

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Henderson W10102

Elizabeth Henderson

f64SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/2/11 & 12/18/15

[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' 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.]

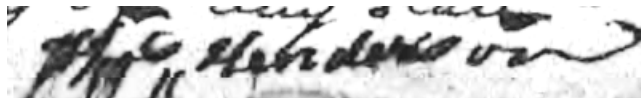
[p 8]

South Carolina Greenville District: March Term 1833

On this 20th day of March 1833 Personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Josiah J Evans in the Court of Sessions & Common Pleas for said District in State aforesaid now sitting Major Thomas Henderson a resident of Pickens District and State aforesaid aged seventy-one years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. ~~That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.~~ That he entered the service in New York District South Carolina as a volunteer under Captain Robert Thompson and marched to Catawba River was at the defeat of Colonel Cary [Lt. Col. James Carey, a Tory officer, was defeated at fort constructed by him; the defeat occurred on August 15, 1780]¹ Captain Thompson then deserted, he the said Thomas Henderson then received a Lieutenant's Commission signed by Colonel William Bratton and was under Captain John Cunningham and marched to the Hanging Rock battle [Hanging Rock, August 6, 1780] – commanded as Lieutenant and fought in that battle. Likewise commanded as Lieutenant at Sumpters [Thomas Sumter's] defeat [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780], there lost his horse with all the trappings. That he was detached by General Sumpter ~~to drive a party of~~ go under the command of Colonel Wade Hampton to drive a party of the British from the Quarter house. That he was in the service for about three years except about one month on (Parole) ^{I meant furlough} suffered a great deal of privations and hardships, was in a number of skirmishes but cannot recollect all the Particulars. That he was at one time under the command of Colonel James Hawthorn rendering services in the Dutch fork – was considerably in service after the defeat of Lord Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] in keeping the Tories in subjection. That there was 34 pounds 16 shillings and 4 pence of his pay which he has never received – and that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present – and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Jno. Daniel, CGD

S/ Thos. Henderson



¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_careys_ferry.html

In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department – this deponent saith 1st I was born in Lincoln County North Carolina in the year 1762 –

2nd I have it on record taken from my Father's Family Bible.

3rd In York District South Carolina and removed from there in 1788 to my present residence in Pickens District South Carolina and have remained on the same Plantation to the present Time –

4th I entered the service a volunteer in the light horse and continued as such –

5th I recollect Colonel Washington [William Washington] and Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] of the Horse Service – was myself a Lieutenant under Colonel William Bratton and General Thomas Sumter –

6th I did receive a Lieutenant's Commission in the year 1780 – signed by Colonel William Bratton which I retained until I removed from York District in the year 1788 and then lost my Pocket book and my commission

7th Major Andrew Hamilton, Doctor John Robinson, Captain James Henderson, Edward Norton Esquire and a number of others I believe would testify as to my veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution – Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

S/ Jno. Daniel, CGD

S/ Thos. Henderson

[James Dauthit, a clergyman, and Edward Norton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 23]

State of South Carolina Pickens District

Personally came Major John Henderson before me James Osborn one of the Justices of Quorum for the State and District aforesaid and made oath in due form of law – that, the reason [paper torn, text missing] made his declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, in Greenville [text missing], he resides only about ten miles from Greenville C H since its establishment, and was well acquainted at Greenville – that, owing to bodily infirmity he was illy able to travel to either place and therefore preferred the shortest distance. That on more mature reflection since making his declaration he is now able to state on oath that according to his Father's record he was born 27th July 1762. That to the best of his recollection he entered the service and joined General Sumter's Army the 1st of July 1780 as private in what was then called Mounted Militia. That in his answer to the 4th interrogatory he did not intend to be understood as volunteering in the Cavalry but as Mounted Militia – that he entered the service under the command of Captain Robert Thompson, that in a few days after entering the Service General Sumter requested all that had entered to stand by him to enroll themselves for forty days that he this deponent did enrolled his name in Company with several hundred others, and marched on with General Sumter (attacked and dispersed a party of Tories commanded by Colonel Carey – there General Sumter personally noticed this deponent and in a day or two this deponent was presented with a 1st Lieutenant's Commission signed by Colonel William Bratton he then took command as 1st Lieutenant and marched to and fought in the hanging rock Battle and continued with General Sumter in all his movements until he said Sumter, was defeated at which defeat he this deponent lost his Horse &c as set forth in his declaration, he then returned home furnished himself with another horse and equipment and joined the Army again previous to General Sumter's march towards Charleston took command as 1st Lieutenant under Captain Benjamin Garrison was detached under command of Colonel Wade Hampton to drive a party from the Quarter House [July 15, 1781], succeeded and joined head

quarters that night at the Burned Church – this deponent further saith that to the best of his recollection the militia Companies were put into classes in the fall of 1780 and called into service from the Regiment by classes – that he recollects of being called out in the class arrangement in August 1781 for a three months tour and served as 1st Lieutenant under Captain John Chambers, who was commandant of the regimental class – marched to Orangeburg, then towards Savannah River and joined head quarters – distance not recollected, was then sent by Captain Chambers with a detachment of man about 12 miles out to collect beeves for the Army and enroll all outlying Tories that would come in. Succeeded in collecting a large draw of beeves and enrolled some of the Tories – The reason of his serving under so many Captains in a short time was that soon after the fall of Charleston [May 12, 1780] the British marched to York District – that, his, this deponent's, brother John was a militia Captain and this deponent, a private under him that his said Brother John, as he afterwards told this deponent, undertook to reconnoiter and ascertain the position of the British Army but immediately was taken Prisoner – that this deponent then joined the Army as above Stated and received a first Lieutenant's commission and joined the Company under Captain Robert Thompson whose courage failed him in the first engagement and he resigned. The company then elected John Carrington Captain and he soon resigned the Company then expressed a strong desire to elect this deponent Captain but he refused the offer believing that his youth and inexperience would not justify [paper torn, text missing] and besides he expected his Brother Captain John Henderson would make his escape from the [paper torn, text missing] to the command of the Company which he did do, and this deponent continued as first Lieutenant [paper torn, text missing] him to the close of the war. The reason of his obtaining the furlough as mentioned in his declaration was that General Sumter being hard set to get an express on to General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] when Greene was on his march from Cambridge – General Sumter sent for this deponent to his Mother [?]² and related to him the Circumstance and this deponent consented to undertake the dangerous service. The General allowed him to choose men to serve with him which he did by the name of James McMorris, that, on the morning they started the General told them publicly that if they delivered the papers safe to General Greene he would allow them one month to recruit themselves – that they did deliver the papers to General Greene late that night. The next day this deponent made his way, towards home, through a dangerous Company and found his month of recreation proved more dangerous and fatiguing than in the Army for the Country was so infested with the British and Tories he could not safely stay at home and had to be constantly on the alert that, during the three years and upwards which he thinks he was continued after he entered the service he was not Constantly on duty but was allowed to go home and recruit himself and horse but to be always ready at a moment's warning and was frequently told by the Higher officers not to wait for further orders if he discovered a collection of the enemy – but to dash over at once, that, he was in many scouting parties and scrimmages when not considered in regular service, that, he always kept himself prepared to do duty at the shortest notice until peace was made in short he never considered himself exempt from service until peace was made, that he further recollects when Cornwallis's Army were in Chester District news came that there was a regimental muster of the Tories under the command of a Colonel Conrad Huntsucker³ about 30 miles distant from where this deponent was – but so near the British lines that some of the new York volunteers attended the parade that this deponent with about 40 others dashed off and marched 30 miles that

² 

³ It appears someone marked through the “t” in this man’s name to make it read “Conrad Hunsucker.”

night attacked the Regiment killed several and took a number of Prisoners one of the New York volunteers attended the parade, that, this deponent understands that the object of the classification was that when a portion of the forces was called off, that another portion should remain to protect the Country and prevent the collection, and consequent ravages of the Tories which service the forces generally performed in turn, that he this deponent was frequently left under a kind of General order that if he heard of a disturbance or Collection to raise force and suppress it and disperse them, that, the word parole in his declaration was intended to have been furlough, And this deponent on his oath further saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades, for ten days I served as a private in what was then called Mounted Militia and for two years I served as a first Lieutenant in what was then called Mounted Militia and for such services I claim a pension. Sworn to and subscribed before made this 27th day of July 1833

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Thos. Henderson

[p 27]

State of South Carolina Pickens District:

Personally came Major Thomas Henderson, an applicant for a Pension, before me James Osborne one of the Justices of Quorum in and for the State and District aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that he entered the Service of the United States and joined General Sumter's Army on the first day of July 1780 – and continued in service under said Sumter, to the best of his recollection, until about the 20 day of November following at which time he thinks Sumter was wounded. He this deponent was then ordered by Colonel Bratton and Colonel Lacey [Edward Lacey] to build and Garrison a Fort on him Turkey Creek in York District South Carolina which he did and continued on duty there until Sumter returned which he believes was in the early part of February following he then again joined Sumter's Army was one of the horsemen that swam Santee [River] with him was in the Army on their retreat from Lord Rawdon [Siege of Ninety Six, May 22-June 19, 1781], and continued in service until after Rawdon had left Camden which he believes was in the next May or June was then ordered by Colonel William Bratton to perform what was then called scouting duty to prevent collections of Tories and suppress plundering continued off and on performing that duty until the first of the next August then joined the regimental class and performed a three months Tour under Captain John Chambers – that from that time until peace was made he kept himself in constant readiness and performed a number of tours to prevent the collection of Tories & the consequent ravages which he cannot specify better than he has done in his amended Declaration that owing to the peculiar nature of the war he had but very little respite until peace was made that during the whole period of his service excepting 10 days at the commencement he held a first Lieutenant's commission and commanded accordingly. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of January 1834.

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Thomas Henderson

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State of South Carolina Pickens District:

Personally at came James Houston⁴ Esquire before me James Osborn one of the Justices of Quorum in and for the State and District aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that he was personally acquainted with Major Thomas Henderson the present applicant for a pension, in the time of the American revolution. That he knew the said Henderson commanded as first Lieutenant in Colonel William Bratton's Regiment. That he this deponent was with the said Henderson at the Hanging Rock battle and also recollects that the said Henderson was detached with a party to the Quarter house while this deponent continued on to the Burned Church and recollects of again seeing him at the crossing Nelson's ferry on the march from the Burned Church. That he knew the said Henderson to be a true Whig together with all his relations as far as this deponent was acquainted with them. That he believes the said Henderson was a good deal in service but owing to the extreme age and want of recollection this deponent cannot State the length of time.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of July 1833

S/ James Osborn JQ

S/ James Houston



South Carolina Pickens District:

Personally came Thomas Hamilton⁵ of Anderson District before me James Osborn one of the Justices of Quorum for Pickens District and State aforesaid and made oath in due form That he was personally acquainted with Major Thomas Henderson the within applicant for a Pension and the time of the American Revolution that he knew of the said Henderson being a soldier and favor of the United States in said revolution that he distinctly recollects of being in service with the said Henderson particularly at the scrimmage at the Quarter House and at the crossing of Santee at Nelson's ferry – and believes that the said Henderson bore a lieutenant's commission that owing to his extreme age, he cannot recollect all the particulars but from his long acquaintance with the said Henderson and on hearing his declaration read he believes it to be strictly true, Sworn to and Subscribed before made this 7th day of February 1833

S/ James Osborn, JQ

S/ Thos Hamilton



[p 48]

Pickens District South Carolina January 24, 1834

Sir

In compliance with your requisition I have endeavored to specify some of my revolutionary Services but to enumerate them all would be impossible. I entered the service under a thorough conviction of its propriety and considered myself as belonging to my country until she was freed from foreign oppression – although I was so much employed in suppressing plundering &c I can and do say upon the honor of a gentleman, that I neither partook in nor of it during the whole struggle, but used my best endeavors to suppress it – My case is before you and

⁴ [James Houston S21288](#)

⁵ [Thomas Hamilton S21267](#)

with the utmost confidence that you will do justice to it –

I am respectfully yours &c

S/ Thos Henderson

J. L. Edwards, Esqr.

Pickensville, S.C.
July 29 1854

Sir,

In compliance with your requisition I have endeavoured to specify some of my revolutionary services but to enumerate them all would be impossible I entered the service under a thorough conviction of its propriety and considered myself as belonging to my country until she was freed from foreign oppressions – altho I was so much employed in suppressing ~~from~~ plundering & I can and do lay upon the honor of a gentleman; that I neither partook in nor of it. during the whole of the struggle but used my best endeavours to suppress it – My case is before you and with the utmost confidence that you will do justice to it –

I am Respectfully yours &c

Thos Henderson

J. L. Edwards Esqr

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Pickensville, Pickens District September 16th 1835

Sir

James Osborn Esquire handed me yours of the 4th of August last addressed to him and informing him that you had received the papers from the Comptroller General in relation to my services in the revolution from which papers you him for that I only served about 17 months and that a private – how the public have kept the accounts I know not when I volunteered for 40 days I kept account up to 60 days but No further account during the war – neither do I believe that I ever rendered in an account of all my services because the trouble of procuring vouchers &c was more than Indents were supposed to be worth – but as I have before stated to you and which can never be contradicted in truth I entered the service of my Country very young a private and in a short time I received a first Lieutenant's Commission signed by Colonel William Bratton by order of General Thomas Sumter and handed to me by Colonel Bratton himself which Commission I served under &c was obeyed and respected accordingly to the close of the war

when not in actual service in constant readiness to act at a moment's warning – and at a time when the Hours of midnight or the domestic fireside afforded no security – By what authority those officers granted commissions I know not but I do know that I commanded under mine and my authority was never disputed – I preserved it for some time after the war and until I lost my pocket book containing it and upwards of \$70 in money – Sir you will very much oblige me by informing me how such unjust suspicions originated that I may be the better enabled to detect their falsity for I do suspect they have grown out of the great political excitement in this State for the purpose of unjustly oppressing my character because I would not side with nullification – Therefore I do think I have a right to demand a full and fair investigation of the whole matter in justification of my own reputation and the reputation of James Houston Esquire & Thomas Hamilton with others who have testified in the case – and whose character for veracity I presume will not be doubted by any respectable citizen of their acquaintance – I have not yet had time to apply to the office in Charleston but intend to do so in hopes that they have preserved the original papers &c but in case they have not I shall be at a loss how to proceed for I am now deprived by the death of Esquire Houston of his further testimony – You see the difficulties of the case & the character it involves. Therefore I do entreat you to write to me and if in your power point out some channel by which the truth and justice of the case may be made manifest.

I am Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

S/ Thomas Henderson

J. L. Edwards, Com. of Pensions

[p 11: On February 18, 1845, in Pickens District South Carolina, Mrs. Elizabeth Henderson, aged 81, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Henderson, "who was a Lieutenant in the militia of South Carolina during the Revolutionary war, under his brother John Henderson who was Captain... Served under General Sumter, & Colonel Thomas Brandon, and was under Colonel Thomas Neal [Thomas Neel] at Stono Camp (the said Colonel Neal came home sick from Stono, & died) he was also at hanging rock, Gates defeat, & Blackstocks Ford, and down near Charleston in this State where a church was burned, she thinks he was also at Kings Mountain and Cowpens, but it is impossible for an old infirm woman like herself, at this late date, to enumerate his services.... That her late husband the said Thomas Henderson, was placed on the Pension List of the United States as a Lieutenant at the rate of \$320 per annum on the 17th April 1834, and she supposed made sufficient proof, but after drawing three years pay, he was notified that his name was struck off, and she does not know certainly from what cause, but he always suspected that there was some unfair inference against him on the part of some person; and feeling indignant at being, as he felt, badly treated, and as he suspected, on account of a difference of political opinion from the majority in South Carolina and feeling able to live without aid from the public Treasury, and being old, and unable to travel about much to attend to such matters, he determined to let the matter rest where it was & not trouble himself anything more about it...."; That she was married to him by Samuel Watson, Esquire at his own house in York District February 22, 1785; that she has no record of her marriage, "that they were married on the 22nd of February year previous to the birth of their first child, which was recorded in an old Confession of Faith by her husband in his own handwriting, together with the births of their other children, as follows, viz. 'John Henderson was born on March 27th Monday morning 1786.'", They had six children viz. John, Nathaniel, Ann, Mary, Elizabeth and Abigail; that her husband died May 20, 1841.]

[p 7 family record]

John Henderson was born March 27th Monday Morning 1786

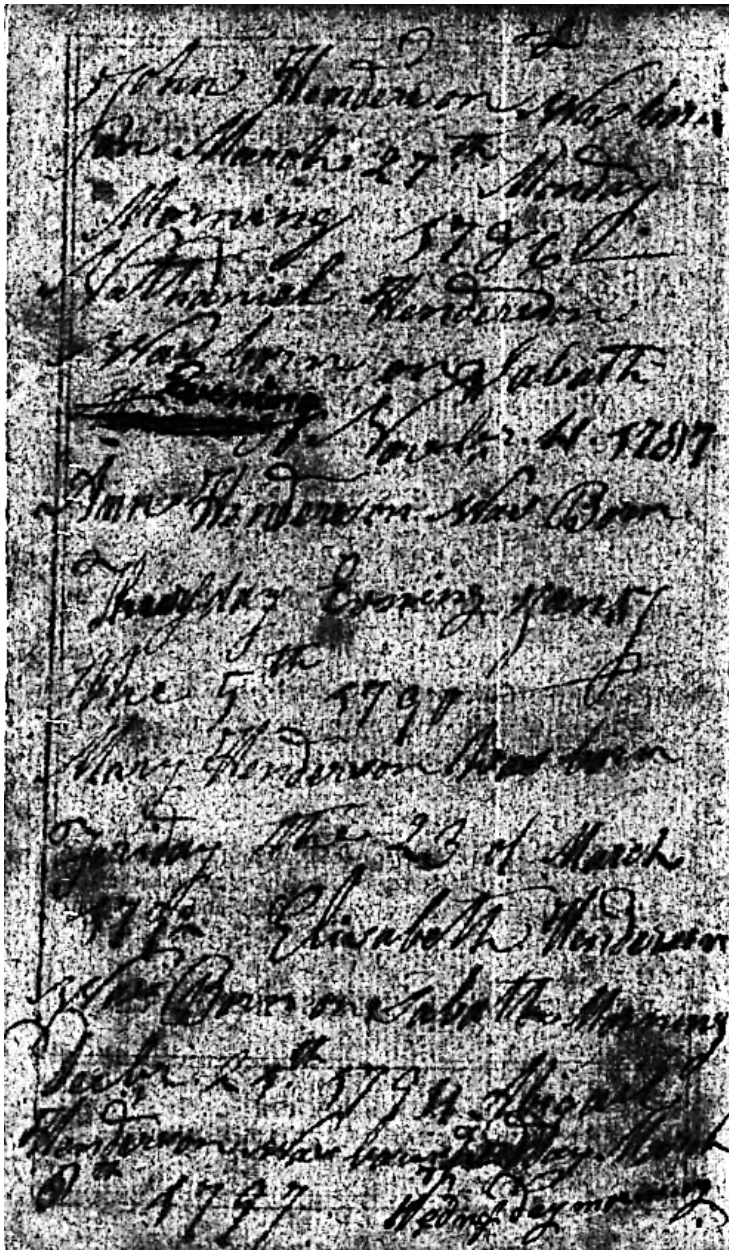
Nathaniel Henderson was born on Sabbath Evening November 4, 1787

Ann Henderson was born Thursday Evening January 5 1790

Mary Henderson was born Friday the 23rd of March 1792

Elizabeth Henderson was born on Sabbath Morning December 24th 1794

Abigail Henderson was born 8th day of March 1797 Wednesday morning



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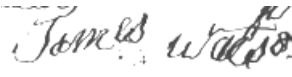
South Carolina Pickens District:

Before me personally appeared Major James Watson⁶ who is to me well known to be a highly respectable and truthful citizen; and made oath in due form of law, that he knew Major Thomas Henderson who formerly lived in Pickens and who died there about four years ago, during the Revolutionary War, that he served a three months tour under his brother John Henderson, who was a Captain about the close of the War, and he thinks that the said Thomas Henderson served as Lieutenant during the said Tour; he is sure he did serve as Lieutenant during some part of his services, if not all; that he knew to, about the same time Elizabeth Rachford, whom he married, that the said Major Thomas Henderson did go to his Father's Samuel Watson's who acted as a magistrate in York District where they all then lived, with the said Elizabeth Rachford, and was there married to her in the presence of this deponent by his Father, that he does not now recollect the precise date at which the said marriage took place but has no doubt but it was at the time stated by Mrs. Henderson in her declaration made for the purpose of obtaining a Pension, viz. on the 22nd day of February 1785, as he knows it must have been about that time, and is sure it took place previous to the first day of January 1794. He has known him ever since, they were respectable & he has every reason to believe her statement.

Sworn to 17th April 1845 before

S/ Miles M Norton, Not Pub & Ex off M. P. D.

S/ James Watson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Watson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ James Watson".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$168.88 commencing March 4th, 1834 and ending May 20, 1841 when he died. He was pensioned initially at the rate of \$320 per annum but his pension was reduced to the amount stated. He served as a Lieutenant in the South Carolina militia for 12 months and 20 days.]

⁶ I could find no evidence that this veteran filed for a federal pension in his own right. Consequently, this may be the only evidence in the federal pension files as to his service during the revolution.