

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Charles Polk W5571

Philipena Polk

f149NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/12/09: rev'd 12/10/17

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County }

On this 25th day of October A.D. 1854 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for the County and State aforesaid George W. Polk a resident of Union County in the State of North Carolina, aged 55 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 provision made by the acts of Congress passed June 7th 1832, 4th of July 1836, 37, 38, and all subsequent acts applied to his case --

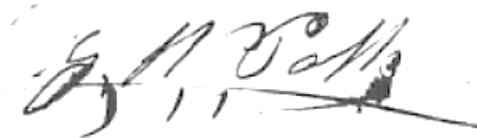
That he is the son of Charles Polk who was a soldier of the Revolutionary War. That he has often heard his said Father talking about his services in said war, he entered the Army at an early period of the Revolutionary War and served during the whole war or a greater part thereof, deponent remembers distinctly to have heard his Father say he was in the Battle of Eutaw [sic, Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] SC and many other engagements with the enemy but cannot remember the particulars with sufficient accuracy to be qualified thereto, he therefore relies upon the traditionary history of the Country and the Revolutionary muster rolls and other records for the proof of his Father's services -- That he has no discharges of his Father's, or any other documentary proof by which to prove his services -- That deponent's father was a brother of Ezekiel Polk, and an uncle of James K. Polk.

He further declares that his said Father Charles Polk was first married in March 1762, by which said marriage he had six children, all of whom are dead but one viz. = Mikael Polk [sic, Michael Polk?]. That his Father was married again on the 5th day of February 1782, to Philipina Helms, commonly known as Phely, by which marriage they had seven children, all of whom are dead but two, viz. = Martha Wells and this Deponent who is the youngest child. That his Father said Charles died on the 10th day of March 1821, leaving surviving him his widow the said Phely Polk who also died the 12th day of January 1849 -- All of which will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed --

Sworn to and subscribed on the 25th day of October 1854 in open Court.

S/ William Reid, P J

S/ G. W. Polk



George W. Polk maketh oath that the foregoing declaration was made in Mecklenburg County for the reason that this is the week of the County Court for said County -- And the Attorney W F Davidson whom he has employed to prosecute his claim lives in Charlotte Mecklenburg County, and it was more convenient for him.

S/ William Reid, P J

S/ G. W. Polk

[p 7: Creasy B. Long, 83, of Union County, NC, gave a supporting affidavit as to the reputation of Capt. Charles Polk as an officer in the revolution; his marriage to "Phalapena" and their children; that the veteran and his first wife had 6 children, namely John, Thomas, Michael, Deborn, Peggy & Polly; that the veteran had by his second wife, Philapena Helms 6 or 7 children, namely: Charles, William, Ezekiel, Susan, Patsey and George and perhaps Pheba or Philipensa died when an infant. Her deposition is dated April 11, 1855.]

[Facts in file: Charles Polk was born July 29, 1732; he was a brother to General Thomas Polk, John and Ezekiel Polk; he was commissioned a lieutenant in the provincial militia in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of George III by William Tryon, royal Governor of NC; in 1777, Charles was a captain serving under Lt. Col. William Polk; in March 1762, he married Mary Clark, who was born in June 1744 and died October 8, 1776; he married Philipena Helms February 5, 1782, she was born June 10, 1764;

children of Charles and Mary Clark Polk:

Peggy born December 25, 1764, married William Freeman, born June 24, 1765

John born November 7, 1766, married Esther Pool

Deborah born December 10, 1768, married Gideon Freeman, born July 12, 1759

Thomas born February 28, 1771, married Kesia Pyron, born February 18, 1768

Michael born June 20, 1774, married Susanna Pyron born March 26, 1774

Mary born September 24, 1776, married John Brooks

Children of Charles and Philipina Helms Polk

Charles born March 15, 1784

William born April 30, 1786

Susannah born June 19, 1788

Ezekiel Washington born June 9, 1791

Martha born May 4, 1794

George W. born September 18, 1799, married December 4, 1823 Margaret Garman, born May 10, 1804

Eleonora born January 16, 1804

Children of George W. Polk

Martha N. born October 6, 1824

Pheby born June 10, 1826

Charles K. [could be H.] born April 23, 1828

Mary S. born March 2, 1830

John P. born May 12, 1832

Tabatha P. born February 28, 1834

William S. born February 18, 1836

James born January 17, 1838

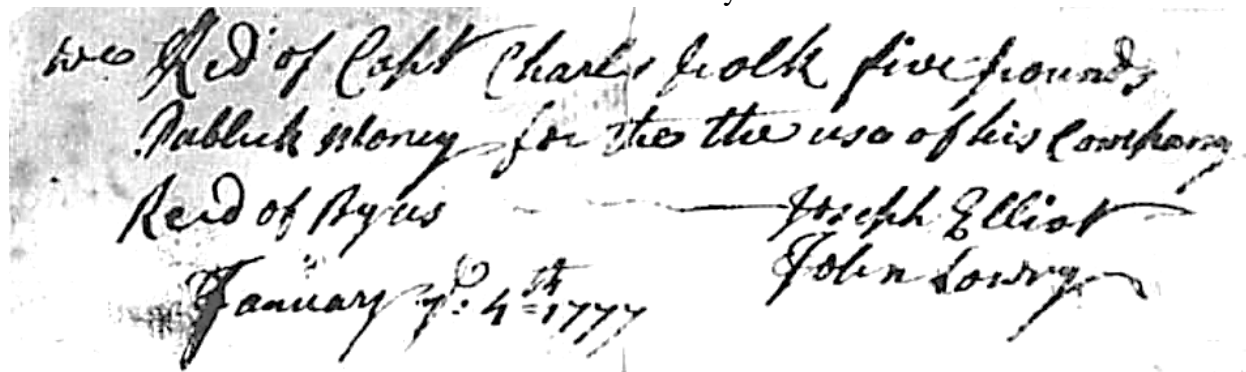
Henry W. born December 22, 1840

George W. born September 27, 1841, died June 6th, 1851  
Margret born June 3, 1843  
Alphonzo born July 11, 1845, died July 27, 1845]

[p 36]

We Re'd of Capt. Charles Polk five pounds Publick Money for the the use of his Company  
Re'd of Byris [?]  
January ye 4<sup>th</sup> 1777

Joseph Elliot  
John Lowry



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[p 38: Polk's commission as lieutenant in the provincial militia given by William Tryon, royal governor in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of George III—only partial image.]

[p 64: summary of claim indicates that 5 original pay rolls were submitted in support of this claim showing his service as Captain of Cavalry for 118 days and Captain of foot for 76 days. Three of those pay rolls are posted at [B30](#), [B29](#) & [B28](#). These three pay rolls must have been taken out of this file. There is no clue in the file as to the whereabouts of the other 2 pay rolls.]

[p 68: is a certificate dated August 25, 1855 from the North Carolina Comptroller's department in Raleigh showing indents paid to Charles Polk during the revolution.]

[p 113]

State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County }

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 1855, old Mrs. Susanna Alexander aged Ninety Six Years, personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid – And after being duly sworn in form of law, saith that she was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 1759, has quite a distinct recollection of many occurrences of the Revolutionary War, particularly those that were acted in this County, her husband John Alexander<sup>1</sup> and her Father James Alexander were both in said War (she was then married) and she now draws a pension for her husband's services, – She was well acquainted with Charles Polk who was a distant relation of her Father, he was a Captain in the Revolution and served a long time, but how long she does not know, Deponent knew all the prominent men of Mecklenburg County during the Revolution, either personally or by reputation, She has a very deep interest in the cause of the Whigs of that day.

She was instrumental in saving the life of General Joseph Graham Father of Ex-Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> [John Alexander W20586](#)

Graham<sup>2</sup> who was lost [?] down by the British near her Father's house, She and her mother dressed his wounds and concealed him until he was able to go home, she then piloted him along a byway through the woods until he got to a road that led to his mother's – Sworn to and subscribed the day above written Before Elam Hunter and William Davidson.

S/ Susanna Alexander, X her mark

[p 118]

State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County } Charlotte NC

I William Davidson of the County and State aforesaid & Town of Charlotte, being called upon to state what I know about the Polk family formerly of this County, their characters, revolutionary services &c Especially the services of Captain Charles Polk.

I remember the Polks when I was a boy & some of them at maturity – Captain Charles Polk was a Brother of General Thomas Polk & Colonel Ezekiel Polk who was the Grand Father of James K Polk, President of the United States,

I was born 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1778 of course I have no present knowledge of their migration to this Country nor of their revolutionary Services other than that derived from information which I believe to be well-founded & true viz.

The Polk's were among the first Settlers in this part of North Carolina, four Brothers, viz. Thomas, John, Charles & Ezekiel, they were men of note & leaders in public matters before and during the Revolutionary War & afterwards, Thomas Polk was Colonel of the County & called out the people 20<sup>th</sup> May 1775 when Mecklenburg declared her Independence, he had 2 Sons in service, Thomas & William, Thomas was killed at Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] Battle SC, William was wounded (shot in the mouth) at the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] PA & was shot in the shoulder, Snow Camp SC. Captain Charles Polk also rendered much service, he was a man of very ardent disposition, preferred the field & was out most all his time, & much of his time in South Carolina, John Polk was agent & lived among the Catawba Indians, Colonel Ezekiel Polk was a large landholder in Tennessee & moved there about 1800 and all his Children & Grand Children followed him, Captain Charles Polk after the war settled some 20 miles East from Town in a remote section of the County on the waters of Clear Creek where he lived & died among his wife's relations where some of his descendents & I believe the only remains of the Original Stock of this Country [are] now living.

When General Washington was on his Southern Tour he Stopped one day in Charlotte, he Together with the leading men of the County that was present dined at Old General Polk's and after Dinner they walked out into the Street to let the people see General Washington, there was a large brand [sic ?] of people present, this was about 1792 General Polk died shortly afterwards he was eldest of the Brothers Colonel Ezekiel was the youngest, they were both wealthy. The others I think were not wealthy,. [sic]

I never heard of any other Charles Polk, but the one mentioned above that was old enough to be in the Service – old General Tom Polk had a young son named Charles & so had old Charles a young son named Charles, but they were quite too young to be called into service.

From the time I began to take notice of men & things among the surviving Soldiers of the Revolution, at public Gatherings, Either Small or Great the Events of the Revolution was the principal Subject of Conversations, old Henry Emerson bragging of being sent out by Colonel Washington [William Washington] with a Troop of Cavalry to take the Tory Fort Rugeley 14 miles this [side] of Camden SC he sent a flag demanding their Surrender & on their Refusal the

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<sup>2</sup> Probably William Alexander Graham <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=G000362>

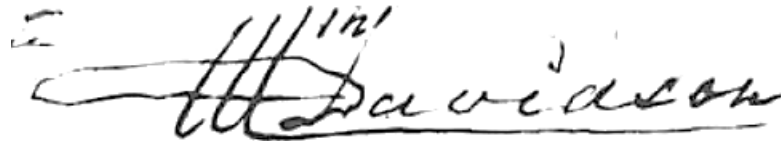
Troop retired to a Sandhill nearby & paraded about & got a black pine Log & Cut the end off & mounted it on the four wheels of a wagon & hauled it round and planted for Action as a Cannon a White flag was Instantly held out & the Fort Surrendered. They had great Sport with the prisoners who were much mortified when they found out the Trick, In this manner incidents & antidotes and other Events as related made a lasting impression on my mind & of many interesting occurrences of the War we have no historical Record.

The foregoing narrative or statement is respectfully submitted.

Sworn to & Submitted before me

S/ C. Overman, JP

S/ Wm Davidson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Davidson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Wm Davidson".

[Attested May 11, 1855]

[Veteran's widow was initially pensioned at the rate of \$292.66 per annum increased to \$500.17 based on her husband's service as a Lieutenant and Captain in the North Carolina Continental line and militia.]