

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Calhoun (Calhoun) W8579 Sarah Calhoun f73SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 7/22/06 rev'd 5/20/11 & 8/18/14

[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, Laurens District

On the Sixteenth day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before Richard Gaunt [Richard Gantt] one of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas now sitting John Calhoun a resident of the District and State aforesaid aged 75 years, who 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 7, 1832—That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1775 he volunteered under the command of Captain Rodgers [John Rodgers], then in Craven County now Laurens District was marched to Ninety Six now called Cambridge in Abbeville District where he was commanded by Major Williamson [Andrew Williamson]; was in the battle fought there with the Tories [Snow Campaign]. From thence he was marched to Duncan's Creek in Laurens District & there joined the army under command of Col. Richardson & from thence pursued the Tories up to the Cane Brake on Reedy River & there took and scattered the whole of them. We were then dismissed without discharges. In 1776, he joined the same Captain Rodger's company and was marched to & joined Colonel Williams [James Williams] at Lindley's fort on Raiborn's creek Laurens District where Jonathan Downs was Major. At this fort we were attacked [July 15, 1776] by the Indians and Tories but succeeded in defending the fort—The army under Colonel Williams [James Williams] & Genl. Williamson was marched to the Indian Nation and on the Seneca River were attacked in the night [August 1, 1776] by the Indians & Tories who killed and wounded a great many of our army, but we still kept the ground. After this Battle the army retreated and was joined by the reconnoitering party that had been sent off a few days before—then a part of the army, this declarant among them, was marched higher up to Brass Town. There we had a Battle [August 8, 1776] with the Indians, from thence retreated to Tomassee Town at which place we had the battle afterwards celebrated as the Ring fight [August 12, 1776]. In this Battle our Major Jonathan Downs was badly wounded with a musket ball in the abdomen and one of his fingers cut nearly off. Then the army marched to Seneca fort & ~~was there again dismissed~~. The army remained there some time and was then marched against the Indians & had the battle in the Cherokee Nation at a place called the Black Hole [September 19, 1776] —after this we were marched further on into the Nation as far on as the Chattahoochee [River], from which we returned to the Seneca Fort again where we were dismissed.

Declarant states that he then remained in Laurens District scouting and lying out without any regular or important service til the year 1780. About the 1st of September he joined Captain Thomas Price's company commanded he thinks by Col. Thomas or White. In this company he was sent out as a reconnoitering party to watch the motion of Cornwallis' army—came up with them at the Broad River, Shirer's Ferry—and fired & wounded a man washing in a canoe across the river—then went lower down to Buzzard's Mills there divided into smaller companies for reconnoitering and was then attached to Col. Candler's command and was ordered back to the river to watch Cornwallis' Army; just as we got there his army was just crossing to our side of the river—we had to retreat & were pursued til we reached the army commanded by Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon] & Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and just joined the army at Blackstock's as the picket guard was fired on—were formed and fought in that Battle. In that Battle Col. Sumpter got wounded from a musket Ball in the shoulder—thence he was marched on to the iron works under Col. Thomas—the balance of the army crossed Smith's Ford. There he was dismissed & never after joined the regular army but was liable to be & was called on frequently afterwards for short expeditions during the whole war.

Declarant was born in Mecklenburg County, No. Carolina on the 10 August 1757—have no record of his age—was destroyed in the Revolution—was living in this District when called into service & have lived in the same ever since—Entered the service at all times as a volunteer—have stated all the names of officers recollected—never had a regular discharge from the Service.

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.

Mr. Robert McNeese can testify as to my services as a soldier of the revolution of his own knowledge. Gabriel Phillips & R. F. Simpson can testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Garlington, Clk

S/ John Calhoun



[Gabriel Philips, a clergyman, and R. F. Simpson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 22]

State of South Carolina Laurens District: On the 23rd day of October 1833 personally appeared in open court before J. V. Richardson one of the Judges of the Court of common pleas now sitting John Calhoun a resident of the District in State aforesaid aged 76 years who 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. In the year 1775, the first part of November he volunteered under the command of Captain Rodgers and was marched to Cambridge where he was under the command of Major Williamson – here he staid three weeks. The first of December same year still with Captain Rodgers we joined the Army under Colonel Richardson, marched and took the Tories prisoners at the place known as the Snow Camp was dismissed in January – this tour lasted one month & 3 weeks. In May 1776 joined same Captain Rodgers was marched and joined Colonel Williams at Lindley's Fort in Laurens district where Jonathan Downs was Major.

Here we were attacked but defended the Fort. We were then marched under the command of Colonel Williams and General Williamson to the Indian Nation and was in several Battles – the Ring fight – Black-Hole and some others, returned and was dismissed the first of November. This made a tour of 6 months. In 1777 went a tour of two months (month not recollected), after Boyd a noted Tory under the command of Captain Chew. In 1778 [he] served a tour of two months guarding the Indian fines [?] – And one month at the Seneca Fort, both under Captain Raney. In 1780 was in a tour of one month under the command of Generals Clark and Williamson first September 1780 joined the Army under Captain Price commanded by Brannon [Thomas Brandon] and Sumter. We just reached the Army after having been engaged as patrols and spies – at Blackstocks as the picket guard were fired on, were formed & fought in that Battle [November 20, 1780], where Colonel Sumter got wounded from a musket ball in the shoulder, was then marched to and dismissed at the Iron works in February 1781 – This was a tour of five months. Same year went a tour of one month, General Twiggs of Georgia, Clarke & Few all in company to make a prisoner of Dunlap a British officer, who was called in Abbeville South Carolina (month not recollected). In the fall of this year went a tour of 2 months under the command of Colonels White & Thomas in pursuit of the Tories. In the year 1782 month not recollected was out a tour of one month after the Tories under the command of Captain Collins, making in the whole a service of twenty-two months. In all of which he went as a volunteer. This Declarant further deposes that from age and infirmity he is unable to recollect with more precision than he has stated above his particular services. All of which he has endeavored to put down at the shortest time But states that although he is now unable to specify the times particularly yet feels very confident that three years of the Revolution, (can't tell though which years) he was constantly within [sic] the field, guarding forts or out upon spying and scouting parties – so constantly so that he did not pretend to do any business at home. Deponent was born in Mecklenburg County North Carolina the 10th of August 1757 – Has no record of his age – this was destroyed in the revolution – was living in this District, then called Ninety Six & has lived in the same ever since. Entered the service at all times as a volunteer and has given the names of all the officers recollected. Never received a regular discharge from the service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Mr. Robert McNeese can testify as to my services as a soldier of the Revolution of his own knowledge. Ira L Potter, and R. F. Simpson can testify as to my character as to veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court 23rd of October 1833

S/ John Garlington, Clerk

S/ John Calhoon

[Ira L Potter, and R F Simpson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 23]

State of South Carolina Laurens district: Personally appeared in open court Robert McNeese¹ of the said District and State aforesaid and after being duly sworn made oath that [he] has heard the Declaration of John Calhoon for a pension read – that he was acquainted with him during the Revolutionary War & has been ever since. That this Deponent was

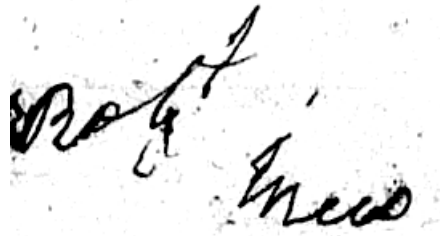
¹ [Robert McNeese S7192](#)

with him in 1775 as a volunteer under the command of Captain Rodgers and that he served that tour and was in the battles as stated by him during that time – That he was with the said Declarant in the tour, marches and battles as described by him in his Declaration in the year 1776 under the command of General Williamson. This Deponent and the said John was not afterwards during the war attached to the same command & therefore can no further, as to his personal knowledge, testify to his services but from his knowledge of John Calhoun has no doubt of the completeness of the whole that he states.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Garlington, Clerk

S/ Robert McNees

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'John Garlington' and the signature on the right is 'Robert McNees'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, somewhat stylized hand.

[p 41: Certificate dated May 13, 1845 from the South Carolina Comptroller General's office listing indents paid to a John Calhoun for militia services during the revolution.]

[p 12: On February 22, 1845 in Laurens District South Carolina, Sarah Calhoun, 71, applied for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating she is the widow of John Calhoun, late of Laurens District, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him December 8, 1793; that he died September 29, 1838; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Fact in file: the widow's name prior to her marriage was Sarah Camp.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]