To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives and over the State of South Carolina} The petition of Benjamin Tyler, formerly of General Marrion’s [Francis Marion’s] Brigade, Colonel Ervin’s [John Ervin’s] Regiment, and Captain Thornley’s [Robert Thornley’s] Company, Humbly Sheweth, that your humble petition being at length reduced to extreme poverty and want, occasioned by wounds received in Defense of his Country’s liberties, in the revolutionary war with Great Britain, Not being any longer able to support himself and family by hard labor is constrained at last to look up to his Country for whom he has so often hazarded his life, and spelt his blood to obtain the happy freedom, which by this interposition of an all gracious Providence, she now happily enjoys, your honors will, I hope, see by my Certificates herewith presented unto you, that I have no Design to impose on my Country, but objections perhaps may be advanced why I have Delayed till this late period, to implore assistance seeing there has been such ample provision granted, and bestowed on Invalids from time to time by the legislator [sic, legislature] of this state, In order to answer this important inquiry, I must trouble your honors with a short Detail of my life, and conduct since the war, to the present time. I was a Sergeant in Captain Thornley’s company above mentioned, and in the year of our Lord 1781 on the 11th Day of February I was sent on a small command with six men on the East side of little Pee Dee [Pedee River], to make such Discovery I could of a party of Tories in that Neighborhood, when accidentally meeting with about near forty of them, the men were dispersed, from me and I received a ball between two of my ribs, and it went out on the opposite side of my backbone, very much [word written over and illegible] both the bones and sinews of my back, I received also a large buckshot in my hip at the same time, my sufferings were great, but thanks to god after a long time, my wounds were healed, and I in some degree recovered my health, at the close of the war. I not being able to lift any heavy burden on account of the wound in my back and hip, and in order to gain an honest support for my growing family, I adopted the plan of keeping a country school, which occupation I have followed the most of my time since, but my literary abilities, does not extend to a finished education, therefore am obliged to apply generally to the poorer sort of my fellow citizens for employment, among whom I get
but a scanty support for my Numerous family, which has increased to seven children, two of them Deaf and Dumb, and all females but one, I lived in the North state, when my country was so liberally bestowing pensions on her invalids, and knew it not, till the limited time appointed by the legislator [sic] was expired, since then I have removed into this State again, and am now living in St. John’s Parish Charleston District, and being so reduced by want, and finding my infirmities Dailey increasing on account of my old wounds, I have no expedient left, but to address your honors on the occasion praying your honors to take into consideration my unhappy situation, either appoint me a small gratuity to [indecipherable word] my present Distresses, or a yearly pension or otherwise if my country can find out any expedient, or if your honors will be graciously pleased to meditate any employment whereby I can earned my support in serving my country, I shall thankfully accept of such proposals, if your honors will be pleased to take my suit into consideration, it is in your power to render the miserable, in some Degree happy, but if so unhappy and object cannot Mary your honors attention, I submit to my [indecipherable word], and as this is the 1st, so I expect it will be the last time, I shall have the assurance to trouble your honors, with the concern of so unworthy and object, but shall to my latest breath, I hope, rejoice in the happy liberties of my country, and shall glory that any blood was spilt in the glorious cause that through the blessing of an all bountiful God has rendered my country the admiration of the world, that my country may Never abuse her liberties, and Never want faithful patriots, such as your honors, to be at the helm of her government, it is the unceasing prayer of your humble petitioner.

S/ Benjn. Tyler

[p 6]
No. 26    22 Dollars
July 20, 1805
Annuitants

Received July 20, 1805 payment of the within Warrant 22 dollars
S/ George Parker

[p 29: another petition but the images are illegibly faint]

[Note: The balance of the papers in this file relate to the annual payment of the pension through January 27, 1815 and the granting of a one time payment for arrears of pension of $428.40.]