

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to Benjamin West, Sr. SC3384
Audited Account No. 8365

pp39

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/16/21

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

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The Petition of Benjamin West praying payment for property lost in the Service of this State during the Revolutionary War
Claims
Rejected

[p 33]

To the honourable the President and other members of the Senate & the Speaker and other members of the house of representatives of the State of South Carolina in exhibiting to your honourable views at your last annual meeting a petition² praying to be placed on the list of pensioners your humble petitioner did not in that petition enumerate all of the services he had rendered to the Union to procure the blessing of an independent government. That at the commencement of the Revolution your petitioner resided in the State of North Carolina Bute County where in the year 1778 he was drafted as a foot militia man marched through this State (South Carolina) into the State of Georgia placed under the command of General Ash [John Ashe) and on briar creek [Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]³ got defeated by the British and was compelled to swim the creek endeavoring to save his own life from thence after the stragglers were gathered together he was placed under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] marched to the battle⁴ of a place then on by the name of Puryburg from there he set out for home in North Carolina (having served his time out and got a discharge) and bore his own expenses and there being surrounded by a numerous horde of Tories he removed himself and family to Spartanburg District in this State where in the spring season of the year 1780 he entered the line of service of this State as a mounted volunteer militia man furnishing himself

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.

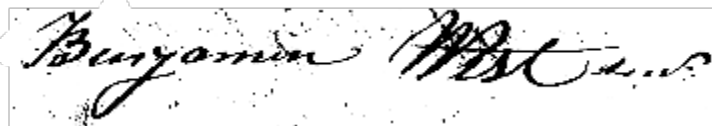
² The file does not contain an earlier petition.

³ Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

⁴ probably a reference to the battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779
https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

with his own horse saddle and bridle Gun and shot bag horse worth seventy-five or eighty Dollars saddle and bridle worth ten Dollars Gun and shot bag worth fifteen Dollars he was placed under the command of Captain John Lawson who was shortly after killed near Wafford's iron works he was then put under the command of Captain Jeremiah Dickson and was on Flank guard duty in Colonel John Thomas's regiment at the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] when General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] defeated Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] from thence he was ordered as a flying Corps to repair to a place then known by the name of Ninety Six under the command of General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] and when he arrived in the neighborhood of that place he was placed under command of Colonel Hayes [Joseph Hayes of the Little River Militia Regiment], and ordered to go round the British Garrison then at Ninety Six & endeavoring to draw them out of the Fort and on that dangerous enterprise on Cuffy town creek was attacked by a body of Tories and compelled to a precipitant retreat & on that retreat his horse jumped with his 4 feet into a hole where a lightwood stump had been burned out (as he supposes) and fell and threw him off and when he got up his horse had got up before him and was following off some of his brother soldiers he called to them to stop his horse but all was deaf to the cry of distress he was once more compelled to betake himself to fight on foot and merely saved his life by throwing himself into a clump of briars that happened in his way and after the tumult of the battle was over he made his way in a strange land to the dwelling house of Colonel Reed where he was found by the Army that he belonged to with the loss of his horse saddle and bridle Gun and shot bag and all his wearing apparel except his shirt & britches (then so called) where he rejoined the Army again and continued in service of this State to the end of the war without till yet receiving any compensation for the loss of his property. Annual petitioner having no mechanical profession but compelled by imperious necessity to cultivate the earth for support now in the seventy fourth year of his age and from the scanty remains of property now in his possession a schedule⁵ of which was sent to your Honourable House at last session he hopes Your honours will take his case as it respects the loss of property into your consideration and grant such relief as from the premises you in your discretions shall seem meet⁶ and your petitioner in duty bound will ever pray.

S/ Benjamin West, Senr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Benjamin West, Senr.", enclosed in a decorative, slightly irregular rectangular border.

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South Carolina Greenville District} Personally came William Wood⁷ before me the subscribing Justice and made oath that he was in service of this State in the Revolutionary war between the United States of America and Great Britain under the command of Captain Jeremiah Dickson and that the horse bridle saddle Gun & shot bag mentioned in the petition of Benjamin West Senior he knows the said West did furnish himself with as his own property and at the time and place mentioned in the said petition he did lose his horse bridle saddle Gun and shot bag and that the said West never received any compensation for the same agreeable to the best of his

⁵ the file does not contain such a schedule

⁶ 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.

⁷ [William Wood S21589](#)

knowledge and belief and that the price put by the said West on the property is not more than it was then worth to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th of October 1829

S/ David Jackson, JQ

S/ William Wood, X his mark

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South Carolina Greenville District} Personally came Benjamin West Senior before me the
subscribing Justice and made oath that he did lose in the service of this State in the
Revolutionary war between the United States and Great Britain the property mentioned in the
accompanying petition and has never received any compensation for the same directly or
indirectly sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th of October 1829

S/ David Jackson, JQ

S/ Benjamin West Senior, X his mark

[Note: Receipts in the file reflect that Benjamin West was placed on the South Carolina pension roll at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing May 25, 1830 and the last such receipt being dated May 26, 1834.]