

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to John James SC4279
Audited Account No. 3993

pp79

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/16/23

[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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a petition to the house of Representatives of the State of So. Carolina by John James
The Petition of John James praying to be rewarded for Revolutionary Services
William Salters
Claims
Rejected

[p 63]

To the Honorable Speaker: and members of the house of Representatives of the State of South Carolina.

The petition of John James of Williamsburg District in said State
humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner in the Revolutionary war, found some supplies for a detached part of the Army, and also did militia duty as a private, and three or four months of the time, acted as adjutant in Col. McDonald's [John McDonald of Georgetown District Regiment] Regiment: not being Commissioned, but appointed from the ranks to that duty; I have omitted making any separate charge of it, more than privates duty. This duty I performed at certain intervals from the 18 November 1779 until the conclusion of the War in 1782: for which I have not yet received any compensation from the State. In the time of that War, I obtained a certificate from the commanding officer of a detached party of Continental troops for a supply of Rations for his command amounting to £9.3.8 Sterling. And also certificates from the proper officers for two months duty in the militia, as a private. These being the only vouchers I had then obtained for my services, I handed them into Za Horaey [?],² the Commissioner appointed by the State for

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.

George Town District, to receive, and return them to the auditor's office, and for which I took his certificate for his performance; which certificate I have herewith sent for your Honorable body's inspection. Whether or not these accounts was by said Commissioner returned to said office, I am not able to say or if returned, if they passed into an indent; I cannot say. But if it did, I never could to this day obtain it from that office; although I made frequent application for it: and at the same time producing, or had produced to them for their satisfaction the certificate I had obtained from the Commissioner, that I had sent in such an account to him. Their reply was that no such Indent was in the office; nor could it be found there and That I never sold, or otherwise disposed of it: my affidavit herewith sent does attest.

My other two accounts, accompanying this petition, amounting to £64.9.2 ¼ [? very faint] Sterling, is for other tours of militia duty done by me besides those two months mentioned in the commissioners Certificate and for your pay whilst I was a prisoner on parole and for all which I have not received any compensation [image of the balance of the first page of this petition is illegible as posted online]

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Regiment in which I performed said services, when the Commissioner called on me for my returns and vouchers above mentioned (for it was a notorious fact, that some officers was very negligent in giving the private Certificates when they were dismissed from a tour of duty, which was generally every other month) and when thus called on, I had to go from Officer to officer through the Regiment; to obtain them: and before I could get this accomplished, the time that the State had allowed the citizens to render them in had expired. I then considered it as a hopeless attempt to get them passed: and made none until now. But understanding that your Honorable body does now very justly receive and discharge many, if not all such accounts, I take the liberty with your leave to present them; in hopes they will be favorably received and discharged: together with the Indents due me, For no doubt you will think with me it was hard earned money and late paid wages. Your Honorable body for what I know, may object to one item of this account; and say it is too much money to pay for a year on parole, when you were all the time at home attending to your domestic concerns, But I trust you will think otherwise, when I inform you of my danger in keeping said parole; and nothing could have induced me to it, but a sense of honor: for I was thereby bound to deliver myself up to the enemy at any time when they, or any part of them, might command me to do so. It also confined me to my plantation: and absence from it when called on by them, they considered as a breach of it. Twice before I was exchanged did they summons me to appear and give an account of myself; once before their Commandant in George Town: the other time before Major Weymes [Major James Wemyss] at his headquarters in the neighborhood where I lived: and he confined me under his main guard for about Twenty four hours; accusing me of having broken my parole: and that his information came from one of the Royalist: and if proved would have me immediately hung to the limb of a tree he showed me, nor did it altogether expire in threats, for I

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was very credibly informed, by one of my neighbors; a man of veracity; that an officer, with a party of men from said party, came to his house and Interrogated him very close with threats whether he knew I had broken my parole to tell him, or if he did not, and he found it out, would make him suffer. And I well believe that the Negroes on the plantation was also inquired at if they knew any such things against me, many Tories was then in his Camp, who was personally acquainted with me that was bitter enemies to the cause of freedom; and all those who were then engaged in the contest for it; and was earnestly seeking every opportunity to Ingratiate

themselves with the British officers: I was thereby in eminent [sic] danger of being falsely accused by them and home. It was God's mercy only that prevented it. It is not all the money in the treasury of our State that could induce me to run such another risk, as I did then. I hope therefore, your Honorable body will pass my whole account entire. And as in duty bound will ever pray. –

July 4th, 1821

S/ Jno James

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jno James". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a prominent initial "J".

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The Committee on Claims to whom was referred the petition of John James praying to be rewarded for Revolutionary Services

Beg leave to Report

That they have had the same under consideration and recommend that the prayer thereof be not granted.

S/ Thomas Carr, Chairman