

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to Maurice Simons SC1501
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 7012

AA45

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/5/19

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

4th February 1778
Report
On the Petition
of Maurice Simons
R. 1 1778

[p 3]

The Committee to whom the Petition and Memorial
of Maurice Simmons [sic, Maurice Simons] Esqr. was referred

Report

That they had considered the Allegations contained in the said Petition and Memorial,² and found that the Memorialist had for the time set forth in his Petition acted as an officer in the Charlestown Regiment of Militia, and that he received the Commission of Lieutenant Colonel of the said Regiment on the first day of August last – That with the permission of this House his Excellency the President, and the Colonel of the Regiment the Memorialist soon after went to Virginia on business of a public Nature and was absent about Six Weeks from this State. That during his absence on the resignation of Colonel Pinckney [Charles Cotesworth Pinckney] then commanding officer of the Charlestown Regiment of Militia Peter Logan Esqr. a Junior Officer to Mr. Simmons was appointed to the Command of the said Regiment, and the Commission of Lieutenant Colonel being given to the Honorable Roger Smith also a younger officer than Mr. Simmons. That upon the Memorialist's return to this State he presented a Petition to the President & Privy Council requesting reparation for the unfavorable treatment he had met with or by making known to the public the reason of it, and granting him an opportunity of justifying himself before the same respectable tribunal; – in consequence thereof the following reasons were assigned by the Honorable the Privy Council “That upon the resignation of Charles Pinckney Esquire who commanded the Charleston Militia, Maurice Simmons Esquire who had but lately obtained the Lieutenant Colonel's Commission in that Regiment by Seniority, being

¹ 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. The “SC” file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

² The veteran's Petition and Memorial are not among the documents in this file.

then absent from the State and the time of his return utterly uncertain, the State also being then threatened with a speedy invasion, and the Council conceiving it to be a fundamental principle in the American Policy that Men were to be put into public Stations from their merit and ability to serve the Public rather than for any Claim of Seniority or Custom; advised that such Gentlemen should be appointed Field Officers as were present in the State, and were likely to engage the Militia to serve the Public with efficiency in the present exigence of affairs.”

Your Committee further report that Mr. Simmons (in order to contradict the implied charge of his want of merit & ability to serve the Public contained in the above reasons for the Commissions assigned by the privy Council) produced several witnesses to your Committee whose examinations are to the following purport:

Colonel Isaac Huger, said that he was in Georgia in August and September 1776 when Colonel Simmons acted there in quality of Brigade Major; and performed his Duty with the greatest readiness & propriety, and that he remembers to have frequently heard General Lee [Charles Lee, then commander of the Southern Division of the Continental Army] discourse [?], that he was surprised that a Gentlemen who had been so short a time in the Service could have acquired so much knowledge of the duties of a Brigade Major as Mr. Simmons had done, and that he could recommend him in a very particular manner to the President for his readiness and attention to his duty – That he had also heard General Howe [Robert Howe, successor to Charles Lee as Commander of the southern Division of the Continental Army] express his sentiments [indecipherable word] in Colonel Simmons’ favor with regard to his abilities & attention as Brigade Major. And that from his own observation & knowledge he was of opinion that Mr. Simmons acted with much propriety in that Capacity as an old Experienced Officer could have done, & with such [indecipherable word] that he imagined a Gentlemen could possibly have done in so short a time – Colonel Huger added that he served with Colonel Simmons about a month in Charlestown and near two months in Georgia and that he never heard his Character for merit and ability at all questioned but that he gave general satisfaction to every Field Officer who he heard speak of him.

Colonel McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh] said that he served with Mr. Simmons in Georgia, and that he executed his orders in a manner becoming an officer & behaved with great attention and activity in the station he was in –

General Moultrie [William Moultrie] said that he was in Georgia when Mr. Simmons acted as Brigade Major, that he always had his guards paraded & marched off in a soldier like manner & was always very attentive and active – that he had frequently heard General Lee express his surprise that a Gentleman in so short a time could make so good a Brigade Major –

Major Huger said that during the time Colonel Simmons was doing duty as Brigade Major in Georgia, from everything he could see or hear he behaved with the greatest propriety, and that he never heard the least insinuation of his want of ability, but that everybody seemed to think he did his duty as a good officer –

Colonel Cattell [William Cattell] [? surname written over and difficult to discern] said that Colonel Simmons’ Conduct as Brigade Major as far as came to his knowledge was that of an officer who filled his Commission with great Credit to himself; that he always had his Guards & detachments paraded in time & his orders regularly delivered.

Colonel Mason [probably Lt. Col. James Mayson] says that he served with Mr. Simmons in Georgia in the Month of last August, September & part of October, and that he remembers to have heard General Lee and General Howe speak of him with applause as an officer; and that as

to himself he was surprised with the readiness and exactness with which he went through the business of Brigade Major, & that as far as came to his knowledge he gave general satisfaction. Captain Harleston [? perhaps Isaac Child Harleston him]³ said that he has several times heard General Howe speak of Colonel Simmons in terms [?] of approbation, and learnt [?] that he was about to resign his Commission of Brigade Major, and desired him to speak to Colonel Simmons to remain in the line as he thought him an exceeding good officer and that it was for the good of the Service that he should do so, and that he had no doubt but that Council [?] could confirm his appointment & that his rise could be rapid –

Colonel Pinckney said that Mr. Simmons served with him for many years in the Charleston Regiment of Militia both while he was Captain & Field Officer, & that he always found him ready to do his duty, & he actively did do his duty as well as any officer in it; and that one reason among others that he had for resigning his Commission was that he thought he should leave the Regiment under the Command of Colonel Simmons, who would give the public great satisfaction in that station.

Your Committee also read a letter⁴ from General Howe to Mr. Simmons to which they beg leave to refer –

Your Committee having fully considered of the premises & deliberated thereon further report, that at the same time that they recognize and approve of the sentiment of the Council “that it is a fundamental principle in the American Policy that men are to be put into public stations from their merit and ability to serve the public rather than from any Claim of Seniority or Custom,” they are not withstanding of opinion that the power of superseding officers should be exercised [indecipherable word],⁵ and from the Character that has been given Mr. Simmons by the Gentlemen whose examinations are above set forth they are also of opinion that Mr. Simmons had both merit and ability to serve the State an officer, and that he was and is deserving of the commission of Colonel of the Charlestown Regiment of Militia – and as your Committee is informed that the Commission of Colonel of the said Regiment is absent an opportunity now [word written over and rendered illegible] of doing Justice to Mr. Simmons without interfering with [several words written over and rendered illegible], They recommend that a Copy of this Report and a Message be sent to his Excellency the President requesting him to appoint Maurice Simmons Esqr. Colonel of said Regiment.

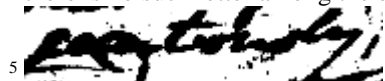
[Note: Here is a sample of Col. Maurice Simons' signature]





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⁴ there is no such letter among the documents in this file



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