

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Cunningham W1031

Emily M. Cunningham NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Nov 2021.

The State of Alabama } SS.

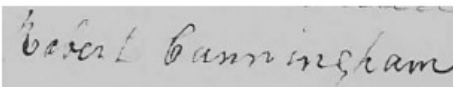
Tuscaloosa County }

On this 23rd day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honourable H G Perry Judge of the Circuit Court of said County now sitting, Robert Cuningham a resident of said County and State of Alabama aged seventy two years the 10th day of September last past who first being 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 His first service was under Capt. William Hutchison [William Hutchinson W10133] for the purpose of opperating against the Tories collected at Ramsowers Mill – this was as well as recollected in the year 1779 [sic] at which place an engagement took place and the Tories were defeated [Battle of Ramsour's Mill, 20 Jun 1780]. This was in Lincon [sic: Lincoln] County in the State of North Carolina. The Whigs were commanded by General [Griffith] Rutherford. this service was performed as a volunteer and private soldier in this service he was engaged not less than three months — some short time after his return to Mecklengburg [sic: Mecklenburg] County in the State of North Carolina and early in the year 1780 he was drafted in to the militia service and entered a company commanded by Richard Springstead [sic: Capt. Richard Springs] and was marched to Rugelies Mill [sic: Rugeley's Mill SC] some fourteen or fifteen miles from Camden where the Company joined the troops commanded by Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates and marched toward Camden and met the British Army commanded by Lord Rowdan [sic: Commanded by Gen. Cornwallis, with Gen. Francis, Lord Rawdon] and on the 16th day of August 1780 the American Army was defeated — in some short time after the battle he was detached from Gen'l. Gates main army and was engaged in scouting parties against the British and Tories until some time in December 1780 he joined General Greenes [Nathanael Greene's] Army which retreated before the British and crossed Dan river [14 Feb 1781] — he was taken with the small pox and being unfit for duty returned to his residence in Mecklengburg. In this service he was engaged not less than twelve months as a private. About the month of March 1781 he again joined the service of his Country as a mounted rifleman as a volunteer for and during the term of Ten months. he was an Orderly Sargent in the company commanded by Capt. Samuel Martin in the Reg't. commanded by Col. William Polk and attached to the command of Gen'l. Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] – he was in the battle of Strawberry plains near Monks corner in South Carolina [Battle at Quinby Bridge and Shubrick's Plantation, 17 Jul 1781] – also in the battle of the White church not more than thirty or forty miles from Charleston [probably St. James Church in Goose Creek, 15 Jul 1781] – he was then [sic] detached with about three hundred other horsemen to harrass the British line then advancing toward ninety six at which place Gen'l. Green had beseaged Col. Cruger of the British Army [22 May - 19 Jun 1781] during which time he was frequently engaged in skirmishing with the enemy. At the end of ten months he was honourably discharged during all of which time he was an Orderly Sargent. Owing to the great length of time which has elapsed he is unable to state what has become of his discharge nor has he any documentary testimony by which he can establish these facts — He further states he was born in York County (now Adams) in the State of Pennsylvania. When about fourteen years of age he moved with his Father to Mecklengburg County in the State of North Carolina — some time after the conclusion of the war he moved to Hancock County in the State of Georgia and resided there about fifteen years as Pastor of a Presbyterian Church from thence removed to Lexington in the State of Kentucky and was there engaged in the same occupation for over fourteen years from thence removed to Alabama and now resides in Tuscaloosa County in said State. He further states that owing to the great length of time which has elapsed and the loss of memory incident to old age he is unable to give dates and localities to many of the scenes through which he passed and the names of officers who

commanded. He states positively that he served in the capacity of Orderly Sargent ten months and that he served as a common soldier not less than fifteen months during the Revolutionary war and in defence of liberty and his Country. He does not know of any person living who can testify to the services which he has rendered. He does not know of any person living by whom he can now prove the services which he has rendered.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to Robert CunninghamAA6
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1691A

Transcribed by Will Graves 3/18/20

[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 th 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 2: Printed form of Indent No. 562 Book W dated October 1st, 1784 "delivered to Mr. Robert Cunningham late Private in Martin's Troop, Polk's Regiment Sumpter's Brigade this our Indented Certificate for the sum of Ninety-four pounds Sterling amount pay and bounty due him for Services in that troop with Interest thereon from the 1st April 1782 to the date hereof Agreeable to a resolution of the General Assembly of Eleventh of March last."]

[p 4: Reverse of the above Indent]

I do hereby Assign all my right and title of the within indent to John Cunningham for Value Received as witness my hand

Witness

S/ James Lang

S/ Robert Cunningham



¹The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) 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

[p 5: Printed form of Indent No. 2034 Book X dated June 22nd, 1787 [? last digit unclear] "delivered to Mr. Robert Cunningham this our indented certificate, for the Sum of Six pounds two Shillings and Eleven Pence Sterling for Arrears of Cloathing due to him for Service in Sumter's Brigade State Troops per Certificate from the Commissioners for adjusting the Claims against that Brigade &c."]

[p 6: Reverse of the above Indent bearing only the endorsements of Thomas Sumter Junior, Thomas Sumter and George James. How these gentlemen acquired an interest in the Indent is not disclosed by the documents in this file.]



The image shows three handwritten signatures in cursive script, arranged horizontally. From left to right, they appear to be: 'Thos. Sumter Junior', 'Thos. Sumter', and 'Geo. James'. The signatures are written in dark ink on a light background.

NOTE: On 9 Feb 1844 Emily M. Cunningham applied for the final pension payment of her husband up to the date of his death on 11 Jul 1839. On 7 Oct 1853, Emily M. Cunningham, 69, applied for a pension stating that she married Robert M. Cunningham on 23 Mar 1807, and he died 10 Jul 1839. With her application is a copy of the marriage record of Robert M. Cunningham to Emely Bird in Warren County GA. In an application for bounty land dated 26 Nov 1855 her age is said to be 74, and her maiden name is spelled Emily M. Byrd.