Sir} A True Copy of General Sumter’s orders Dated the 8th of September 1781
You will take the greatest Care of the Clothing Committed to your Charge, you have the Charge
and Oversight of all the Taylors [sic, tailors]. They are to take your directions in all things that
relates to the Business in which you are engaged. You will keep them Strictly and Closely to
their work, and by all means Expedite the work which you have now upon hand, you are not to
take in any work from any person What Ever unless it is Uniform Clothing for the Officers of the
State Troops. Mr. Humphrey will Inform you how the Clothing are to be made up.
Mr. Class The Original was Signed by ye General’s own hand

[p 4]
August 1st 1782
This is to Certify that Mr. Frederick Class does his duty in My Company whenever called upon
Certified by me S/ F. Frigid Capt.

[p 5]
Gentlemen/
Be pleased to Deliver to Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick Indents to the Amount of my Account now in
the Auditor General’s Office, both principal and Interest.
Messrs. Blake & Boquet,
Commissioners of the Treasury S/ I’m your Most Obedient Servant
S/ Frederick Class

1 The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/. To find the AA for
a specific person, click on the Just take me to the search page link, then enter the person’s surname first in the “Full name”
box followed by a comma and the person’s Christian name. The “SC” file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by
the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.
The Honorable Hugh Rutledge Esquire Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Gentlemen the Members of the House

The Petition of certain the Inhabitants residing on or near the Congaree River, Humbly Sheweth,

That we the subscribers being moved from motives of compassion are induced to petition this House in favor of a few of their Neighbors viz.: Frederick Glass, Adam Minik, Jacob Heily, Edward Wells, George Slappey, Henry Geiger [?], Henry Slappey, Frederick Slappey, Martin Hook, Henry Senn, Simeon Theus, Martin Hidle, John Gossert, Jacob Boney and James Marshborn, all men of staunch Republican Principles, which the whole tenor of their conduct sufficiently evinces: but at the time when this part of the Country was over-run by its implacable enemies, Maxwell [Major Andrew Maxwell] the commander of the Congaree Fort [Fort Granby] force all the men of the vicinage within the fortification: where they remained until the place surrendered to the American arms:2 It was then proposed to the prisoners whether they should be sent to Charlestown, or serve ten months in the Cause of their Country; the latter was readily embraced by these good Citizens, and they proved their innate and independent Feelings, by immediately entering under the banner of General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] in Colonel [Lt. Col.] Wade Hampton’s Regiment of light troops, and by the cheerfulness and alacrity with which they went through their duty during the said term. We therefore your petitioners humbly hope that the House will be pleased to look on these men in the same point of view as the rest of the Regiment they served in, that they may receive the same bounty as promised to others. Your Petitioners also humbly represent to this House that the greatest part of these men during their absence from home and on duty, were by the inroads of foraging parties, plundered of their Effects and are reduced to very indigent circumstances.

Your Petitioners rest in humble hope this house will be pleased to order that these good Citizens may receive the bounty and pay as the rest of the troop, adequate to the time of their service, or grant them such relief in the premises as to the wisdom and humanity of the House shall seem meet;3

And your humble Petitioner’s will ever pray &c &c

Saxa Gotha February 18th 1783
S/ Henry Patrick, JP
S/ Daniel Tateman
S/ Jacob Geiger
S/ Jos. McNare
S/ [undeciphered signature]

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3 In Samuel Johnson’s Dictionary of 1755, the first definition of the word “meet” he gives is “Fit; proper….”. Johnson noted that even at that time the word “meet” was rarely so used. It must have become fairly popular in South Carolina in the early 1800’s, however, as it appears in many petitions submitted to the SC Legislature.
The Honorable David Ramsey Esquire President of the Senate, and the Honorable Gentlemen the Senators, The petition of your petitioners, most humbly Sheweth, that your humble petitioner’s did when their country was overrun by the British Troops, Voluntarily enlisted into the state service and did true & faithfully serve in General Sumpter’s brigade, under Colonel Wade Hampton the full space of 10 months, for which service they have not as yet received any pay, several of your petitioner’s were artificers Viz., Frederick Glass a Taylor who did a Considerable quantity of work for the Army, and was superintendent of that business, who had 7 or 8 men under him and the care of all the clothing Cloth &c by orders of General Sumter, during the term of his service, your humble petitioner’s are fully persuaded that if your Honorable house could have a just information of their Contra during their Servitude; as also, during the War, they would consider them as deserving of pay for their service, and as there are sundry Gentlemen who are well acquainted with the Conduct of the most of your petitioners, therefore, your petitioners humbly prayeth that your Honorable House would take their case into consideration and grant them such pay, as they in their wisdom shall see meet & your petitioners will ever pray

Frederick Class, George Slappey, Henry Slappey, Frederick Slappey, John Adam Minik, Jacob Hoyley, Simeon Theus, Martin Hidle, Martin Hook, James Mashborn, John Gossert, Henry Senn, Oliver Legran, John Foust, Peter Foust Edward Wells

To the Honorable President & other members of the Senate of South Carolina
The petition of Frid. Class, Sheweth unto your Honorable Body that in the year 1781 he your petitioner enlisted in the Service of the United States of America for the term of ten months [for] such Service he was to receive a likely Negro, but owing to some cause unknown to your petitioner, His term of Service was neglected & no return made of the same, as will more fully appear by reference to General Sumter’s Certificate, which is now among other papers delivered to the Honorable members for Lexington District at the last Sitting of the Legislature, your petitioner therefore pray that your Honorable Body from a View of the Hardships under which he labors, would restore to him the rights which has So Long been neglected; & your petitioner as in duty Bound will Ever pray

S/ Frederick Class

Frederick Clas

[p 13: Identical petition by the petitioner addressed to the South Carolina House of Representatives]

[p 15]
To his Honor, The President of the Senate, and the Honorable members the Senators

Your humble Petitioner begs leave to present to your View, a statement of what he thinks he justly ought to be entitled to Claim against the State, and at the same time set forth to your Honorable Body a statement of his services and unsuccessful applications to your Honorable House in former years for Compensation

At and about the first of our revolutionary War, your humble Petitioner as a Militia man, always personally attended, and fulfilled his Tour of duty in behalf of his country at every Draft, when called out, until the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], and at that time was deprived of his horses by some of his disaffected Neighbors and himself taken to the Enemy’s headquarters, where he was treated as a rebel, it was there proposed to him by the Commandant to enlist with the British, which he refused, he was then Paroled, to the place where he boarded, for six weeks, (your Petitioner then being a single man) and in the space of two or three weeks after this, he was ordered to attend on a Muster to be drafted, which he refused, being Paroled, but was drafted nevertheless to serve the British Eighteen Months, Your Petitioner not knowing what to do in such Critical circumstances (and would prefer death rather than serve against his Country) propose to put a substitute in his place which was accepted, (as many other good men had to do) Your Petitioner then thought he could be safe and work at his Trade without molestation But about the latter part of the Summer, three Tory Sergeants came and ordered him to repair to the Congaree Fort, which he refused to do, they compelled him by tying him, and would have made one of their horses drag him, had not an Officer of theirs interceded and lent a horse for him to ride on, when your Petitioner was put into the Fort he was called a tame rebel, and was Prohibited from using firearms, but as he had some small use of the pen, and the Tory Officers were chiefly Illiterate men, he was appointed to act as their Clerk, and as such acted until the Fort surrendered to our brave Commanders, your Petitioner having no friends to Notice him, he was marched along amongst the Prisoners and with them put in a pen on Mr. Ancrum’s plantation for near twenty-four hours, without Bread and Water and Stripped of the Chief of his Clothes, It was proposed to the Company, to enlist for Ten months in the State service (and as your Petitioner thought) on the same Conditions, as the
North Carolina troops) or be marched to Charleston as Prisoners, Your Humble Petitioner, instantly embraced the former and Enlisted and served his time faithfully in the Capacity in Character as Superintend [sic] of all the Tailors for the Brigade of State Troops under the Command of the Honorable General Sumter, his honor the General gave your Petitioner an Instrument of writing, specifying that he should have the Charge and superintendence of all the Brigades Clothing, and the oversight of all the Tailors belonging to the Brigade, and all which your humble Petitioner did faithfully Perform to the end of his Term; and after the War was at an end, your petitioner did not know to whom or where to apply for Compensation for his services, some of his acquaintances advised him to Petition the Legislature and other said he would obtain nothing, because he was taken with the Enemy, But as your petitioner had always done his duty faithfully for his Country, and was never known to be treacherous towards our Liberty, in a few years after we had Peace, took the Liberty to Petition the Honorable Legislature (But first attended on his Honor General Sumter in person for his honor’s advice in the case, and his honor was pleased to inform your Petitioner that at that time his pay amounted to Ninety four Pounds Sterling, and there was no danger of his [not] being paid) your Petitioner then proceeded and had a petition in behalf of himself and others that were in the same situation handed to the Honorable Legislature, together with the Instrument of writing from his honor the General, but the Petition did not meet with a favorable reception, and after several years fruitless petitioning, was at last laid aside, or rejected, and the paper from his honor the General lost, Your Petitioner is now upwards of Sixty two years of age, finds it difficult to support himself by his Trade, and has experienced several heavy losses, and although he feels reluctant in troubling your Honorable Body, he humbly conceives his losses, and other imperious circumstances, Together with the Pressing solicitations of Friends, who are privy to the Equity of his Claim, Constrain him to Submit his Memorial to your Honorable house, Praying for redress, and your petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray

Lexington District

S/ Frederick Class

[p 18]
This to Certify that I have been acquainted with Mr. Frederick Class for some years before the fall of Charleston and have never known or heard that He was a troublesome or disaffected person against the Cause of this Country. November 25th, 1811

S/ John Treewits

[p 20]
The Committee of Claims to whom was referred the Petition of Frederick Class Praying Compensation for services during the last War Report that they have duly considered the same & are of the opinion that the Petition ought not to be granted – Revision having been made for granting compensation for such services and it appearing to your Committee that though frequent & irregular applications were made by your Petitioner when facts were recent, they were all rejected.

[p 22]

4 A Major in the Camden District Regiment and a Brigade Major from March 2817 81 2 April 28 1781
Committee on claims to whom was referred the petition of Frederick Class praying compensation for services under General Sumter in the 10 months Services of the revolutionary War

Report that they have duly considered the same and from what information they have been able to obtain, they find that the said Frederick Class was taken with the British in Fort Granby and with many in the same Situation as himself did agree to serve in the ten months service, that being the condition on which man in his situation was to remain in the country – Your Committee therefore recommends that the prayer of the petition not be granted.

S/ James Mays

[p 24]
I certify that Frederick Class served in the State Brigade under my Command that to the best of my recollection & belief he discharged the duties of his Station with propriety –

I know nothing of the nature or terms of engagement, made at the time of enlistment but am fully persuaded he was not returned in the pay bills at the Expiration of service

S/ Thos Sumter [Thomas Sumter, Brigadier General]

[p 28]
This is to certify that I have been Intimately acquainted with Frederick Class in the time of the Revolutionary War, and I can certify that he has always done his duty in favor of his Country, and when the Enemy took possession here, he the said F. Class, with others, was forced into the Granby Fort and there detained against his Consent until the Fort was taken by the American Arms

Certified by me this 30th of November 1813

S/ John Friday, x his mark

[p 29]
Personally appeared Martin Hidle before me one of the Justices assigned to keep the peace who maketh oath that he knew Frederick Class from a boy & has known him from that time until now, & that he was always a friend to his Country during the Revolutionary War & that he was taken by the Tories & carried into Granby Fort commanded by Major Maxfield [sic] & that when the Fort was taken by the Americans, this deponent knows that Frederick Class did enlist under Wade Hampton then Colonel & was to have a likely Negro for serving ten months & this deponent knows that the said Class did serve out his time & as he believes as a tailor.

Sworn to before me this 14th __ 1813

S/ John Taylor, J Q

S/ Martin Hidle

I do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the original in a House of Representatives

[p36: original of Martin Hidle’s affidavit transcribed from p 29 above]
[p 44: another petition by Class, this one dated November 22nd, 1819. It contains no facts not already contained in the petitions above.]

[p 54: another petition, this one dated December 12, 1821]

[p 56]
The Committee of Claims to whom was referred the petition of Frederick Class

Report

That they have had under their consideration the prayer of the petition and the evidence in support of the same and recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be granted and the interest thereon and remit [?] the following resolution

Resolved that $1087.59 be appropriated and paid to the said Frederick Class

S/ John him Felder [?], Chairman

[p 61]
To the Honorable the President & other Members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of Frederick Class Sheweth to your Honorable Body that in the year 1781 he enlisted in the service of the United States of America for the Term of ten months, for which service he was to have received a likely Negro.

But from some cause unknown to your petitioner his name was Omitted on the Roll, & no return made of his services. The vouchers upon which his claim is founded & by which it is supported are now amongst the papers in the possession of the Clerk of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as they have been submitted with his petition heretofore presented to your Honorable Body

Your Petitioner begs leave to state that about the twelve or fifteen years ago he with others petitioned for the Negro which was promised them, or the Commutation in money, agreeably to the Resolve of the Legislature, but the petition was Rejected. – He then forbore to petition again until the year 1820, at which time he had procured the Certificate of General Sumpter, by which your petitioner thought his claim was clearly established, but as yet your petitioner has not received anything for his said services. He is however Informed that the Committee of your Honorable Body to which his petition was referred at the Session before the last, reported favorably; but owing to a press of Business or some other cause it was not acted on in the House of Representatives. He therefore Ventures again to address your Honorable body, & prays to be remunerated for his past services in such way as to you shall seem meet & proper, under the pledge which your predecessors of the Resolution were induced to make a hold out; As it may now be inconvenient or improper to give him the Negro which was promised him. He hopes that he may receive the value of the Indent & interest which was ordered to be paid in similar cases as a commutation of pay. Your petitioner is sure that his claim as not become the less just by having been so long withheld, nor will the Legislature of his country turn a deaf Ear to the claim of an aged, infirm & Indigent petitioner who contributed his mite in his youth towards the Establishment of that Independence which we are all now enjoy, & which is so justly our boast & happiness.
And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray
29th of November 1823    S/ Fred. Class

[p 64]
The Committee on Claims to whom was referred the Petition of Frederick Class praying payment for Revolutionary Services beg leave to report

That they have duly examined the same together with the Accompanying Documents from which it appears that the petitioner did serve his Country for ten months as a tailor for which he was to receive a likely Negro or his commutation in money which it appears he has never received. Your committee therefore Respectfully recommend that he be paid the Sum of $342.87 ½ cents without interest which is to be in full of all demands whatever brought by him against the State for Revolutionary services
December 3rd, 1823     S/ John K Griffin, Chairman

[p 70]
I do certify that Frederick Class was Forced Into the Fort at Granby contrary to his will, & also have been acquainted with said Class upwards of Fifty years – I further certify that he was always a friend to the American Cause before the war & during that period & ever since
November 28, 1824   S/ George Slappey

[p 69]
South Carolina Lexington District

Personally appeared before me George Slappey who being sworn deposes & says that he knew Frederick Class before & during the Revolutionary War & has known him ever since. That the said Class was a good Whig, & true to his Country, both before and after the fall of the British Fort at Granby, That said Class was in said Fort when it surrendered, but this deponent knows that said Class as well as others who were friends to their Country were forced by the British & Tories into said Fort. This deponent knows said Class afterwards enlisted with Sumter’s men to serve Ten months & that the Terms of enlistment were that the Soldiers should be paid a Negro for said service – but he does not recollect the name of the officer who enlisted said Class. He does not know of his own knowledge that Class served out his full time, but he always understood so both immediately after the War & ever since, & he has never heard it doubted.
Sworn the 2nd December 1824
S/ A. H. Fort C. C. P.   S/ George Slappey

[p 72]
The Committee on Claims to whom was referred the Petition of Frederick Class beg leave to report

That they have had the same under consideration and from the Evidence submitted it appears that the said Class did enlist in Sumter’s Brigade during the Revolutionary War to serve for Ten months, and that for his pay for said service he was promised a Negro, which was the usual pay then promised. It also appears that said Class did serve out the Term of his enlistment
and that he was employed in making Clothes for the Army, and that his name was not returned on the pay Roll. It also appears that in settling the Claims of those Troops, the above pay was commuted by the Government and Indents at the rates of £80 Sterling for a grown Negro & pounds Sterling for a small one; & Indents were given to most of the Troops accordingly.

It also appears that said Class has heretofore petitioned the Legislature for pay for this service, but that the claim was not allowed because, as your Committee supposes the evidence was not satisfactory [paper damaged and text missing] the Petitioner is Aged, infirm & indigent. From the foregoing facts your Committee is satisfied that the Petitioner is entitled to pay for his services; but as he has heretofore fail in producing satisfactory proof on the subject, the Committee think he is not entitled to Indent thereon; they therefore recommend the adoption of the following Resolution

Resolved that the prayer of the Petitioner ought to be granted and that he be allowed the £80 equal to three hundred forty-two dollars and eighty-seven and a half cents in full satisfaction of his Claim; and that if he accepts the above Amount it shall be a full & complete bar of his Claim for pay & Interest for said service.

S/ Jos black
S/ J. Swygert
S/ Joseph Koger

[pp 77-79: Anna Arthur made a petition to the South Carolina legislature as the daughter of Frederick Class claiming that her father was due money at the time of his death; that she is her father’s only an heir; that she is in easy circumstances with a large family.

Anna Arthur

Her petition was rejected.]