

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Carter W22721

Elizabeth Carter

f19SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/23/11: rev'd 6/24/19

[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.]

State of South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally appeared before me Matthew Gray a Justice of the Peace and Quorum in the District & State aforesaid the undersigned Samuel Hammond, who being first duly sworn deposes as follows: That he was well acquainted with John Carter deceased, who is mentioned in the subjoined declaration of his widow Elizabeth Carter and that the said John Carter was a Captain of a volunteer Company of South Carolina militia in the war of the Revolution, which company was attached to Colonel Leroy Hammond's Regiment of General Andrew Williamson's Brigade of South Carolina Militia. This deponent further states that in the first week of January 1779 he first knew the said John Carter to be in actual service and in the capacity of Captain as aforesaid, at a place called Henderson's Mills on Spirit Creek twelve miles below Augusta near the Savannah Road, where the British troops under Colonel Campbell [Archibald Campbell], who was then advancing from the town of Savannah to Augusta were met by a detachment of our troops under the command of Colonel Hammond aforesaid of which detachment the said Captain Carter & his Company, as well as Captain Ryan and his command formed a part – A brisk [?] cannonade took place across the Creek, and was kept up for several hours between the hostile forces and Colonel Hammond Captains Carter and Ryan succeeded in breaking down the bridges across the Creek as also the passway by the Mills aforesaid and thereby arrested, for a short time, the advance of the British. Soon afterwards Captain Carter aforesaid and his Company composed a portion of a detachment under the command of Colonel Hammond aforesaid which was dispatched by General Williamson to intercept a party of British & Indians, a few miles South of the Ogeechee River in Georgia. The expedition was eminently successful. The enemy were defeated and dispersed, their horses and baggage captured, about twenty-one or twenty-two Indians killed & scalped and a few white men killed, and several influential British agents taken prisoners among the slain on our side was Major Ross [Francis Ross] of Colonel Neel's Regiment. Captain Carter & his company, this deponent well remembers, were then marched to the Long Camps (a point in Edgefield district nearby opposite Augusta) where were assembled the great body of the forces under the command of General Williamson aforesaid. These troops continued there encamped until the latter end of the spring of 1779 when they were marched towards the low country for the purpose of protecting it against the British force under the command of General Prevost, which had suddenly invaded that portion of the State, and threatened the City of Charleston. The force under the command of General Williamson aforesaid first marched to a ferry over the Savannah River called Summerland's Ferry 40 miles below Augusta, then turned to the left and moved him until they reached the Edisto [River] along

the banks of which they marched a considerable distance, then crossed the River, and at length arrived on the banks of the Ashley River near Charleston. Captain Carter aforesaid and his command accompanied them throughout this march, and were in the battle of Stono ferry on the 20th of June 1779. From the affair at Stono ferry until the close of the summer Captain Carter and his company continued in arms with the forces under General Lincoln. Early in September in the year last mentioned, a large number of our forces were moved towards the Savannah River, which they crossed at Tubly's ferry [Tubley's] ferry, and from thence were marched to the town of Savannah. Captain Carter and his company aforesaid marched with them and with them were engaged in the siege of Savannah, and in the attack upon it with the French, on the 9th of October 1779. From that period until the Spring of 1780, Captain Carter aforesaid still remained in service, and in the month of April 1780, was engaged in the defense of the City of Charleston, then besieged by the British under Sir Henry Clinton. On the 12th of May next ensuing the Town capitulated and Captain Carter became a prisoner of war but under the convention between General Lincoln and the British commanding General, was permitted with the rest of the militia to return to his family as a prisoner on parole. The service of Captain Carter aforesaid from the first week in January 1779 to the 12th of May 1780 was uninterrupted and without intermission and this deponent swears comprised a term of at least sixteen months continuous service in the capacity of Captain as aforesaid.

After the capture of Charleston Captain Carter remained quietly at home in compliance with the obligations of his parole until his rights under it were invaded by the British commander declaring that all such paroles were void, and requiring him with many others to resume the character of British subjects and take up arms in the defense of the Royal authority. Being released by this measure from all obligations under his parole, Captain Carter returned to his duty as soon as opportunity offered. A suitable occasion did not present itself until the spring of 1781, when a body of our forces were collected for the purpose of making an attack upon the British post at Augusta and Silver Bluff. The advances of this body of troops were under the command of Colonel James Jackson of Georgia, and this deponent, and also of Colonel Le Roy Hammond aforesaid and they had scarcely arrived in the neighborhood of Captain Carter when he joined them (this was about the first of May 1781) bringing with him nearly all his former command with others besides, and this [several indecipherable words as a result of the paper being damaged] to the arrival of either General Pickens or Colonel Lee. Captain Carter and his command were with the troops last mentioned at the attack upon and capture of the two forts in Augusta, the one highest up the River and garrisoned by a party of Tory militia being commanded by Colonel Grierson, and the other a half mile lower down, a little below the present lower bridge and near to the old ferry being occupied by the British regulars under the command of Colonel Brown. The latter was taken on the 5th of June 1781, the former had previously capitulated. Immediately after the surrender of these post General Green [Nathanael Greene] retreated from the siege of Ninety Six, Lord Rawdon advancing to its relief, and General Pickens and the militia under his command with the Regiment of State Troops under the command of this deponent retreated around Ninety Six through the mountains and rejoined General Green at Colonel Taylor's plantation, now Columbia, and in a short time afterwards marched to the Eutaw Springs and were in the battle at that place, Captain Carter aforesaid and his company continuing with us and fighting in that engagement. This 2nd period of Captain Carter's service from May 1781 to the battle of the Eutaw on the 8th of September of the same year comprised a tour of at least 4 months continuous service. After this affair at the Eutaw Springs the militia had a short respite from service and Captain Carter enrolled his command as a volunteer company for six

months additional service and faithfully performed this engagement being employed with his company on the line of advanced posts extending from the Savannah to Broad River, which line of posts was placed under the command of this deponent. While thus engaged Captain Carter and his command sometimes by themselves and sometimes with other companies had frequent skirmishes with scouting parties of the enemy and in this service continued to the end of the war. The last action in which he was engaged was a successful attack made by him upon a party of marauding Tories at Saltcatcher [Salkehatchie] Swamp and this I believe was the last action in the State, it being according to my military notes subsequent to the death of Colonel Laurens [John Laurens].

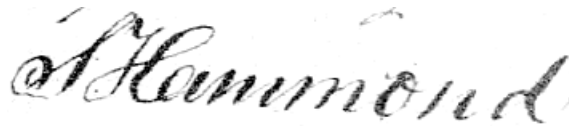
This deponent further states that the said Captain Carter was married to the said Elizabeth before the close of the war of the Revolution, in the expiration of the last term of his service as a soldier aforesaid, and that since the death of the said Captain Carter the said Elizabeth has always resided in Edgefield District aforesaid, and has ever since continued unmarried and a widow.

This deponent further swears that the facts above narrated as to the services of the said Captain Carter are correctly & accurately set forth, they having been compiled after a full & careful examination by him of his notes and memoranda of the war of the Revolution. This deponent therefore is perfectly assured and swears with perfect certainty, that the said John Carter served as a volunteer Captain as aforesaid in the war of the Revolution, continuously and without intermission for a period altogether of at least twenty-six months. In conclusion this deponent would further state that he doubts not other services were rendered by the said Captain Carter than those which are known to him & which are above recited since this deponent was always informed that said Carter was a gallant and active soldier early in the war, and this deponent would further add that the said Carter was a volunteer Colonel in the late war with Great Britain and had command as such on the seacoast between Savannah and Charleston, and before the close of the last mentioned war died in service as Colonel aforesaid in the militia of the state aforesaid. This deponent further swears that the subjoined declaration of the said Elizabeth was prepared though not sworn to or subscribed previously to this deposition.

Sworn to the 22nd June 1838 the words "miles from the Savannah River" in the 25th line in the words "and about miles from" in the 26 line having been first erased as also the word "Brier" in the 14th line having been first erased and the word "." Substituted by interlineations in presence of and before me

S/ M. Gray, QU

S/ S. Hammond¹



South Carolina Edgefield District: On this 16th day of October in the year of our Lord 1838, personally appeared before the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas in the District & State aforesaid, His Honor John B O'Neill presiding, Elizabeth Carter a resident in the District & State aforesaid aged seventy-five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836. That she is the widow of John Carter deceased who was a Captain in the War of the Revolution of a volunteer company of South Carolina militia, which

¹ [Samuel Hammond S21807](#)

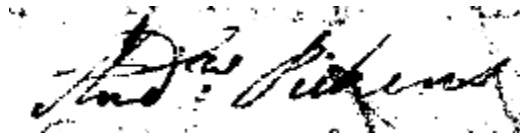
company was attached to Colonel Leroy Hammond's Regiment of General Andrew Williamson's Brigade of South Carolina militia and that the said John Carter at an early period of the said war entered the service of the State aforesaid as Captain aforesaid and served as such throughout that memorable contest whenever opportunities of doing so occurred. This deponent forbears alluding to such portions of his services as she has no means of establishing by evidence, but contents herself by a simple recital of such services of said John Carter as are proven by the accompanying depositions of Colonel Samuel Hammond & Jacob Wise. The said John Carter in the capacity of Captain as above stated was engaged in the expeditions against certain British forts in East Florida in the spring of 1778 and this first term of his service comprised a period of at least four months. Early in January 1779 the said John Carter was engaged in a skirmish at Henderson's Mills on Spirit Creek in Georgia, with a party of British troops under Colonel Campbell then advancing from Savannah to Augusta. Soon afterwards the said John Carter was engaged in a successful expedition against a party of British & Indians, a few miles South of the Ogeechee River in Georgia. He was then stationed at the Long camps a point in Edgefield District that now is nearly opposite Augusta with the forces under the command of General Williamson until late in the spring of 1779 when he marched with them to defend Charleston against General Prevost and fought in the battle of Stono ferry on the 20th of June 1779. From that time until the close of the summer the said John Carter still continued in service, and in September of the same year he was marched to the town of Savannah, and was engaged in its siege and in the attack upon it with the French on the 9th of October 1779. The said Captain Carter's still continued in service from that time until the spring of 1780 when he was engaged in the defense of Charleston then besieged by Sir Henry Clinton. Upon the capture of the town on the 12th of May 1780 Captain Carter aforesaid became a prisoner of war, but under the convention between General Lincoln & the British commanding General was permitted with the rest of the militia to return home a prisoner on parole. The 2nd term of Captain Carter's service from the first week of January 1779 to the 12th May 1780 comprised a period of at least 16 months continuous service as Captain aforesaid. After the capture of Charleston ...[the widow continues a word for word regurgitation of Samuel Hammond's deposition reciting the services of her husband]... For a more minute account of the particulars of the services of said John Carter (of which and of his rank as Captain aforesaid) she poses his no documentary evidence the said Elizabeth refers to the accompanying depositions of Samuel Hammond and Jacob Wise the statements of which she believed without doubt to be accurate and true, in which he begs may be regarded as part of her declaration, the said Elizabeth preferring that the said witnesses should narrate their own testimony and that she should refer to their depositions rather than they to her declaration. This Deponent further swears that the said John Carter emigrated from Virginia when quite a boy not more than 10 years old, and settled in Edgefield District that now is where he continued to reside when he first entered the service as a soldier aforesaid, that she herself was born in Edgefield District that now is and their resided near Big Horse Creek when she was married to the said John Carter that she was married to the said John Carter aforesaid in the 17th year of her age and previously to the close of the war and the expiration of his last term of service aforesaid, but she is unable to fix the precise date the family record of marriages and deaths having been destroyed by the Tories during the war, that the said John Carter died whilst in the service of the State as Colonel in the late war about the month of March 1815 and that since his death this deponent has resided in Edgefield District & has ever since remained unmarried and a widow. Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me

[p 10]
State South Carolina

Dr. to John Carter	
for Duty per Colonel Anderson's [Robert Anderson's] Return [not extant]	£967.15
214 [?] Days Wagon Service in 81 & 82 at [illegible]	1040
a Wagon Horse in 1782	140
Currency	£2147.15
Stg.	£306.11.5

I do Certify that the above Wagon Service was performed in the service of this state
Certified this 1st March 1787

S/ Andrew Pickens



Pass the remainder 148 pounds 11/5 R. Lushington

[p 11]
Gentlemen

Please deliver to Mr. James Martin the Indent with the Interest thereon do me from Public of
South Carolina

S/ John Carter

Sir when you have received my Indent agreeable to the order of this Date you will please payout
of the same the purchase money due on 500 acres of land for myself also 641 4 William Tarrance
for which this shall be your Justification.

Sir from your Humble Servant

S/ John Carter

Done In presence of
S/ Aquilla Miles JP

[p 12]
November 2nd 1785

Sir as Mr. James Martin did not receive my Indents for the Treasury Charleston please to
bring to me Indents agreeable to the within

John Herndon

S/ John Carter

[p 14: Printed form of indent No. For 12 Book W dated August 18, 1785 issued to Captain John
Carter in the amount of £158.5 Sterling for militia duty and for horses lost in 1781 and 1782.]