

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Conner S8237

f45NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/2/10: rev'd 11/3/19

[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 North Carolina Mecklenburg County

On the 14th day of February 1833 personally appeared before me Alexander B. Jetton one of the Justices of peace for said County James Conner a citizen of Mecklenburg County and State of North Carolina aged now seventy-nine years past, who being first 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 has no record or register of his birth but that he was born in Ireland and that when he left Ireland for America in the year 1772 he was informed by his parents that he was then nineteen years old, that he resided in the County of Mecklenburg at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, and has continued to reside in said County ever since.

That in the month of August, to the best of his recollection, in the year 1775 he enlisted in Captain George Davidson's Company of State Troops for six months and Colonel Martin's [Alexander Martin's] Regiment. In the autumn of that year we were ordered to South Carolina to suppress the Tories in the Western part of that State and from thence we marched to Cross Creek now Fayetteville to suppress the Scotch Tories – about this time, he states that his term of service expired and he was dismissed and returned home.

That in the summer of 1776 he volunteered to go against the Cherokee Indians, and Capt. Nixon's [sic, Captain Joseph Dickson's] Company of militia, he thinks and Colonel Locke's [Francis Locke's] Regiment. The expedition was commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. That he served as a Sergeant in Captain Dixon's Company and continued out three months the date not recollected.

That then in the year 1777 a call was made upon the militia of this State to go to the defense of Charleston, that he again volunteered under Captain Dixon, Colonel Locke's Regiment as well as he now recollects, that we were marched to Camden, where we were stationed during the greater part of the winter at least three months, that he then acted as Sergeant and the term of service expiring we returned home and were dismissed.

That in the first of June 1778 he set out for the North to see an only brother in America, then in the Continental Army, that he arrived at, and joined the United States Army, then encamped on the banks of the Raritan [River] State of New Jersey and on the sixth of July 1778 he states that he was appointed a wagon master, by Colonel Thompson, who was then wagon master General. That upon his appointment he was attached to one of the New England Brigades of troops, commanded by Brigadier General Patterson, that he continued in that Brigade until the Army went into winter quarters, near Morristown, New Jersey, when he was detached with a

number of the horses, to New Canaan, Massachusetts, to see that they were taken care of during the winter.

That in the opening of the next Campaign in the year 1779 he was attached to the Brigade of Light Infantry commanded by General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] and that he continued to act as wagon master for said Brigade, during Campaign, and was a volunteer at the storming of Stoney Point, that when the Brigade broke up Camp from New Ark [sic Newark?] and marched to head quarters we met with Lord Stirling, with a detachment of Continental troops marching for Staten Island, that he with several others, who had horses volunteered and went with him, and crossed upon the Ice from Elizabethtown [indecipherable word, could be 'point'] to the Island in order to attack a British Fort on said Island, but were repulsed with some loss and retreated. That on his arrival at headquarters he was ordered to the South with the Virginia, and North Carolina troops, part of which he overtook at Fredericksburg – the Virginia troops to the best of his recollection commanded by General Woodford, that he continued with them until they arrived at the Yadkin River when he obtained a furlough for two weeks, and that after the expiration of which he set off to rejoined the Army at Charleston, when on his way there about 10 or 15 miles this side of Camden, he met the baggage and some of the Artillery retreating as Charleston had fallen into the hands of the British [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780].

That he then returned home and took sick and remained unable for duty until the latter part of the Summer of the year 1780 when finding no Continental troops in this section of the country to which he might attached himself, and by the advice and request of Brigadier General Wm L Davidson [William Lee Davidson], who was also a Colonel in the Continental Army but at that time commanding a Brigade of militia, that he excepted the appointment of Forage master, under him and served a tour of duty in that capacity of three months, principally in Mecklenburg County. A part of the time we were with Colonel Morgan [Daniel Morgan] before he was detached to South Carolina by General Greene [Nathanael Greene].

That then in the latter end of the year 1780 there was another call upon the militia, to oppose the progress of Cornwallis when I again volunteered and was appointed Brigade Quarter Master by General Davidson, that he was stationed by him at Beatties Ford to oppose the crossing of the British, but the main Army crossing the River about four miles below & about to come in our rear, we retreated to the Widow Torrence's, at which place we attempted to make a stand, but were surprised and defeated by Tarleton's [Banastre Tarleton's] light Dragoons. That he with others retreated to the Yadkin, that he was able to get the military stores safely over the River, but was surprised by the British advance guard. There I lost my clothes & all my papers including my appointment in the Continental Army & that in the militia by General Davidson. That as soon as I could cross the River I joined General Greene's Army and continued with it until after the Battle of Guilford, which battle he was in and during the action he was attached to Colonel Lee's [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee's] Corps of cavalry, with a few other volunteers – after this battle he returned home, finding no call for his services in the staff – I served three months this tour.

Then in the year 1781 shortly after the battle of Guilford, the State of South Carolina ordered General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] to raise four regiments of cavalry & Colonel William Polk being appointed to the command of one of them, he again volunteered and received the appointment and acted as Quarter master to this Regiment, That he continued in service with this Regiment until the month of August, he became so much indisposed that with the advice of the Surgeons he was induced to quit the service for three weeks, but that he again rejoined the

troops & served out the term which was ten months.

He further states that he has no recollection of ever having received any written discharge. That he received a commission of wagon master from Colonel Thompson of the United States Army. That he also received a commission of Forage master and Brigade Quarter master from General Davidson while acting in those capacities as above stated – but that they were all lost at the Yadkin as above stated. That he further states there is no living witness that he knows of, that can prove his services in the Continental Army as Wagon master. That several Continental officers who knew his service and who lived in this Country all long since dead. That he has no documentary evidence to establish the fact of service, but for that purpose has annexed the certificates of Samuel Wilson, & others. That from the Raritan we were marched to the North River & crossed the same at King's Ferry & the march was continued to White Plains and the Army lay there for some time, but cannot recollect how long, while they are General Putnam was ordered off with three divisions of the New England troops, & General Patterson is him, and to these troops, he was attached as wagon master & we were marched to Hartford in the State of Connecticut, where we were stationed till the fall of the year, when we were marched to winter quarters.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood & whose testimony as to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. I am acquainted with General Joseph Graham, & Major D. M. Forney of Lincoln County. The Reverend James McRee of Iredell County, the Honorable H. W. Conner now in Congress, Samuel Wilson of Mecklenburg County, Robert H Burton the Colonel County & many others.

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Alexander B. Jetton, JP

S/ James Conner, C his mark

[James McRee, a clergyman, and Joseph Graham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County:

On this 14th day of February 1833 came Samuel Wilson¹ before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County & made oath that he is well acquainted with James Conner who has subscribed the foregoing certificate. That he has been acquainted with him near 60 years to the best of his recollection, that he served with said James Conner in what was called the Snow Campaign in South Carolina the length of time deponent was in company with said Connor cannot now be stated, for after the battle on Reedy River, I was ordered to Charleston with the prisoners & said Connor returned with the troops to North Carolina, but have always understood & believe he said Connor enlisted for six months & served his term out.

Deponent states he was a Captain in the Cherokee expedition, & knows that said James Conner served in that expedition under Captain Dixon at least three months, and to the best of his recollection served as Sergeant.

That before the battle of Guilford, he remembers to have seen the said James Conner acting as Brigade Quarter Master in the Army & deponent served under him as regimental Quarter Master; The service of said Connor in this tour is not known precisely, but understood it to be three months. Deponent states he has no knowledge of the services of said James Conner in

¹ [Samuel Wilson S7915](#)

the North, but has heard him relate it many years ago, & knowing him to be a man of truth believes what he has stated respecting his services there.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Alexander B Jetton, JP

S/ Samuel Wilson



Joseph Graham² also came before the subscriber on the same day & made oath that he has been acquainted with said James Conner about 53 or four years, that on this 30th January 1781 he saw said James Conner acting as Brigade Quarter Master in what is now Mecklenburg County, State of North Carolina, under General Davidson on the Catawba River, that he recollects getting a musket & bayonet from said Connor, to use while I was acting as a spy on the British in the and night & returned it to him the next day. That during the March from that place to the battle of Guilford he remembers to have seen said Connor still acting as Brigade Quarter Master and deponent further states he has no knowledge of the services of said Connor in the North, that many years ago, heard him relate his services there.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Alexander B Jetton, JP

S/ J. Graham



[James McRee, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County

Amendatory of the declaration of James Conner of said County & State for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832. – The above named James Conner personally appeared before me, Alexander Jetton, one of the Justices of the Peace for the said County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that there is no living witness, in North Carolina known to him who can prove his services performed to the North in the Continental service; that his commission given him by Colonel Thompson of Wagon Master, together with his commission of Brigade Quarter Master, under which he was then acting from General William Lee Davidson, with other valuable papers were, as stated, in the original declaration lost, at the Yadkin River near Salisbury whilst endeavoring to cross to the East side, the arms etc. in my care, being surprise, as the last wagons were crossing by the British advance guard, the wagon crossed safely in which were my Portmanteau, containing those papers which were stolen, & never recovered: he would respectfully refer to the report of Colonel Thompson, if they have not been destroyed, for his name, which, he believes will be there found, as stated by himself. His services and grades, are proved in the original affidavit periods by the oath of Samuel Wilson, Joseph Graham, William Polk & William

² [Joseph Graham S6937](#)

Hutchison, to whom the said James Conner was personally known during the revolution & has and, up to this date. Sworn to & subscribed this second day of August 1833.

S/ James Conner, C his mark

1st Where and in what year were you born?

A. I was born in the County of Antrim Arlen. I left my Father & mother, for [several words obliterated] 1772, and was told by my parents, that I was 19 years old then.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

A. I have no record of my age, other than that given in the preceding answer.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

A. I then lived in Mecklenburg County North Carolina: and have & do now live in said County.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

A. I volunteered in every instance.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

A. I knew General Patterson, General Wayne, Colonel Thompson, Colonel Flury [this MAY be a mistaken attempt to refer to Col. Christian Febiger, but more likely a reference to Lt. Col. Francois de Fleury, a French officer], Colonel Mugs [sic, Return Jonathan Meigs] & Colonel Butler [Richard Butler], to the North, and the last three I was with at the storming & taking of Stony Point. To the South I knew Colonel William Lee Davidson, Colonel Morgan, Colonel Lee, Colonel Washington, General Greene & General Sumter. I remember the regiments of militia commanded by Colonel Campbell of Virginia by Colonel Hampton of South Carolina, & by Colonel Locke of North Carolina with many others. The general circumstances of my service has been given in the original declaration. I was at the storming of Stony Point: & a skirmish on Staten Island. I was in the battle at Guilford: & a skirmish at Beatties Ford North Carolina, one at Widow Terrences after the British crossed the Catawba River & one at the Yadkin before named where I lost my Port mantud [?].

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

A. If I ever received a discharge I have lost or mislaid it. In the year 1776 I volunteered as a private & served six months. In the year 1776 I volunteered again [one or more indecipherable words interlined] and the appointment of Sergeant. In 1777 I volunteered & went to South Carolina in defense of Charleston. In 1778 I was appointed Wagon Master by Colonel Thompson. In the fall of the year 1780 I was appointed Forage Master by General William L Davidson & [several words obliterated] [indcipherable word] of the same years. I was appointed Brigade Quarter Master by the same General Davidson, and in the spring of 1781 I was appointed by Colonel William Polk regimental Quarter Master in the cavalry for such appointments, I had a commission, all of which have been lost & all prior to the last, under Colonel Polk were lost in my Port Mantud [?] on the Yadkin River

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

A. Daniel M Forney, Robert H Burton, James G Torrence, Alexander Torrince, Honorable Henry W Connors & many others.

S/ James Conner, X his mark

State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County:

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid James Conner who being duly sworn, depose, & saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. For six months, I served as a private. For six months I served as a Sergeant. For 22 months I served in the Continental service as Wagon Master. For three months, I served as Forage Master. For three months I served as Brigade Quarter Master. For 10 months I served as Regimental quartermaster, in a Regiment of Cavalry. Sworn to & subscribed the 20th day of August 1833.

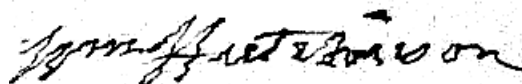
S/ James Conner, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County:

I William Hutchison³ do certify that I have been acquainted with James Conner of this County for upwards [of] 50 years and that he served in the revolutionary war & was out with me in the State of South Carolina and was appointed and acted as quarter master under Colonel William Polk the time of service was ten months which I believe the aforesaid James Conner served out. In testimony of what I have stated I have subscribed my and name this 26 day of February 1833

S/ Wm Hutchison

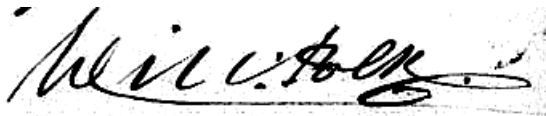


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State of North Carolina

I do certify that James Conner of Mecklenburg County in the State aforesaid was appointed and acted as Quarter Master in a Regiment by me commanded during the revolutionary War in the service of the State of South Carolina in a Brigade under the command of General Thomas Sumter. The Troops were enlisted for 10 months: whether Mr. Connor served the whole term or only a part of it, I am not able to say, having no documents whereby I can ascertain the fact. In testimony of what I have hereunto subscribed my name this 12th day of February 1833.

S/ Will. Polk⁴



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$273.32 sense per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private and quartermaster in the North Carolina militia & Continental line.]

³ [William Hutchison \(Hutchinson\) W10133](#)

⁴ [William Polk S3706](#)