

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to Hugh Alexander Nixon SC3303
Audited Account No. 5537A

pp23

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/26/21

[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 2]

Petition of H. A. Nixon to the Honorable The Senate
Comptroller General
Captain Hart

[p 3]

To the Honorable the President, and Members of the Senate, –
The Petition of Hugh Alexander Nixon formally serving on board the State frigate
South Carolina.² –

Humbly Sheweth. –

That your Petitioner having served in the revolutionary War in the States service on board the Frigate the *South Carolina*, as a Midshipman, that there remained a Balance of Prize money due to the officers and crew belonging to said ship, which was to have been Accounted for – first by a Brig laden with fish, captured and carried into St. Croix, the Isle of Teneriffe [Tenerife] from there sent to Cadiz to Messrs Butler & Mathews and sold, Second for Prize goods, reserved for State use, out of the five prizes captured and taken into the Havana, the Isle of Cuba, which

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 *South Carolina*. Foote: 112-116, 119, 120, Sch V: 55, M: 274, privateer man of war of 40 guns, 1355 tons, manned by 540 men, which left the Texel (the Netherlands) on 25 August 1781, with SC Navy Commodore Alexander Gillon in command. This vessel was the property of France, originally the *Indien*, built in Holland, loaned to the State of South Carolina for 3 years for privateering. It took part in the Spanish/American capture of Nassau in 1782, under Capt John Joyner. The ship was taken by the British in Sep 1782, and crew sent to prison in New York. One of its prizes was taken Sep 1781 and one of its prize crew sent to Mill Prison. (Clark: I: 138 shows her captured 19 Dec 1782, by the British *Astrea*, *Diomeda*, *Quebec*. The ship is said to have arrived in New York on 24 Dec.) Ford1782:309, 632, 703, Ford1784:332. JA6:295, 9:491. CTN: 58. CTP: 123. Foote: 120-121, Caleb Foote served as a seaman on the *South Carolina* for 14 months. DaviesXIX:2156, Germans in crew. Volo: 53. Silverstone: 20. Paullin: 448. Chappelle: 96, 116. Coggins: 102. <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20S.html>

See also, James A. Lewis, *Neptune's Militia: The Frigate South Carolina during the American Revolution*, Kent, Ohio: The Kent State University Press, 1999

See also, D. E. Huger Smith. Commodore Alexander Gillon and the Frigate South Carolina *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* Vol. 9, No. 4 (Oct., 1908), pp. 189-219

was to have been Accounted for, a statement of which your petitioner conceives is affixed on the portage Bill book of said ship. – Third for the Bahama expedition entered into at the Havana, with the Spanish Government, when the said Frigate was engaged in the service of General Cagigal [Juan Manuel de Cagigal y Monserrat, Colonial Governor of Cuba in 1781 – 1782]: – which took place in the month of April 1782. – And in the beginning of May following the said Islands were reduced, and put into the hands of the Spanish Government, all for which no compensation has ever been received. –

Your Petitioner was in hope, something would have been done to compensate the Officers and crew of your Ship, serving faithfully in the service until said Ship was Captured by the British in the Month of December 1782 and carried into New York.

That the length of time your petitioner – laboured under bodily infirmity rendered him incapable of attending to this business, that your petitioner, put it into the hands of a Gentlemen, whom he was in hope would have brought it forward. – He therefore now humbly begs leave to ask of you will Honorable House to be kind enough to take his Case into your consideration, as well also as that of his late Brother John Nixon, who served on board said Ship, as Secretary to the late A. Gillon [Alexander Gillon] Esquire then Commodore &c of the Navy of the State. –

Your petitioner humbly prays your Honorable House, either to appoint a Committee to investigate your petitioner’s claims, or to Direct your Officer the Comptroller to investigate the same, that whatever appears due to your petitioner, as well also on the Account of the said John Nixon, (whose representative he now is,) – to pay such balance, as well, as such Interest as you may deem right to allow. –

That your petitioner states respecting the Bahama Expedition, he thinks it would be something handsome Accruing to the State, as well also to every individual on that service, that if on the necessary applications at the proper heads, the Spanish Government certainly stands indebted to the State for that Service, and that your petitioner thinks that on Examination of the records of the Executive of the Isle of Cuba, at that time sufficient, would be found to prove this claim.

Your Honorable House taking your Petitioner’s case into your consideration, and granting him such relief, as in your wisdom shall deem meet,³ he, as in Duty bound will pray. –

S/ Hugh Alexander Nixon



Columbia December 2nd 1806

[pp 7-9: identical petition addressed to the South Carolina House of Representatives]

[p 11]

South Carolina

To the Honorable William Smith
Esquire, President of the Senate
and the other Members thereof

³ In Samuel Johnson’s Dictionary of 1755, the first definition of the word “meet” he gives is “Fit; proper....” Johnson noted that even at that time the word “meet” was rarely so used. It must have become fairly popular in South Carolina in the early 1800’s, however, as it appears in many petitions submitted to the SC Legislature.

The Comptroller General to whom was referred by the Senate the Petition of Hugh A. Nixon respectfully reports.

That he has fully examined the Claim of the Petitioner & finds that Mr. Nixon was on board the Ship *South Carolina* during the War under the Command of Alexander Gillon as a Midshipman and that the Brother of the Petitioner was on board the said Ship in the Character of Secretary to Commodore Gillon –

That there does not appear to be due to them on the portage bill book any balance for pay or prize money – That by Evidence in the Comptroller General's Office it appears that the Petitioner & his Brother John Nixon have been paid the Sums respectively due them –

With respect to that part of the Petition of Mr. Nixon which relates to the Bahama Expedition & his claim founded thereon The Comptroller begs leave to state that no Sum has ever been received from the Spanish Government for the Aid afforded them by Commodore Gillon in the reduction of Providence – That repeated attempts have been made to procure from the public Offices at the Havana some Evidence upon which the State might prefer a Claim against the Spanish Government for the Service, rendered them by Commodore Gillon but without Success. – That no Contract or any other Papers have ever been received from A. Gillon upon which such a Claim could be founded – Under the Circumstances it is not believed that Mr. Nixon can have any demand on the State in that Account

Respectfully submitted by

S/ Thomas Lee, Comptroller General

[p 15]

South Carolina

To the Honorable James
R. Pringle President & the other
members of the Honorable the Senate

The Comptroller General to whom at your last session were referred the petition of H. A. Nixon on his own Account & as administrator of John Nixon, Thomas Fitzgerald, Henry Laurence & James Carpenter praying payment of the Several Sums due them respectively

Reports – That he has carefully investigated the Subject and finds that the petitioner in his own right received an Indent for £169.3.5 and was afterwards paid the balance due him on the Portage bill book of £9.3.5

That Henry Laurence received an Indent for £116.9.10 & was paid on the 18 February 1808 the balance due him of £18.6.10 –

That John Nixon received an Indent for £145.17.2 and that there is still due his Estate a balance of £18.6.10

That Thomas Fitzgerald received an Indent for £417.18.10 and that there is due his Estate a balance of £31.13.11

That James Carpenter received an Indent for £318.1.10 and that there is a balance due of £18.6.10.

That the Vouchers for all the payments are in the hands of your Officer

The Comptroller General respectfully observes that administration on the Several Estates before mentioned was not granted before the 10 January 1807 and Consequently that no person was Authorized to receive the balances due – he therefore Submits the Question whether Interest ought to be calculated on such balances from any prior date as the State were always ready to pay such Claims and always had a surplus in the Treasury which would have enabled them to pay them.

Respectfully submitted

S/ Thomas Lee, Comptroller General

[Note: The prayer of the petition was rejected]