

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Goodson <sup>1</sup> W7550 Dorothy Goodson

f71SC&HQ

Transcribed by Will Graves

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

State of Mississippi, Franklin County: SS

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge now acting Benjamin Goodson a resident of the County of Franklin in State of Mississippi aged about 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 June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated (to wit) Some time previous to the capture of Charleston<sup>2</sup> (the month and year not recollected) say about one year in the State of South Carolina (the name of the County not recollected) he joined the Army as a Substitute under one Captain Zeak whose company was attached to the 4th Regiment (to the best of this Affiant's believe) and that said Regiment was under command of General Moultrie [William Moultrie] or General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] (under the latter he believes) that he was in Charleston when it was captured -- was there taken a prisoner and remained a prisoner several months and upon being released **he joined voluntarily the Army in the South under the command of General Marion [Francis Marion]. That Colonel Orrie or Horry was one of the Officers** attached to the Army of Marion and that he served under General Marion during the continuance of the Revolutionary war and from him received his discharge which is now lost, that he was engaged in a Battle against the Tories on Little Pedee [River] near Smith's Mill at the time of this engagement he was attached to the Company under the command of Captain Young Blood [sic, Youngblood, possibly Peter Youngblood]. That he was in a Battle against the British on big Santee River in South Carolina. That he was in the most if not all the expeditions and marches made by Marion from the time he entered the Army under his command until he was discharged as aforesaid.

Where and in what year were you born

Answer in the State of South Carolina about 30 miles below Camden on big Lynchess Creek -- born in the year 1750 or 1752.

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it. I have no record of my age that I can procure.

Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live. Answer. I was living in South Carolina between big Pedee and big Santee Shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War I moved to Georgia where I resided a few years and from there removed to the now State of Mississippi and I am

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt28637-160-55

<sup>2</sup> Charleston South Carolina filter the British on May 12, 1780

now living in Franklin County in the State last aforesaid.

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 at first until the capture of Charleston a Substitute for one Jesse Mercer, and after the capture of Charleston I joined the Army under General Marion

State the names of some of the regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service Answer Colonel Horry, Captain Youngblood and Sergeant McDoweld [sic, could be "McDomeld" or, more logically, "McDonald" but it does not look like the latter] were officers I well knew, my memory is too effective to state with certainty further particulars

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it. Answer. I received a discharge by whom signed I do not recollect I know that it was by the command of General Marion, it is now lost.

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 Soldier of the revolution. Answer I know of no person in my neighborhood but John Ratcliff<sup>3</sup> by whom I could prove my services in the Revolution he is also acquainted with my reputation for veracity.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Ben Goodson



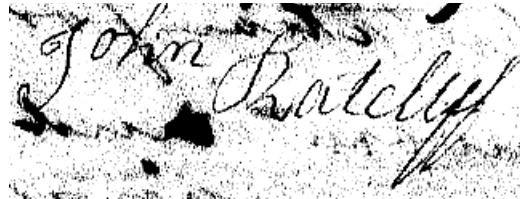
[p 9]

State of Mississippi, Franklin County: SS

On this 7th day of December A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge now sitting John Ratcliff a resident of the County & State aforesaid who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration -- to wit -- I know that Benjamin Goodson whose name is above subscribed was a soldier of the revolution that he joined the United States Army as a Substitute for one Jesse Mercer before the fall or capture of Charlestown -- I know that said Goodson was there taken a prisoner -- and after he was released he joined the Army under General Marion and that said Goodson continued in the Army of Marion until the close of the revolution said Goodson is a Preacher of the Gospel of a good moral character and veracity.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Ratcliff



[David Hughes, a clergyman, & James Cain gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Additional declaration of Benjamin Goodson made in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. He states that as he cannot be positive as to the length of time he was in service previous to the taking of Charleston by the British he will not use the records about one year as he formerly used but will and does say that he is certain that it was not less than six months. He knows that General Lincoln and General Moultrie were both at Charleston at the time of its surrender but did not then know which commanded him or which was highest in command but he is today for the first time as well as he recollects told that General Lincoln was highest in command. By way of amending his statement relative to the period in which he joined the Army under the command of General Marion after the capture of Charleston instead of using the language (about several months) he will and does positively say that it was not more than five months from the time he was taken prisoner at Charleston until he joined the Army under Marion and continued to serve under him until after the surrender of Corn Wallace [sic, Cornwallis]. He can and does say with certainty and safety that the period he served after the capture of Charleston, under the command of Marion was not less than twelve months him but longer he believes. When he joined the Army of Marion at first he thought that Marion was highest in command. At the time the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] was fought -- he was on a force [forced] march to join the United States troops not more than 10 miles distant from the field of action at that time. At the time he served he was a private.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present; And he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 18th day of June 1833 in the Probate Court of the County of Franklin State of Mississippi.

S/ Ben Goodson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Goodson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

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State of Mississippi Franklin County: SS

Personally appeared before me Dabney A. Stuart a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Benjamin Goodson who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the length of his service but according to the best of his recollection not less than the periods stated in his additional declaration made this day and in the capacity therein stated and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 18<sup>th</sup> June 1833

S/ D. A. Stuart, JP

S/Ben Goodson

[p 44: On April 3, 1847, Goodson applied for a transfer of his pension payments to Claiborne Parish, Louisiana.]

[p 12: On May 16 1854, in Claiborne Parish Louisiana, Dorothy Goodson, 69, widow of Benjamin Goodson filed a claim stating that she married him March 21, 1809 and that he died May 26, 1851. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 15: On March 30, 1855 in Claiborne Parish Louisiana, Dorothy Goodson, 69, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner. She states that she remains a widow and has not intermarried since the death of her husband. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]