

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to Edward Fenwick [Fenwicke] SC2707 pp59
Audited Account No. 2345

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/6/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 30]

To the Honorable John Faucheraud Grimke,² Speaker and the rest of the Honorable Members of the House of Representatives

The Petition of Edward Fenwick

Humbly Sheweth

That during the late contest between these United States and Great Britain, your Petitioner unhappily engaged in the service of the latter; in consequence of which he acknowledges that the Resentment of his Countrymen hath been Justly shewn against him.

That however while he continued in the British Service he endeavored to lessen the horrors of war by every office of Humanity and attention towards the Persons and property of those who fell within his Power;

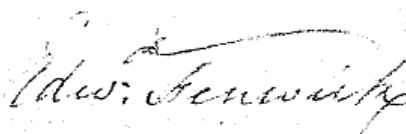
That being now extremely desirous of becoming a Citizen of this State and of endeavoring by his future Services to eradicate the Memory of his having opposed his Countrymen he throws himself upon their Mercy hopes for their Pardon and Requests that he once more may be received as a Son of America.

And Your Petitioner As in Duty Bound Shall Ever Pray &c

Charleston

January 25th 1785

S/ Edwd. Fenwick



[p 32 & 33]

To His Excellency Governor Guerard [Benjamin Guerard]

¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) 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. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

² [John Faucheraud Grimke W11088](#)

General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] letter relative to Colonel Fenwick, dated 1784 but seemingly not Communicated by Governor G. Until 1785
M. 13, 1785

[p 35]

Copy of a Certificate given to Colonel Fenwick with the British Army –

These may Certify that Colonel Fenwick in the British Army has agreed to send me intelligence from time to time of all the Military operations of the Enemy which they may concert to the Prejudice of the United States or any part thereof; and that he agrees to run every risque necessary to give the earliest intelligence for saving the States harmless. I do further certify that he has been in this employ for some months past and that on all occasions has served with fidelity and ability. He the said Fenwick is to keep with the British Army until the close of the war and give intelligence from time to time as aforesaid. Upon performing this duty faithfully I do promise to use all my influence with the State of South Carolina to restore him to all his fortunes and the rights and privileges of a Citizen. And if the State of South Carolina should refuse to restore him for whose particular benefit he engaged in this service I do promise and engage to recommend his case to Congress for such compensation as they may think his Services claim.

Given at Head Quarters

August 14th 1782

S/ Nath Greene

a true copy from the original files of the papers in my possession

S/ Nath Greene



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And I do further Certify that Colonel Fenwick continued to give intelligence until the British Army left Charleston since which I have not heard from him. And from the services he rendered to the Army I beg leave to recommend him to the Legislature agreeable to promise as highly deserving their forgiveness and entitled to their consideration. – Colonel Fenwick's case would have been recommended to the Legislature at an earlier date but he being with the British Army I thought he might fall a sacrifice in consequence of it.

Given at Newport

March 30th 1784

S/ Nath Greene

[p 39]

Charleston Sept 19th, 1784

Sir

I addressed your Excellency and the Legislature of this State last Spring in behalf of Colonel Edward Fenwick of the British Army in consequence of a compact made with him by Captain Wilmot [William Wilmot of the Maryland Line?]³ and confirmed by me for obtaining intelligence of the motions and intentions of the British forces while they were in possession of

³ Wilmot was killed on John's Island, South Carolina on November 4, 1782. Heitman 440

Charleston. The conditions of the contract were set forth in the papers enclosed in that letter, and to which was added my recommendation on the subject.

Since my arrival at this place I received the enclosed letter from the Colonel and altho he has since arrived here himself and explained away that paragraph which seemed to cancel all his claim upon the contract as having acted with the knowledge and consent of the british commander, yet I think myself bound to lay the letter before the Legislature that they may judge for themselves from all the circumstances of the merit of his conduct. The Colonel says the british commander advised him to make his peace with his Country; but that he never had the most distant hint of the mode he adopted to effect it, either at the time or since. It is unnecessary to add on the subject the Colonel is here and subject to such interrogations as your Excellency or the Legislature may think necessary for the discovery of truth or to do him Justice.

I have the honor to be
with respect

Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
humble Sert
S/ Nath Greene

his Excellency
Governor Guerard

[p 43]

Charleston Feb. 5th 1785.

Sir

Mr. Fenwick's extreme anxiety for his fate from his peculiar situation solicits this letter of address. I hope the occasion and the Agency I had in the business will apologize for the liberty I take in the matter. I mean not to urge anything prejudicial either to the honor or the interest of this State; but subjects of this sort are of extreme delicate nature and claim tenderness and indulgence. In parliamentary debates in Great Britain matters of intelligence are held sacred and where public faith is pledged national honor stands responsible. Objects of this kind in the hours of tranquility loose much of their force but they are not unimportant. Not to have an eye to future evils would be wide of the mark of a just policy. Intelligence to an army is like the soul to the body it directs all its motions. To obtain this with the greatest certainty and to have an opportunity of comparing different accounts created a necessity for employing a number of persons in this service – among whom Mr. Fenwick's intelligence was accurate and seasonable. We had timely information from him to counteract several British detachments. All the Country can witness from their continual alarms how necessary this was for their safety. And when I consider how much men are disposed for war, and how many political intrigues are employed to effect it, I cannot help apprehending this may be our situation at some future day. Should we wound public confidence from too nice an examination into the motives and conduct of people employed for such purposes many evils may attend this Country which might be avoided. Mr. Fenwick's claims will no doubt have a just consideration. – And to forgive those we have in our power discovers greatness of soul and generosity of temper. Under the influence of this Opinion I am persuaded I shall never have to reproach myself of having betrayed a Man into a situation fatal to himself and ruinous to his family.

I have the honor to be
with due respect

Your Excellency's
most Obedient
humble Servant
S/ Nath Greene



His Excellency
Governor Guerard

[p 47]

Copy of an agreement between Colonel Edward Fenwick of the british Army and Captain Wilmot [sic] of the American Army –

Captain Wilmot proposed to Colonel Fenwick to furnish intelligence who agreed to engage in the business provided General Greene would agree to use his influence with Government to have him restored to his Estate and be admitted as a Citizen with the rank of a Colonel to keep him from doing Militia duty and he on those terms will go with the british Army until the war is over or leave them just as General Greene shall think most proper. It is not expected that General Greene is further bound than his influence will extend. And the substance of the agreement between me and Colonel Fenwick is as above

S/ Wm Wilmot Capt.

The above a true copy from the original papers on file

S/ Nath Greene



To all it may concern

[p 50: another copy of the above agreement except in this one Greene has spelled Wilmot's name correctly in the body of the copy and the word british is capitalized.]

[p 51: another copy of Greene's letter dated August 14th, 1782 transcribed from page 35 above]

[p 53]

A Message from his Excellency the Governor, with a letter from General Greene 23rd February 1786

Committee
Doct. Olyphant
Genl. Barnwell
Col. Hill
16.12.1786

[p 54]

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,
Gentlemen,

I take the liberty of laying before you, for your consideration, a copy of a letter I received from General Green [sic], agreeable to his request
Charleston the 23rd February 1786

S/ Willm Moutrie



[p 56]

Savanna February 12th, 1786

Sir,

From my peculiar situation & from the nature of my engagements, I am reduced to the disagreeable alternative of forfeiting my promise or of addressing your Excellency once more upon the affairs of Mr. Fenwick – Hard is my fate & cruel is the necessity – My feelings revolt at the business when I consider the light in which it may be taken – It is true I am not responsible for consequences, but private honor & public faith compel me to speak when I would wish to be Silent – If my forward Zeal in the hour of public calamity for the common safety of this Country has led me into measures in this & other matters which the sober season of tranquility cannot approve – I can only say that they cannot be more inconvenient to the public than they have been painful & distressing to me – The nature of my engagements in this business & the incidents attending the affair have all been stated in my former letters on this subject, – To repeat them again I cannot think necessary upon this occasion.

Mr. Fenwick's application at this moment originates in a resolution of the Honorable the Senate of the 8th of this Instant relative to Banished persons – it is difficult for me to suppose him included in that resolution after the Steps which have been taken in his favor – To grant him his property & not the right of enjoying it would be too personal to comport with the dignity of a Legislature – Nor can I consider his residence a matter of such importance – However he may have offended, his attempt to restore himself having placed him in a peculiar situation, give him some claim to your pity & consideration. – His losses & sufferings in England in matters of fortune since this business took air, will no doubt have some weight in deciding upon the question. I shall say no more than necessity obligates me & leave the event to the justice & humanity of the Legislature – If Mr. Fenwick should be included in that resolve of the 8th – which I am persuaded he is not, I must beg your Excellency to lay this Letter before that Honorable Body & solicit their reconsideration of the matter – I have the honor to be

with the most perfect respect

Your Excellency's

most obedient

Humble Servant

S/ Nath: Greene



His Excellency
Governor Moultrie

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The Committee to whom the Governor's Message of the 23rd Instant was referred accompanied with a letter from Major General Greene

Report

Having maturely considered the Subject of General Greene's letter of the 12th Instant, laid before this house by his Excellency the Governor, Your Committee are of Opinion, that due Attention all to be paid to the matter therein contained & as it appears to them that the General in his Official Capacity, entered into a solemn engagement, to procure relief to a person, who had been of service to this Country in the hour of public Calamity, Your Committee recommend in order to support the public faith & the private honor of the Commander of your Troops, that the request set forth in his letter be granted –