in the Continental line in a company commanded by Captain John Rhodes and affiant at the same time and place enlisted in the Continental line in a company commanded by Captain John Armstrong; -- affiant was first Sergeant in Captain Armstrong's Company, and said Benjamin White was first Sergeant in Captain Rhodes's Company, -- but they belonged to different regiments, -- affiant belonged to Colonel Thaxton's [sic, James Thackston] Regiment, and said White belonged to Colonel Archibald Lytle's Regiment, -- the two regiments to which they belonged were the 4th & 5th Regiments of the North Carolina line, -- but affiant is not now certain which was the 4th & which the 5th Regiments. Affiant further states that in a few days after they enlisted in the Continental Army, -- they were marched together with the two Regiments to which they belonged, into South Carolina, -- and affiant knows that said Benjamin White served out his term of nine months -- for which he had enlisted -- and was together with affiant and the other troops who had enlisted at the same time with them, discharged at a place called Sheldon Hill in South Carolina -- that during the said term the battle of Stono was fought in which affiant was -- Affiant further states that after they were discharged -- said Benjamin White & affiant returned home to the State of North Carolina and remained there some considerable time, -- and afterwards they both joined Sumpter's horse in South Carolina and served ten months, in this latter service said Benjamin White was in Captain Nathan Martin's company in Colonel William Polk's Regiment & affiant in Captain William Alexander's company and Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment. Affiant states that during their service aforesaid in the Revolutionary War -- he was well acquainted with said Benjamin White, -- and knows that the said Benjamin White, who is now personally present before him, is the same man with whom he served as before stated.

S/ David Dobbins



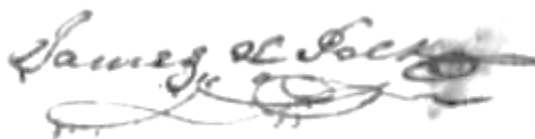
⁶ [David Dobbins S1805](#)

On this 25th day of September 1829 the above affiant David Dobbins appeared personally before me Abraham Looney acting Justice of the Peace for said County of Maury, -- and made oath that the facts and statement set forth in the foregoing affidavit are true, -- and I further certify that I know the said David Dobbins -- and that he is a man of truth & of fair character, -- & that his statement on oath is entitled to full faith & credit. Given under my hand & seal the 25th day of September 1829.

S/ Abraham Looney, JP

I do certify that I am personally acquainted with Abraham Looney Esquire of Maury County Tennessee who signature is attached to the foregoing affidavit -- that his signature I believe to be in his own handwriting, and that he was an acting Justice of the Peace for said County of Murray Tennessee at the date of the foregoing affidavit December 19th 1829

S/ James K Polk⁷



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing December 19, 1829 for one year's service in the North Carolina line as a private from May 1776 to May 1777.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁸ relating to Benjamin White
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 8417

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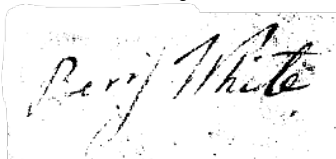
Gentlemen

Please deliver to Thomas Polk my draw of a Negro & fourth & my Balance of Clothing & this shall be your receipt from me [text too faint to discern] as Sergeant in Captain Nathaniel Martin's Company Colonel William Polk's Regiment for ten months.

Given under my hand this 15th day of December 1785

To the commissioners

S/ Benj. White



⁷ future President of the United States

⁸ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) 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.