

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Simon Whitehurst ¹ W11795

Christiana Whitehurst f62NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/15/17

[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 3]

State of Georgia, Telfair County

On this Seventh day of October 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court, now sitting Simon Whitehurst, a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged Eighty 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 the 7th June 1832, Viz.: 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 as volunteer about the last of October in the year 1778 as near as he can recollect. That he was born in the State of Virginia Prince Ann County [sic, Princess Anne County]; but was living in Beaufort County at the time of entering the Service, was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Ash [sic, John Ashe], and General Bryant and Colonel Caswell [Richard Caswell], his services were confined to the State of Georgia and South Carolina. He was in a general engagement at Bryar Creek [sic, Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] in which engagement [he] was taken prisoner and put on board the prison Ship *Munificence* then lying at Cockspur Island at the mouth of St. Augustine Creek just below Savannah in company with the *Whitley & Nancy* that he ran away from the British and entered the American service again and was at the Battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] in South Carolina; and was in several Skirmishes with the Tories in one of which he received a wound which shot through the left leg, and that his services continued at least thirteen months including the two months he was a prisoner of war. He further declares that he has no documentary evidence and that the only evidence he can obtain is the testimony of John Marshall who has seen his discharge.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

1st Question by the Court. Have you any record of your age? If so, where is it? Answer – I have none.

2 Question by the Court. Where & in what year were you born? I was born in Prince Ann County State of Virginia in the year 1755 near as I can recollect about the 27th November.

3 Question by the Court. Where were you living when called into Service? Where have you since lived the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live? Answer. I was living in Beaufort County North Carolina and lived there until 1794 – as near as recollected when I removed to Hancock County State of Georgia and now reside in this County.

4th Question by the Court. How were you called into Service – were you drafted – did you volunteer – or were you a Substitute, and if a Substitute for whom? -- Answer – I was a

¹ BLWt31732-160-55

volunteer.

5th Question by the Court. Can you read or write? Answer. I can read print, but can neither read nor write writing.

6th Question by the Court. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the Troops where you Served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you recollect and also the General Circumstances of your services? Answer. General Elbert [Samuel Elbert], Colonel McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh], General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and Colonel Paxton. That I was at the Battle of Briar Creek where I was taken prisoner and put on board a prison ship then lying at Cockspur Island just below Savannah where I remained at least two months after his escaping from the British I entered the American Service again, and was at the battle of Stono in South Carolina, and was in several other Skirmishes with the Tories.

7th Question by the Court. Did you receive a commission & if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it? Answer. I never received any commission.

8th Question by the Court. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior, your services as a Revolutionary Soldier? Answer. James Nash, Abarnalery Leavingston, Jacob Clemments; and John Marshall, who can testify as to have seen my regular discharge signed by Colonel Paxton of the revolution. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ C. J. Shelton, JIC

S/ Simon Whitehurst, X his mark

S/ James A. Rogers, JIC

S/ Thos S. Swain, JIC

[John Marshall, a clergyman, and John Wych gave the standard supporting affidavit. John Marshall also testified that he had frequently seen the discharge signed by Colonel Paxton.]

[p 51]

State of Georgia, Telfair County

On this 29th day of April 1835 in open Court before the Judges of the Inferior Court of said County personally appeared Simon Whitehurst a resident of said County and State who after being duly sworn deposed and saith that he has made application to the war department for a pension to which he is informed and believes he is entitled under an act of Congress passed on the 7th day of June 1832 for the benefit and remuneration of soldiers of the revolution and that he is also informed and believes that the reason why he has not received his pension is on account of his application (which he is informed is on file with the said department) not being sufficiently explanatory of the services performed by this applicant and in further explanation of said services deposed as follows: That he entered his first service for three months under Captain Caswell [William Caswell] who was afterwards promoted to Col. and that for those three months service he got his discharge from Governor Caswell [Richard Caswell] which discharge is burnt as before proven. That he afterwards volunteered for three months under Captain Robert Thaxton and after the expiration of that three months service, applicant then volunteered for five months under Colonel Caswell, Major McEvain [probably Stringer McIllwaine] , Captain Nath'l Cannon [Nathanael Cannon] and Lieutenant Seth Stafford, that Captain Cannon quit the service and Lieutenant Stafford succeeded him as Captain and was afterwards cashiered – George Falkner [George Faulkner] was his next Captain and had the command at the battle of Briar Creek when applicant was taken prisoner in the month of March but he does not recollect the year. That he remained a prisoner near two months on Cockspur Island and escaped. After escaping from the British he entered the camp of General Linchan [sic, Benjamin Lincoln], where he met with one of his neighbors, Captain Daniel White who had two months and I have serve and that Colonel Paxton persuaded applicant to volunteer for that time which he did, and

that the second day after he entered this last service he was in the battle at Stono his Lieutenant's name was George Pringle and his Ensign ___ Perry. All the pay he ever received was during the five months service which was \$20, paid him by the paymaster at Kingston.

For his last service he had a regular discharge from Colonel Paxton and which is accounted for in his application now on file at the department.

Applicant further states that his age has so impaired his memory that he cannot recollect the dates of his several services and that he is unacquainted with letters and cannot read to refer to the times as many applicants do.

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court the date above written.

S/ James Pothill, Judge Supr. Courts

S/ Simon Whitehurst, X his mark

[p 47]

“1st

When General Gage first came in to Boston, date not recollected, Captain Evans and Lieutenant Campain raised a company of minute men and I Simon Whitehurst was one of that Company and Captain Evans & Lieutenant Campain enlisted in the regular service & the said Simon Whitehurst further saith that he under Captain Wallis & Lieutenant Trip when the people rebelled about Cross Creek & Cape Fear Governor Caswell [Richard Caswell] called all the minute men out William Caswell a Captain and Richard Caswell Lieutenant & old Governor Caswell commander in chief we marched and met the Tories at a place called Mose [sic, Moore's] Creek and there Defeated them [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] then we were marched back to Kingston [sic, Kinston] and nuse River [sic, Neuse River] and there discharged by Governor Caswell himself and the discharges I carried home and put them in my father's chest and have not seen them since.

2nd tower [sic, tour]

And after I returned home I was call [sic, called] out again under Captain Saulter [John Salter] and Lieutenant Knox marched to Wilmington and there remained three months under Colonel Brown [Thomas Brown] and Major Trip and was discharged by Colonel Brown the discharges I also took home and put them in my father's chest and have not seen them since. The regular soldiers marched with us to Wilmington the regular officers were Colonel Buncombe, Colonel Patten, Major C. Lawson [?] the same date forgotten.

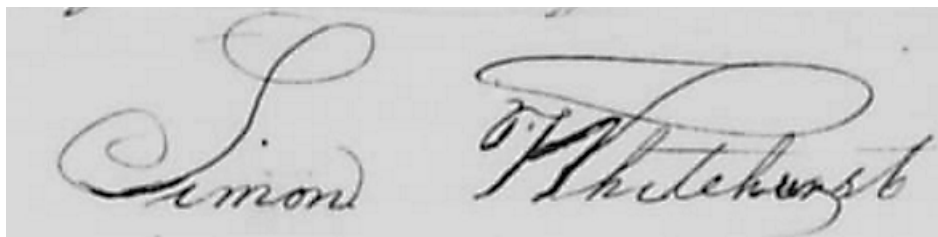
3rd tower

In October 1778 I was living in Beaufort County and fixed myself to go and look at the Tennessee Country I started and got up into Pitt County and there they were a drafting and raising volunteers and I volunteered in Greenville on Tar River in Pitt County under Captain Cannon [Nathanael Cannon] & Lieutenant Stafford [Seth Stafford] and marched to Kinston and rendezvoused there then we marched to the ten mile house by Charleston there Captain Cannon deserted us then Lieutenant Stafford became Captain and Fortener [sic, George Faulkner] became Lieutenant and then we were marched of Savannah River to a place called Mallow hornes [?] bluff and there Captain Stafford went over the River into Georgia and got an elegant mare and discharged one of the men and sent him off on the mare then he was tried by a court-martial and was broke of his commission then Fortner became Captain and the British marched out of Augusta and we marched in then we marched to Briar Creek there the Enemy came upon us [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] and I was taken a prisoner with General Elbert [Samuel Elbert] and Colonel McIntosh [Lt. Col. John McIntosh] and Colonel Alston [Philip Alston] and put on board of a prison ship called *Munificence* General Ashe [John Ashe] – Chief Commander escaped from being taken by his fleeing from the battle Colonel Caswell was not taken, he was over the River with the brigade Major McElvain [probably a reference to then

Capt. Stringer McIllwaine] escaped General Bryant [William Bryant] escaped the British came on board to list out the prisoners. This battle at Briar Creek was fought date 1779 I Simon Whitehurst Enlisted and was to have three guineas bounty and a months pay & at months end but when I got on land I did not stay with them many days I ran away from them and swam over Savannah River and went to General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Camps he had a list of the prisoners that was taken showed him that I was in a five months tour General Lincoln's Station near a place called Stono there was a British Army Stationed at Stono there was Captain White [John White] and Lieutenant Shinkle with a passel of volunteers and militia and there I volunteered with them for two months and a half and Colonel Paxton gave me some clothes and the third day after I got there we marched to Stono and there I received a wound in the left leg in a battle fought there and when my time was out Colonel Paxton discharged me for the first five months and then gave me a discharge for the last two months and a half after my own officers were gone. The two discharges that Col. Paxton gave me got burnt in my house after I received my discharge from Colonel Paxton I never went anymore at all these discharges has been proven by my neighbor that has seen them and been sent before I further say if I could raise the day and I should have living witnesses to prove my service.

I shall be 86 the 26th of November and this 1839.

S/ Simon Whitehurst

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Simon Whitehurst". The word "Simon" is written in a large, flowing script, and "Whitehurst" is written in a similar but slightly more compact style. The ink is dark and the background is light.

[p 59]

State of Georgia, County of Telfair

On this Twenty eighth day of October in the year of our Lord 1842 Personally appeared in open Court, Before the Superior Court of the County and State aforesaid, now sitting, Simon Whitehurst, a resident of the County aforesaid and State of Georgia, aged 88 years in November last, 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 in the revolution in Pitt County North Carolina as a volunteer or minute man under Captain William Carswell [William Caswell] and ___ Carswell, was first Lieutenant in said company, that deponent resided in Beaufort County North Carolina at the time of his entering the service, he does not know the date of the year, but believes that it was the year in which the British landed at Wilmington N. C., that he volunteered for three months, at the expiration of which time he received a discharge from service, Signed by William Carswell, and deponent soon after volunteered in the company of Captain Robert Salter and belonged to the Regiment of Colonel Brown, and was stationed at Kingston [sic, Kinston] on Neuse River in North Carolina and from there they were carried to Wilmington N. C. where deponent received a discharge from service signed by Colonel Brown.

Soon after receiving the said last discharge the deponent volunteered in Greenville, Pitt County N. C. for five months under Captain Nathaniel Cannon, and was marched to Kinston, N. C. from thence was marched to within 10 miles of Charleston in South Carolina, at which place Captain Cannon deserted the Army and went home, and ___ Stafford was appointed to fill the vacancy of Captain Cannon. George Fortner was Lieutenant in the said Company, and the Army

was under the Command of the following officers, to wit, Major Macklebain, Colonel William Carswell, General Bryant and General Ashe-- the Army was marched from near Charleston to a place called Wallowhorn [?] Bluff on the Savannah River below Augusta, Georgia, there deponent's Captain Stafford was arrested and tried by a court-martial for a supposed theft in stealing a horse and broke of his commission, when Lieutenant Fortner succeeded him in Command. From Wallowhorn Bluff they were marched to Purysburg, S. C. at which place General Lincoln was then Stationed, and from Purysburg they were marched to Augusta, Georgia, but the British had left Augusta before they arrived there, deponent remained with the Army at Augusta a few days and from thence they were marched to Briar Creek in Georgia, and found the Bridge had been destroyed. The American troops were put to work to repair the Bridge for the Army to cross, and while they were engaged repairing said Bridge, they were attacked by the British. The American troops were defeated and deponent with a great many others were taken prisoners by the British, among the persons deponent recollects the following Officers General Elbert and Colonel McIntosh of the regular Army and Colonel Alston of the Militia were taken at the same time with deponent, and carried to Savannah Georgia and from there to Cockspur Island near Savannah and put on board of a British ship (*Munificence*) deponent then feigned to enlist in the British Service and was promised three Guineas and one months pay in advance from Cockspur he was carried to a place called Ebenezer about 25 miles above Savannah from which place deponent ran away without receiving the British Bounty. From Ebenezer deponent made his way to Stono in S. C. at which place he fell in with the Army of General Lincoln and on the third day after deponents arrival at Stono, he volunteered in Captain White's Company – Pringle was Lieutenant in said Company, and deponent fought in the Battle of Stono which took place soon after his arrival at that place, he belonged to the Regiment of Col. Paxton and received a wound in the leg from a ball and was incapable of doing camp duty for about four months in consequence of said wound, on the night after the battle of Stono the British left the Fort. From Stono deponent went home to Beaufort County, North Carolina, and received a discharge from service, signed by Colonel Paxton. Deponent states that he was known to Colonel Patton and Colonel Buncombe who were stationed in Wilmington North Carolina that he has no documentary evidence in his possession, that his two first discharges he left in a chest belonging to his father in N. C. and does not know what has become of them, that his last discharges he had in his possession until about 20 years ago when he had the misfortune to have his dwelling house destroyed by fire in Montgomery County, Georgia when his discharges were burnt up. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except Reuben Nail of Tattnall County, Georgia.

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 or Territory.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Carleton B. Cole

S/ Simon Whitehurst, X his mark

Judge of Superior Courts of Southern Circuit of Georgia

[Charles J. Shelton, a clergyman, and James A. Rogers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 55]

State of Georgia, Tattnall County

Before me John J. Gray a Justice of the peace for said County and State personally appeared Reuben Nail,² who after being sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he was a soldier of the revolution war in the American Army, and that Simon Whitehurst of the County of

2 [Reuben Nail S31877](#)

Telfair and State aforesaid was also a soldier of the revolution, that deponent was engaged in the battle of Briar Creek and that he saw Simon Whitehurst in said battle and that deponent states further that Simon Whitehurst was taken a prisoner by the British at Briar Creek and deponent also states that he had an uncle taken at the same time with said Simon Whitehurst, and they were both carried by the British to Savannah, Georgia, and deponent states that the said Simon Whitehurst again joined the American troops and stated that he had run away from the British, deponent states that he was not in the same company with Simon Whitehurst that he was in a different company but was well acquainted with Simon Whitehurst in time of the revolution, and that he is served as a private soldier during the period of deponent's acquaintance with him.

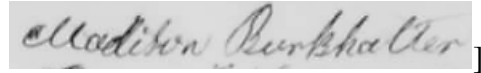
Sworn to and subscribed before me this eighth day of November 1842.

S/ John J. Gray, JP

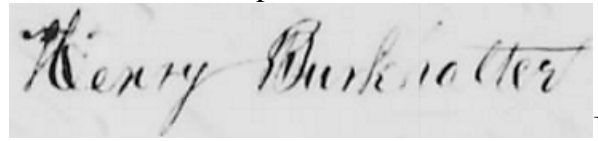
S/ Reuben Nail, X his mark

[p 14: On the 5th day of March 1855 in Telfair County Georgia, Christina E. Whitehurst, 67, filed a petition for the arrears in pension due her husband, Simon Whitehurst, a revolutionary war pensioner; that at the time of his death her husband lived in Telfair County Georgia prior to which time he lived in Montgomery County Georgia and prior to that time had lived in Rowan County North Carolina; that she was married to him on November 6, 1832; that her name prior to her marriage was Christina E Burkhalter; that her husband died May 6, 1848. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 16: On March 5, 1855 in Telfair County Georgia, Madison Burkhalter gave testimony that he was present at the wedding of Simon Whitehurst and Christina E Burkhalter on November 6, 1832 and that they were married by Gabriel MC.Clements [McClements?]. Madison Burkhalter's relationship, if any, to the widow is not stated.

Handwritten signature of Madison Burkhalter in cursive script, enclosed in a rectangular box with a closing bracket on the right side.

[p 18: On May 9, 1855 in Telfair County Georgia, Henry Burkhalter a resident of said County and state testified that he saw Simon Whitehurst die in Hamilton County Florida on May 6, 1848 and was at his burial; and that Christina E Whitehurst is Simon Whitehurst's widow. The affiant's relationship to the widow is not stated.

Handwritten signature of Henry Burkhalter in cursive script, enclosed in a rectangular box with a closing bracket on the right side.

[p 11: On June 14, 1855 in Telfair County Georgia Christina Whitehurst, 75 [could be 70] filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war soldier. She signed this application with her mark]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]