

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Graham¹ S6937

f55NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/07 rev'd 12/7/14

[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.]

Declaration of General Joseph Graham in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

[State of North Carolina, Lincoln County]

On this 30th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas [&] Quarter Sessions for the County of Lincoln in North Carolina now sitting, General Joseph Graham, a resident of said County & State, aged Seventy three years, who first being 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.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States early in the month of May 1777—and served in the 4th Regiment of the North Carolina line under Col. Archibald Lytle² in Captain Gooden's Company, a part of the time as orderly sergeant of the Company & the balance as Quarter Master Sergeant. The term of enlistment was to serve nine months after arriving at the place of Rendezvous which was stated to be at Bladensburgh in the State of Maryland. They assembled in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, where he then lived and by slow movements marched on to near the Virginia line detaining by the way for the recruits from the other Counties to join. The Field Officers on this march were Col. Wm L. Davidson,³ Majors William Polk⁴ and Henry Dickson (commonly called Hal Dickson)⁵ Capts. Smith, Harris & others. When all assembled, we encamped in Caswell County at a place called Moon's Creek. At this place, we received intelligence of the Battle of Monmouth & that the British were gone to New York [and] that our services were not wanted in the north and after some delay, the men became uneasy that their term of service had not yet commenced and uncertain when it would commence, a Mutiny took place which was suppressed with some difficulty, some officers broke their swords & some of the soldiers were crippled. It was afterwards proposed to such of the Soldiers as would accept it to take furloughs until the fall that their term of service should then commence. Most of those from the upper Counties took furloughs of which this deponent was one and went home to Mecklenburg where he then resided about three months after he had left home, say some time in August in the Year 1778. And [he] was again called into service and marched from Charlotte on the 5th day of November following under the command of Genl. Rutherford⁶ with his Brigade of 5-month Militia men (Col. Lytle commanded the Regulars) to the 10 Mile house where we drew arms & camp equipage, from thence to Purisburg [sic, Purysburg] on Savany [sic, Savannah] River where General Lincoln⁷ commanded and the

Regulars from North Carolina were organized in 2 Regiments under Cols. Lytle & Armstrong.⁸ The Brigade was under the command of Brigadier Genl. Sumner⁹ and this deponent & Company under Capt. Gooden which Company & one commanded by Captain Wm Goodman were shortly after transferred to a Regiment of Light infantry which after General Ash¹⁰ was defeated at Briar Creek¹¹ was augmented by some Companies of Militia and placed under the Command of Colonel Malmedy¹² (a Frenchman) and Major John Nelson¹³ of the North Carolina line. From the time the Regiment of Infantry was formed, this deponent acted as quarter master sergeant until the end of the Campaign. Lieutenant Hiltton [sic, Hilton] (of the Regulars) who was appointed Quarter Master being in bad health and died about the last of the year, this deponent discharged the whole duty most of the time. During this service he was in a skirmish with McGirt¹⁴ who commanded the British Cavalry before Tarleton's¹⁵ arrival—said Regiment of Light Infantry was twice detached under the Command of Count Pulasky [sic, Pulaski]¹⁶ in one of which a Lieut. Chevalier Devallile(?) (a Frenchman) in an encounter with a British Piquet rec'd a mortal wound. [He] was in the Battle of Stono¹⁷ on the 20th day of June 1779.--was discharged near Dorchester S. C. I think by Col. Archibald Lytle some time about the beginning of August 1779, said discharge and many others in that service was given up to the Board of Commissions who sat at Warrenton in the Year 1786 for the Adjustment of the claims of the North Carolina Line.

Was taken with the Bilious Fever a few days before the term of service was up and had much difficulty. By the affections of a friend, he, after some time, got home and was not fully Recovered at the end of two months.

The terms on which this Service was performed were that he was to be exempted from military duties for three years after. His spirits [were] so depressed by the Fever and recollection of the hardships of a Southern Campaign in the summer along the seaboard seemed disposed to avail himself of the privilege allowed him by the law until about the latter end of May when Col. Buford¹⁸ was defeated & it was discovered the Enemy were within 35 or 40 miles when the militia was ordered out en masse, this deponent joined them & from the experience he had previously gained in military duties, was appointed Adjutant to the Mecklenburg Regiment, from that county being a Frontier & no other force to protect it, a part of said Regiment & sometimes all was kept in service most of the summer & this deponent with them. The Foot under Genl. Wm L. Davidson encamped South east of Charlotte & the Horse under Col. Davie¹⁹ detachments patrolling the country as far as Waxa [sic, Waxhaw] and others the adjoining Counties in the west who were disaffected. On the 25th of Sept, [we] heard that the whole British Army was on the March from Camden. General Davidson immediately decamped, marched up the Road towards Salisbury and ordered this Deponent to Charlotte to join Col. Davie & take command of such of the inhabitants as should collect there. On the news of the approach of the Enemy, 50 odd collected. In the disposition Col. Davie made for Resistance as the Enemy entered the village, this deponent commanded the Reserve and sustained the Retreat by molesting the advance of the Enemy for 4 miles again [sic, against?] their whole Cavalry & a Battalion of Infantry which followed at last charged us when Col. Davie was not in supporting distance and this Deponent Received nine wounds (the scars of which this Court Testify are visible at this time), that was left on the ground and afterwards taken to the Hospital & upwards of 2 months before his wounds were healed. After he recovered, the Enemy was said to be in

Winnborough, South Carolina & the Militia who had been in service under Genl. Davidson & Col. Davie their tour of duty was up.

Genl. Davidson some time in the month of December stated to this deponent that it was the opinion of General Greene²⁰ the Enemy would again advance into North Carolina as soon as a Reinforcement & some stores on their way from Charleston would arrive & that a call must again be made for another draft. He [Genl Greene] wanted a part Cavalry and, as Col. Davie was now Commissary with Genl. Greene, he did not expect him, if this deponent would raise a Company or more he should be entitled to such rank as the numbers would justify, that as encouragement each man who would find his own Horse & equipment & serve at that time for six weeks, it should stand in place of a tour of duty of three months, the time required by Law. This deponent therefore set out among the Youth of his acquaintance & in 2 or 3 weeks had raised upwards of 50 men, the principal difficulty in recruiting was in providing Arms. They [the recruits] generally had rifles & carried mizzell [?] in a small boot fixed to a strap fastened beside the right stirrup leather & the butt run through their shot bag belt so that the lock came directly under the right arm. Near half the swords were made by blacksmiths. Those who had a Pistol had it slung by a strap the size of a bridle rein hung down on the left side over the Sword which was hung higher than the modern way of wearing them so not to entangle their legs when acting on foot. Their equipments were not splendid, they were the best that could be procured at that time and in the hands of such men ultimately as serviceable as arms that looked much finer. They had at all times all their arms with them whether on foot or horse back and could move individually or collectively as circumstances might require without depending on commissary Quarter master ~~or other staff~~.

After Tarleton's defeat on the 17 Jan. 1781,²¹ the Enemy in pursuit of Genl. Morgan²² came to Cowan's ford on the Catawba [River] on the 1st day of Feb., this deponent had two of his Company killed opposing their passage and was the only Company that went off the Battle ground in order & covered the Retreat. At the same time, our Genl. Davidson fell.²³ On the 7th of Feb., this deponent's Company, while hanging on the rear of the British on their march from Shallow ford on the Yadkin [River] to Salem, routed a small party killed one & took 5 prisoners (Regulars). After this the North Carolina Militia was placed under the command of Genl. Andrew Pickens²⁴ of South Carolina and this deponent's Company with others was placed under Col. Joseph Dickson.²⁵ -- passed on over the Haw River, was detached by Genl. Pickens in the Evening with part of his Company & some Riflemen from Rowan, 45 in number, marched in the night of 17th. at light the next morning, we surprised, killed and took prisoners a guard of an officer and 26 men at Hart's Mill 1 ½ from Hillsborough where the British Army then lay.²⁶ The Evening of the same day, [we] formed a junction with Col. Lee's Legion.²⁷ A day or 2 after this Tarleton with his Legion set out over Haw River to join Col. or Doctor Piles²⁸ & Pickens & Lee [went] after him. This deponent's Company & all the Militia equipped as dragoons were placed under Lee in the rear of his Dragoons. On falling in with Piles and the Tories instead of Tarleton, passing along the front of their line drawn up, none of Lee's men knew their character but Lee himself, his men having so recently come to the south did not know the distinguishing mark of the Tories, but when the Militia came near and discovered the red strip of Cloth each man had in his hat, [the Whig militia] made the first attack on them.¹ Some of our blacksmiths' swords broke, others bent &c. Tarleton who as then in the Vicinity, as soon as informed of

¹ see Lee's memoirs &c.

the result, set off for Hillsboro.²⁹ We pursued about half way & not overtaking him, turned to the left up the Country—the next day Tarleton having got a Reinforcement came after us, attacked our piquet guard in the night. In the firing, [Tarleton's men] killed Major Micajah Lewis,³⁰ a Continental Officer. [Tarleton's actions] compelled us to move. After various movements and both Armies having got to the south of Haw River near Alamance Creek on the 2nd of March, a detachment of about 800 set out all Militia except Lee's Legion. [We] advanced in 3 columns under his [Lee's] Command. This deponent & his Company were in front of the left with riders to support the left flank after passing through a farm near Clap's Mill & entering a [illegible word, looks like “copice”] of woods, [we] encountered a large party of the Enemy drawn up in position. A smart firing commenced and after 3 or 4 rounds, our line gave way.³¹ The ground was so hampered with thick underbrush & the course of the lines on the left flank it was done with difficulty, [we] retreated about 1 mile to the Ford on Big Alamance where Col. Otho Williams, the Regulars under his Command and Washington's Cavalry were drawn up to support us. The Enemy did not pursue more than 500 yards. In this affair, 2 were killed, 3 wounded and 2 taken prisoners of this deponent's Company in all 7—on the first of March the time of service for which the men had engaged was up and about 1/3rd of them would go home, the others were persuaded to stay longer being daily in expectation of a general Action.

The day after the Battle, Col. Lee ordered this deponent to take 25 men to go on to where the battle was [to] see if the Enemy was there. If [the Enemy had] gone, [we were to] take their trail credit no report of the inhabitants but proceed until we actually saw the British troops. At the battle ground, [we] found the British were gone after burying their own dead & leaving ours. [We] took their trail. In the evening, [we] came in view of their sentries on the Salisbury Road within ½ mile of their head Quarters and [I] directly dispatched a sergeant & 6 of the party to inform Lee. The rest of our party moved after dark through the woods with a view of taking the two sentries we had seen in the Evening. In this we failed but after they had fired at us we went briskly up the main Road. In ½ mile, we met a patrol of their Cavalry about equal to our number. After hailing, [we] briskly discharged a volley in their faces. They retreated and took to the woods. We took their officer prisoner.³² The rest escaped. We turned out of the Road on an obscure path. In half a mile, we halted to take some refreshment. On the great Road opposite to us a quarter of a mile distant [we] heard a scattering fire and considerable noise which lasted for some time. Two days after, we learned from a Deserter that on report of the Sentries in the Evening the patrol was sent up the road after us and were returning when we met & dispersed them. When they came into camp in different directions, upwards of 100 Cavalry were sent up the Road after us and at 11 o'clock at night met a Company of Tories coming in to join them. Not doubting but it was the party which had defeated their piquet, [they] instantly charged them [the Tories] and considerable slaughter was made before it was discovered they were friends. This small affair did more to suppress Toryism to the south than any thing had before occurred. A few days before at Piles' defeat they had been cut by Lee's men and ours when they thought it was their friend Tarleton. In the present [action,] they were cut by the British when they thought it was the Americans. It is not known that any of them attempted to join the British afterwards.

This deponent & Company some days after was in the action at Whitsell's [sic, Wetzel's] Mill on Reedy fork under command of Colonel Washington where Col. Webster

with the elite of the British Army for 12 miles pressed us so closely as to compel Col. Otho Williams, the commander, to fight at this place.³³

The men whom I had persuaded then long to detain for a general Action being disappointed with nothing but heavy skirmishing in which they still had to act a prominent part determined to go home, which being represented to General Greene, he ordered this deponent to go with them and keep them in a compact body until they got through the disaffected settlement on the East side of the Yadkin River. We passed that River on the 14 of March 1781 and on the 17th most of the Company got home. Although the company was engaged to serve only 6 weeks, about two thirds of them served upwards of two months from the time I undertook to raise the company until [they] returned home about 3 months. Owing to the early death of General Davidson under whose orders I acted, [I] had no written commission but Col. Dickson under whom I was afterwards placed gave a written discharge sometime after. In this service, I was in 8 Battles or Skirmishes and lost 9 men by the Enemy, viz: 4 killed 3 wounded 2 prisoners.

After the Battle of Guilford,³⁴ the Enemy having marched to Wilmington & left a garrison there, but no militia services were called for in the west until the month of August 1781, though the Tories, under protection of the British, had possession of the Country South of Cape Fear [River] until above Fayetteville & Col. Fanning³⁵ of the Tories surprised Hillsboro & took Governor Burke prisoner.³⁶ General Rutherford returned about this time. He had been exchanged (he was taken prisoner at Gates' defeat and with other distinguished Citizens had been confined in the Castle at St. Augustine). [Rutherford] sent this deponent orders to raise a troop of Dragoons in Mecklenburg [County, NC], many of those who had served the preceding winter joined. There were but 4 married men in the Troop. [We] joined Head Quarters near P. Dee [sic, Pedee River ?], did not receive the Commission herewith sent until several days after application was made to the Genl. on the ground that several officers who had formerly acted under verbal appointments who had been taken prisoners and they had not been Respected as officers but treated as common Soldiers, when all the drafts were assembled a Legionary Corps were formed under the command of Col. Robert Smith who had been a Captain in the North Carolina line. It consisted of 3 troops of Dragoons about 96 troopers and 200 mounted Infantry. This Deponent was appointed Major as will appear by the commission and other papers herewith—Two days after the General, having information the Tories embodied on Raft Swamp upwards of 600 were about to retreat before him towards Wilmington, detached this deponent with the Dragoons & 40 mounted men with orders to endeavor to hold them at bay or impede their march so as he might follow and overtake them—when they [the Tories] were overtaken, the ground appearing favorable they were charged by the Dragoons and entirely defeated and dispersed 20 or 30 being killed and wounded entirely with saber.³⁷

This Deponent was detached by Col. Smith with one troop of dragoons and two companies of mounted men at Alfred Moore's Plantation a mile below the ferry at Wilmington where we surprised and defeated about 100 Tories; killed & wounded 12. The next day we were in an unsuccessful attack on a British Garrison in a brick house that covered the ferry opposite Wilmington, had one of our party killed.³⁸

This deponent was afterwards detached by order of General Rutherford with three companies one of which was dragoons by Brunswick over Lockwood's folly and Wacamo [sic, Waccamaw] River at a place called 7 Creeks near the South Carolina line,³⁹ was attacked about midnight by the noted Col Gainey [sic, Ganey] of So. Carolina who was then

under a truce with Genl Marrion [sic, Francis Marion] but appears [Ganey] did not consider it binding in North Carolina, had one of our party killed & 2 wounded & 4 horses killed. The Cavalry charged & defeated them & killed one of Ganey's party—for the further evidence of this service see Genl. Rutherford's order to this deponent (after the British had left Wilmington) dated Wilmington Nov. 18th 1781 and the orders this deponent gave to those under his Command when acting in pursuance of said order, the whole of which service was something over 3 months, lost two men killed and two wounded and were in 4 Battles.

Recapitulation of the foregoing Services

In the Regular service

From the Month of May 1778 until the some time in Augt.

when Furloughed to go home

3 months

From the 5 day of November 1778 to the 5 August 1779

9

In the Militia Service

From about the 1st of June 1780 until the 17th of March 1781

including the time lying in the Hospital & disabled

from service except about 2 weeks after got

well of wounds say 9 1/4

9 1/4

From about 20th of August 1781 to 1st of December to Wilmington 3 1/4

24 1/2 Months

The deponent states he has a Record of his Age that he was born in Chester County Pennsylvania on the 13th day of October 1759 that he then removed to Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina when about 10 Years of Age was present in Charlotte on the 20th day of May 1775 when the Committee of the County of Mecklenburg made their celebrated Declaration of Independence of the British Crown upwards of a year before the Congress of the United States did at Philadelphia, that he resided in Mecklenburg County until the Year 1792 and since that time in the County of Lincoln.

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 the agency of any State.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and Year aforesaid.

S/ J. Graham

Jonas Bradsha [sic, Jonas Bradshaw]⁴⁰ a resident in Lincoln County North Carolina being sworn in open Court Deposeth that he served in the same Company and Regiment with Joseph Graham the whole time from early in the month of May 1778 until the 5th day of August 1779 except the time they were furloughed some time in August 1778 until the 5 day of November following and that said Graham Acted as orderly Sergeant to Captain Gooden's Company part of the time and as quarter Master Sergeant to the Regiment greater part of the time.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Jonas Bradshaw, X his mark

We Hartwell Spain, a Clergyman Residing in the County of Lincoln and Jacob Forney residing in the same hereby certify that we are well acquainted with General Joseph Graham who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration that we believe him to be 73

years of age and that he has always been reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Hartwell Spain

S/ J. Forney

State North Carolina, Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me one of the acting Justices of the peace for and in said County Alexander Cathey⁴¹ of Mecklenburg County and State aforesaid after being duly sworn Deposeth and saith, That in the year 1780 after Beaufort's [sic, Buford's] defeat near Waxsaw [sic, Waxhaw] when the Militia were called out from time to time, When this deponent was in Camp General Joseph Graham acted as Adjutant of the Mecklenburg County Regiment of militia from that time until the British came into Charlotte the September following [he] was with said Graham when the Enemy entered Charlotte and Graham got wounded and further this deponent attached himself to a Company of Cavalry commanded by said Graham in the month of January 1781 and on the last day of January was marched by General Davidson from Beaty's [sic, Beatties] Ford to Cowen's Ford [sic, Cowan's Ford] on Catawba River and Captain Graham ordered me and some others who were acquainted with the Roads to patrol down the River during the night and had not Joined the company until in the morning after the Battle was over at Cowan's Ford where General Davidson was killed and one of said Company Robert Beaty Received a wound of which he afterwards died.

Test: S/ Robt. Gasten, JP

S/ Alexander Cathey, Sr.

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County

Personally appeared before Robert Gasten a Justice of the peace for and in said County Captain Samuel Caldwell⁴² being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that in the month of February 1781 the deponent then in service with a party of Men under the command of General Pickens of South Carolina, he saw and knew Joseph Graham, then Commanding a respectable troop of Cavalry as Captain, first near the Yadkin River and afterwards at sundry times during said Campaign Especially at the defeat of the Tories by Colonel Lee and our party usually called Pyles' defeat when they mistook Colonel Lee for Colonel Tarleton, and the day after a battle at Clapps Mills with the British. Distinctly remember to have seen the said Captain Graham and company were detached toward the battle ground and reconnoiter the position of the enemy.

Sworn to and Subscribed this 21st of June 1833.

Test: S/ Robt Gasten, JP

S/ Saml. Caldwell

North Carolina, Lincoln County

Personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for and in said County Alexander Moore of the State and County aforesaid after being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that he served in a detachment of troops under the command of General Andrew Pickens of South Carolina that were collected in the rear of the British Army after they crossed the Catawba River on the 1st day of February 1781, that during said campaign he repeatedly saw General Joseph Graham as a Captain of a respectable troop of Cavalry from Mecklenburg County, distinctly Remembers that after taking a picket guard at Hart's Mill 2 miles from Hillsboro and Graham bringing in the prisoners when the red Coats were

discovered at a distance made a considerable alarm in Camp, and the same afternoon when Lee's Legion Joined another alarm believing it was Tarleton until the Horse came in sight, that at different times during the said Campaign he saw said Captain Joseph Graham & Company engaged in active service. Sworn to and Subscribed this 21st of June 1833.

S/ Alexander Moore

Test: S/ Robt Gasten, JP

[NOTE: There is a note in this file which indicates that the commissions and other enclosures referred to by the applicant could not be found in his file as of 1904].

¹ Joseph Graham (1759-1836) was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania and moved with his parents to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina in 1763. He fought in the Revolution as described in this pension. After the Revolution, he became a leading iron manufacturer, building Vesuvius Furnace on Anderson Creek in Lincoln County, North Carolina. During the War of 1812, he rose to the rank of brigadier general in the North Carolina militia. After that war, he was promoted to major general of the Fifth Regiment of the North Carolina militia and served in that command for many years. William S. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* (The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill: 1991), Vol. 2, 335-336.

² Archibald Lytle (1730-1790) was born in Argyllshire, Scotland and died in Robeson County, North Carolina. He was commissioned as a captain in the Sixth North Carolina Continental Regiment on April 16, 1776. On January 26, 1777, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He served under General Francis Nash at Morristown and fought in defense of Philadelphia and at Germantown. Recalled to North Carolina in 1778, he was at Briar Creek with General John Ashe. He was wounded at the Battle of Stono Ferry. He was part of the Continental Army captured at the fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780 and was exchanged on February 9, 1782. Upon his return to active duty, he was given command of the Fourth North Carolina Continental Regiment and promoted to colonel on September 30, 1783. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 4, 114-115.

³ William Lee Davidson, c 1746-1781, was a North Carolina militia general during the Revolution. Active in the war from its inception as adjutant to General Griffith Rutherford during the Snow Campaign in December 1775, he was promoted to major of the Fourth Regiment of the North Carolina line in 1776. He marched with the North Carolina line to the north and was at the Battle of Germantown, after which he was promoted to Lt. Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of the North Carolina line. At Valley Forge with Washington, Light Horse Harry Lee, Daniel Morgan and others, he became friends with most of the influential military commanders in the Continental Line. Left without a command after the fall of Charleston in 1780, he volunteered in the North Carolina militia under his old friend, Griffith Rutherford, who appointed Davidson his second in command. Severely wounded at the Battle of Colson's Mill on July 21, 1780, he did not participate in the Battle of Camden at which Rutherford was captured. Davidson was promoted to brigadier general and given command of Rutherford's Salisbury District militia. He participated in resisting the entry of Cornwallis into Charlotte in late September 1780. He was killed at the Battle of Cowen's Ford in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina on February 1, 1781, while opposing the re-entry of Cornwallis into North Carolina. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 2, 27-28.

⁴ William Polk, 1758-1834, was a revolutionary war officer who served in both the North and South Carolina forces throughout the war. He was the son of Thomas Polk, 1732-1794, a noted leader of the North Carolina militia in the Mecklenburg County area during the war. William served in the North Carolina Continental line and fought at Brandywine and Germantown, where he was severely wounded. He recuperated from his wounds during 1779 and early 1780, but took part in Gates' ill-fated attack at Camden in August 1780. Retreating to North Carolina, he fought at Guilford County Courthouse after which he volunteered under Thomas Sumter in South Carolina. He fought at the Battle of Eutaw Springs where his brother was killed. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 5, 114.

⁵ Henry Dixon, c1750-1782, was a North Carolina Continental Line and militia officer. Commissioned as a captain in the First Regiment of the North Carolina line in September 1775, he rose quickly to the rank of lieutenant colonel in May 1778. In the spring of 1778, the North Carolina legislature appointed him as Inspector General of the Militia, a post he held for the remainder of his life. Dixon was severely wounded at the Battle of Stono Ferry. In 1781, he fought at the Battles of Weitzel's Mill and Guilford County Courthouse

and was severely wounded again at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. He never recovered from these wounds and died from them on July 17, 1782. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 2, 75-76.

⁶ Griffith Rutherford (1731-c.1800) was commissioned as a brigadier general of the North Carolina state troops on June 26, 1776. He participated not only in the 1776 Cherokee Expedition but also in the battles at Ramseur's Mill and Camden. Wounded and captured at the latter engagement, he was held as a prisoner in Charleston and St. Augustine until November 1781 when he was exchanged and returned to the field to command the North Carolina forces at Wilmington. Mark M. Boatner III, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 1994), (hereinafter cited as Boatner, *Encyclopedia*) 953.

⁷ Benjamin Lincoln, 1733-1810, was the commander of the Southern branch of the Continental Army from September 25, 1778 until his surrender of his army at Charleston on May 12, 1780. David B. Matten, *Benjamin Lincoln and the American Revolution* (University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1995).

⁸ James Armstrong, ?-1794, was an officer in the North Carolina militia having initially been elected as a captain in the Pitt County militia in September 1775. In November 1776, he was promoted to colonel in the Eighth Regiment of the North Carolina Continental Line. He led his troops at the Battle of Brandywine at which his regiment suffered such heavy casualties that it was dissolved and its remnants combined with the Second Regiment of NC Continentals. He resigned his commission in the Continental Line on June 1, 1778, but volunteered shortly thereafter in the militia. As a militia officer, he fought at the Battle of Stono Ferry where he was wounded. Given responsibility for recruiting militiamen in the eastern portion of North Carolina, he rose to the rank of brigadier general in the NC militia and retired in early 1781 taking no further active military role in the war. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 1, 44.

⁹ Jethro Sumner, c 1735-1785, was a Virginia militia officer throughout the French and Indian War. Moving to North Carolina after that war, he was appointed as a major in the Halifax County North Carolina militia at the start of the Revolution. In 1776 he was appointed as colonel of the Third Regiment of North Carolina Continentals and led his men at the defense of Charleston in the summer of that year. Leading his regiment north, he was at the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown and endured the winter at Valley Forge. Illness in the spring of 1778 forced his return to North Carolina. On January 9, 1779, he was commissioned by Congress as a brigadier general and led his brigade at the Battle of Stono Ferry. Angered by the appointment of William Smallwood of Maryland to the command of the North Carolina state troops, Sumner resigned his command. Upon Nathanael Greene's assumption of command of the Southern Department of the Continental Army, Sumner resumed an active role taking command of newly recruited Continental forces in North Carolina. He was in command of the North Carolina Continentals at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Thereafter, he remained in command of the North Carolina forces for the remainder of the war. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 5, 476.

¹⁰ John Ashe, 1725-1781, was brigadier general of the North Carolina State Troops set by General Richard Caswell to reinforce General Benjamin Lincoln in his assault on Savannah. A surprise attack on his troops at the Battle of Briar Creek resulted in its almost total loss. Ashe was court-martialed (General William Moultrie was the preceding officer) and severely censured for "want of sufficient vigilance." Greatly depressed from this experience, Ashe returned to North Carolina and died there from smallpox in 1781. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 1, 51-52.

¹¹ See, Patrick O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter: The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume One: 1771-1779*, (N.p.: Booklocker.com, Inc., 2004) (hereinafter cited as O'Kelley, *Slaughter 1*), 253.

¹² Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne was an officer in the French cavalry who, upon coming to America in 1775, was brevetted as a major in the Continental Army on September 19, 1776. He rose to the rank of colonel and was at the Battles of Stono Ferry and Eutaw Springs, where he was in command of the North Carolina militia. Mark M. Boatner, III, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 3rd ed., 1994), 670-671.

¹³ A North Carolina Continental Officer who was taken prisoner at the fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780. Hugh F. Rankin, *The North Carolina Continentals*, (Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1971).

¹⁴ Daniel McGirt was a notorious Tory militia leader. Born in South Carolina, he lived in Georgia and Florida during the Revolution and participated in many raids into South Carolina and Georgia in support of the Crown. Leslie Hall, *Land and Allegiance in Revolutionary Georgia*, (Athens, Georgia, The University of Georgia Press, 2001), 150-154.

¹⁵ Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton (1754-1833) was a British cavalry officer much vilified for his allegedly excessively brutal tactics in fighting the Whigs. Anthony J. Scotti, Jr., *Brutal Virtue: The Myth and Reality of Banastre Tarleton*, Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, Maryland, 2002. Tarleton left his own record of his activities in America during the Revolution and that record is still available in print. Banastre Tarleton, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America*, Ayer Company Publishers, Inc., North Stratford, New Hampshire, Reprint Edition, 1999.

¹⁶ Casimir Pulaski, c 1748-1779, a Polish nobleman who volunteered to serve in the Continental Army. Appointed by Congress as a brigadier general, he commanded a brigade of dragoons serving under Washington. He was killed during an ill-fated cavalry charge at the Siege of Savannah in October 1779. Boatner, *Encyclopedia*, 900-901.

¹⁷ . O'Kelley, *Slaughter 1*, 291.

¹⁸ Abraham Buford (1749-1833) was the commanding colonel of the 3rd Detachment of the 2nd Virginia Brigade of the Continental Line. He led his 350-man detachment from Virginia toward Charleston to participate in the defense of that city in the late spring of 1780, but he arrived too late. Retreating from the Charleston area back toward Virginia, his detachment was overrun by the British Legion under the command of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton on Monday, May 29, 1780. The result of the confrontation was the total defeat of Buford's force by Tarleton in what became known as "Buford's Defeat." The alleged massacre of Buford's forces by the Legion after a failed attempt by the Continentals to surrender helped create Tarleton's reputation as a butcher unwilling to give quarter to defenseless opponents. This encounter gave rise to the rallying cry of "Buford's play" used by the Whigs [see, e.g., [S3317 Samuel Eakin](#)] to justify their own refusal to grant quarter to surrendering British and Tory forces in later engagements. For coverage of the Buford's defeat, see Patrick O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter: The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume Two: 1780*, (N.p.: Blue House Tavern Press, Booklocker.com, Inc. 2004) (hereinafter cited as O'Kelley, *Slaughter 2*)(hereinafter cited as O'Kelley, *Slaughter 2*), 154.

¹⁹ William Richardson Davie, 1756-1820, North Carolina militia officer, statesman and founder of the University of North Carolina. Blackwell P. Robinson, *William R. Davie* (The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1957).

²⁰ 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. Boatner, *Encyclopedia*, 453.

²¹ The Battle of Cowpens was one of the most important battles of the Revolution. The battle was fought on January 17, 1781, between Continental and militia forces commanded by Genl. Daniel Morgan and British troops commanded by Banastre Tarleton. An excellent history of this battle has been written by Lawrence E. Babits, *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens*, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1998.

²² Daniel Morgan (1736-1802) was a Continental Army officer who commanded the Whig forces at Cowpens. Boatner, *Encyclopedia*, 735-737. Don Higginbotham, *Daniel Morgan: Revolutionary Rifleman* (The University of North Carolina Press for the Omohundro Institute, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1961)

²³ Patrick O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter: The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume Three: 1781*, (N.p.: Blue House Tavern Press, Booklocker.com, Inc., 2005) (hereinafter cited as O'Kelley, *Slaughter 3*), 66.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ Joseph Dickson, 1745-1825, was a North Carolina militia officer who served under General Charles McDowell. A resident of Lincoln County, North Carolina, he was a major in the unit known as the "Lincoln

County Men" who fought at King's Mountain. He took an active role in opposing Cornwallis' reentry into North Carolina in early 1781. Promoted on several occasions, he ranked as a brigadier general in the militia by the end of the war. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 2, 68.

²⁶ O'Kelley, *Slaughter 3*, 86.

²⁷ Henry Lee (a/k/a, Light Horse Harry Lee), 1756-1818, was a noted cavalry officer in the Virginia Continental Line during the Revolutionary War. His *Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States*, was published in 1812, and is one of the hallmarks of primary resources for the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. Boatner, *Encyclopedia*, 607-610.

²⁸ John Pyle, 1723-1804, a Regulator during the North Carolina Regulation, Pyle was a loyalist during the Revolution. Upon Cornwallis' approach to Guilford County Courthouse, Pyle raised a troop intending to join Cornwallis. O'Kelley, *Slaughter 3*, 96.

²⁹ Carole Watterson Troxler, *Pyle's Defeat: Deception at the Racepath*, (Graham, North Carolina, Alamance County Historical Association, 2003).

³⁰ Micajah Lewis, 1755-1781, was a North Carolina militia officer. He was wounded at the Battle of King's Mountain while serving Col. Benjamin Cleveland. He fought at Pyle's Defeat and was mortally wounded two days later when out scouting for Nathanael Greene. Bobby Gilmer Moss, *The Patriots at King's Mountain* (Blacksburg, S.C.: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 1990), 155-156.

³¹ For details of the skirmish at Clapp's Mill, see O'Kelley, *Slaughter 3*, 108.

³² See, O'Kelley, *Slaughter 3*, 111.

³³ Ibid., 119.

³⁴ Ibid., 136-159.

³⁵ David Fanning (1755-1825), from Randolph County, North Carolina, was a notorious Tory militia leader and renegade earning in North Carolina a reputation for brutality on a par with that of William ("Bloody Bill") Cunningham in South Carolina. Fanning wrote a fascinating account of his exploits. Lindley S. Butler, editor, *The Narrative of Col. David Fanning* (Briarpatch Press, Davidson, North Carolina, 1981). See, also, John Hairr, *Colonel David Fanning: The Adventures of a Carolina Loyalist* (Averasboro Press, Erwin, North Carolina, 2000)

³⁶ See, O'Kelley, *Slaughter 3*, 358-362; Skirmish at Hillsborough.

³⁷ Ibid., 375-377; Skirmish at Raft Swamp.

³⁸ Ibid., 387-388; Skirmish at More's Plantation and skirmish at the Brick House.

³⁹ Ibid., 388-389; Skirmish at Seven Creeks.

⁴⁰ [Jonas Bradshaw W3932](#)

⁴¹ [Alexander Cathey R1807](#)

⁴² [Samuel Caldwell W528](#)