

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Brockinton (Brockington) S9286

f31SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/29/08 rev'd 5/23/11 & rev'd 7/1/16

[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.]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina Kershaw District: SS

On this twenty third day of October personally appeared in open court before B J Earle Judge of Court of Common Pleas now sitting John Brockington a resident Citizen of the District of Kershaw and State aforesaid aged about Sixty ~~Eight~~ years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States as a soldier during the War of the revolution at the age of eighteen years, as a Substitute in the place of Mr. Cuttins of Prince George Winyaw in State of South Carolina under the command of Colonel Peter Horry. Deponent does not remember the precise day the month or year when he so entered the service, but says it was Sometime in the year, prior to the vacation of Charleston by the British [the British vacated Charleston South Carolina in December 1782], and Deponent says, to the best of his knowledge he served within two or three weeks of a year, about which time, peace being declared, he was discharged by Colonel Horry, and Deponent says, he being a poor Orphan boy, having no settled home, the papers containing his discharge were carried about with him in his pocket -- till they were worn out. Deponent states that Colonel Horry was under the command of General Francis Marion. This Deponent recollects Major Benson¹ who was killed in a surprised by the British at Wambaw,² near the residence of the widow Tiddyman [sic,

¹ Majors John Benson, William Benison and Thomas Benison were all killed in the action at Wambaw See, http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_wambaw_bridge.html . I will not speculate on which of these officers the affiant intended to name.

² February 24, 1782. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/wambaw-cr-br.htm> Terry W. Lipscomb, *Names in South Carolina*, "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles, Part Eight", University of South Carolina, English Dept., Winter, 1980, XXVII: p.18-19

Francis Marion had been elected a senator for the Parish of St. John Berkeley, and so about the middle of January he placed his brigade under the command of Colonel Peter Horry and traveled to Jacksonboro to take his seat in the Assembly. Shortly afterward, Horry, acting on Marion's advice, moved the brigade to Wambaw Creek near the Santee River, where forage was available and the troops would be more secure from harassment by the British. About the third week in February, the Americans received intelligence from their network of informers in Charleston that a major British expedition was being launched in the direction of the Cooper River. Marion occupied his seat in the legislature as long as he could, but finally he was compelled by military considerations to take his leave and return to his command with all possible speed.^{15[see below]}

Tidyman].³ The names of the other Officers are Captain Gough [possibly Richard Gough], 1st Captain William Withers, 2nd Capt. Capt. Laneud [Henry Lenud] 3rd Capt. Capt. Fishburn

On the morning of February 24. Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Thompson set out from Daniels Island with a British expedition consisting of the cavalry. Cunningham's and Young's troops of mounted militia, the yagers, the Volunteers of Ireland, a detachment from the 30th Regiment, and one three-pounder. This force was soon detected by Horry's scouts in St. Thomas's Parish, and Captain William Bennett hurried north to warn the main camp. At this time, Horry had gone across the river and left the brigade under the command of Colonel Archibald McDonald.^{16[see below]} The militia under McDonald were posted on the right, towards Echaw Creek, while Horry's Continental dragoons were posted on the left at Durand's plantation on Wambaw Creek. under the command of Major William Benison. When Captain Bennett arrived, he was unable to get either Benison or McDonald to take his report seriously, and so the Patriots were largely taken by surprise when the mounted troops of Thompson's force arrived late in the afternoon of the 24th and commenced their attack. The fighting began at Benison's position near Wambaw Bridge. The Patriot dragoons retreated across the bridge and causeway and drew up on a rise about one hundred yards on the north side of the creek. The Loyalist militia had followed them over the bridge. Anticipating that the Continentals would charge at any moment, Major John Doyle did not wait for the rest of the British force to arrive, but gave the signal for an attack by a blast on his whistle. The Loyalists charged, whereupon the Patriot dragoons fired their pistols, then broke in confusion and fled. The British pursuit was impeded when Wambaw Bridge broke down as their cavalry was attempting to cross, but the militia succeeded in dispersing both Benison's cavalry and McDonald's militia, the latter being under the immediate command of Major John James. British accounts stated that thirty or forty Americans were killed; among them was Major William Benison, who was killed by Major Young of the Loyalist militia, as he was about to cut down Lieutenant Jones, Thompson's adjutant, in single combat.

¹⁵ According to the journals of the Assembly, February 20 was the last day on which Marion was present. A.S. Salley. Jr.. ed.. *Journal of the Senate South Carolina. February 26, 1782, p. 106.*

¹⁶ For many years, historians have been erroneously identifying this officer as Adam McDonald. Major 'Adam McDonald of the First Regiment. South Carolina Continentals. died in December 1778 at his plantation. Colonel Archibald McDonald of the South Carolina Militia was captured and paroled by the British at the fall of Charleston. and resumed his command after he was exchanged on May 21, 1781. SCHM. Vol. 17. p. 152; .James. p. 92: Audited Accounts of Adam McDonald (AA5007-A) and Archibald McDonald (AA5008). South Carolina Archives.

³ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/tydiman.htm> Terry Lipscomb, *Names in South Carolina*, XXVII, Winter 1980, p.16, "South Carolina Revolutionary War Battles, Part Eight", English Dept., Univ. of South Carolina
*Marion received the news that his brigade had been defeated, while he was still thirty miles away at Mepkin plantation. He immediately set out for the Santee with Maham's cavalry regiment. These dragoons were under the command of Captain John Carraway Smith, Maham himself being absent when the news arrived. On **February 25**, Marion halted at Tidyman's plantation, not far from where the fighting had taken place on the previous day. Only half an hour later, the British under Thompson unexpectedly made their appearance again. Although each army was somewhat startled at encountering the other, both sides rapidly formed for battle and charged. By some mishap, the troops of Maham's Legion failed to understand their orders, and instead of executing a proper charge, they moved off into the woods on their right. The result was another American defeat, in which twenty of Marion's soldiers were killed and twelve made prisoners. The British also captured the officers' baggage, a number of fine horses, Marion's tent, and some canteens filled with rum. Many of the Patriots were forced to escape by swimming the river, and*

[William Fishburne] 4th Capt. --Lieutenant Stevens was 1st Lieutenant in the 2nd Company, to which company this Deponent was attached. Deponent also recollects Adjutant Huggin [Benjamin Huggins] and the names of the other officers this Deponent does not now remember.

Deponent states that during the time he was in service, being the most part of the year, he was not engaged, nor were the Corps to which he was attached engaged in any battle or battles during the term of his service, except the surprise before mentioned, in which Major Benson was killed at the widow Tiddyman's -- Deponent says his services were exclusively confined to the State of South Carolina, that he was always during the period of his servitude in active service, attending to the necessary duties of a Soldier, reconnoitering the country at various points, whithersoever the Officers under whose command Deponent served, saw proper to direct, viz. at Georgetown from thence to Santee and from thence to Haddrell's Point &c &c -- Deponent further says that he is very poor and needy, frail and infirm, his health generally bad and his Constitution much impaired, that his wife is also of delicate health of feeble and infirm old age, and nothing to depend upon for their support but his bodily labor which of late have greatly failed him and this circumstance has induced him to endeavor to avail himself of the proffered aid of his Co [country] that in obtaining which, he will sensibly field the truth of the maxim "that republics are not ungrateful."

Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim 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 of the United States.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ BJ Earle, Presiding Judge

S/ John Brockinton



[Thomas Berry a clergyman and Peter Warren gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 29]

South Carolina, Sumter District

Personally appeared before me Obadiah Spears⁴ & made oath that he was acquainted with a certain Jack Brockington who fought with him the said Obadiah under General Francis Marion in the war of the revolution -- that he was designated by persons best acquainted with him by the name of Jack (not John) Brockington.

some of them drowned in the attempt, including Lieutenant John Smiser. In the subsequent controversy over the conduct of Maham's corps, John Carraway Smith resigned his commission,^{17[see below]}

¹⁷*Life of Greene* vol. 2. p. 306-9; James. p'. 160-63: *The Royal Gazette* February 27, March 2. 1782: *British Headquarters Paper*, documents 9952,.9953; *Gibbes*. vol. 3 (1781-1782), p. 210-41. 260-61. For identification of Captain Bennett. see *Audited Account of Robert Quash* (AA6183). *South Carolina Archives*. For identification of Major Benison. see *Audited Account of William Benison* (AA440). Lieutenant Smiser is tentatively identified on the basis of the *Audited Account of Alexander Coldough* (AA1350). The spelling "Smiser" has been preferred to "Smizer" or "Smyser" because it is written this way in signatures on record at the Archives. The Loyalist Major Young was probably Major William Young of the Ninety Six militia. a prominent Tory from the area that is now Spartanburg County.

⁴ [Obadiah Spears S7586](#)

Sworn to before me/

S/ Obadiah Spears



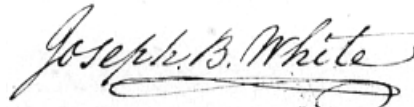
June 6, 1836
S/ C. W. Miller, JP

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Personally appeared before me at the time & place of the above affidavit, Joseph D. White & made oath that for the last fifty years he has known a certain Jack Brockington a resident of this the said State that he never knew any other person who might be supposed to be the person alluded to in the above affidavit except a certain John Brockington whom his father convicted of being a Tory in the revolution that the said John is now dead which precludes the idea of his having been the person alluded to -- that the said Jack Brockington alluded to (if it be the same) lived in the same neighborhood with the said John -- that they were within his (deponent's) knowledge distinct persons -- that the said Jack is now alive & is applying for his pension -- that he the said deponent believes that the said Jack Brockington alluded to in the foregoing affidavit of Obadiah Spears is the person who lives in this State -- & that he knows of no other Jack Brockington except a son of the said John whose age (being too young) would satisfy any mind that he could not have fought in the revolution.

Sworn to before me

S/ Joseph B. White



June 6, 1836
S/ C. W. Miller, JP

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State of South Carolina Kershaw District: Before me Hall T McGee Judge of the Court of Ordinary, for the District & State aforesaid, personally appeared, in open court Thomas Berry, who being duly sworn, on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, makes oath, that he now is, and has ever for the last fifty or fifty-one years been personally acquainted with John Brockington (who lately was admitted to the Pension Rolls of the United States for Revolutionary Services; which pension this deponent believes is suspended), that the said Brockington, was on the close of the Revolution, & for many years afterwards called Jack Brockington to designate him, from another John Brockington⁵ who was a Tory, and died upwards of thirty years ago: that John Brockington the applicant for pension was from the earliest recollection of him by this deponent considered and for the reputation by all the neighborhood where he resided & was known, as a true Whig, and for arms, in defense of his Country's liberties: and this deponent verily believes, that the services were rendered by said Brockington to justly entitled him to pension under the laws of the United States.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 28 June 1836 in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the Court

S/ Hall T. McGee, Judge

S/ Thomas Berry

⁵ I believe John Brockington to be the same man referred to in the correspondence contained in the file relating to the application of the widow of [John Faucheraud Grimke W11088](#).

Thomas Berry

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 11 months and 7 days service in the South Carolina militia as a private in the cavalry.]

C. Leon Harris offers the following additions and revisions to the transcript:

- 1) Tydiman should be Tidyman, as the name is spelled on the tombstone of Philip Tidyman, Sr. and by his literate son, Philip Tidyman, Jr.
- 2) Much of what you have in footnote 1 is quite good and based on Thompson's account written just hours after the battle at Wambaw Bridge, but some is derived from William Dobein James's 1821 Sketch of the Life of Marion, which we now know is unreliable. For example, there were no troops at Durand's Plantation (if there was such a place).
- 3) [In footnote 15 to the extensive quote from Terry Lipscomb set forth in footnote 2, Lipscomb notes:] "According to the journals of the Assembly. February 20 was the last day on which Marion was present. A.S. Salley. Jr. ed.. Journal of the Senate South Carolina. February **26**, 1782, p. 106." Last night I looked at the published version online (<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b3001844;view=1up;seq=110>), and the date is actually February 20. So Marion actually left in response to Thompson's foraging expedition around the Cooper River that day.
- 4) In footnote 2 [sic, 3] you [sic, Terry Lipscomb] repeat[s] the often repeated statement that John Carraway Smith resigned the day after the battle at Tidyman's, but in a letter dated March 1 Marion still referred to him as Capt. Smith, and Smith's 1776 commission was renewed in April (see his widow's pension application). The statement goes back at least to Simms's biography of Marion in 1844, which is unsourced.