

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Muscle White (Musselwhite) R11401
Transcribed by Sam West & *supplemented by Will Graves*

f35NC
rev'd 12/15/17

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State of South Carolina, District of Colleton} S. S. On this Sixth day of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty five personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Alexander M. White a resident of Saint Bartholomew's Parish in the District of Colleton and State of South Carolina aged seventy eight 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 the 7th 1832.

1 That he entered into the service of the United States of America under the following officers as hereinafter stated and served as herein stated. He deposeseth and saith that he was born in Bladen County (since called Robinson [sic, Robeson] County) about twelve or fourteen miles from Cape Fear River & State of North Carolina on the eighteenth day of June one thousand seven hundred and fifty seven and will be seventy eight years of age on the eighteenth day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty five; that in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, he was drafted as a private in Capt John Hathorn's [John Hawthorne] Company of light horse (Col. William Robertson [*sic, more likely Col. Thomas Robeson, Jr.*] was of Bladen County and was both Capt and then Colonel) and served during all the tour until within one month of the Peace when he was confined by an injury received during the war. He was regularly discharged by Capt. Hathorn which discharge is destroyed or lost; he has no documentary testimony at this time. He knew General John Willis of Bladen County, who was General of Col Robertson's Regiment. He the deponent was at a skirmish at Bittie's Bridge¹ [sic, Beatti's Bridge]² across drowning Creek; Col. Robertson was in command when they were attacked by the tories under the command of Major Samuel Andrews and Capt McNeal [sic, Col. Hector McNeill] when deponent's horse was shot under him and fell back on him by which he deponent was ruptured.

Deponent was on his way to join General Gates' army (under Command of Capt Hathorn) and was within hearing of the Cannon at the battle at Camden [August 15-16, 1780] South Carolina but before they reached the field of battle his Capt heard of General Gates' defeat and retreated towards North Carolina and In their way fell in with a party of Tories with whom they had a hot skirmish; this he says was on Big Pedee near Mares Bluff [sic, Mars Bluff] that there were a good many of the tories killed on that occasion; he says he had a brother Nathan White who was a regular soldier in General Gates' army; the deponent was with Gates' army a few days before his defeat and General Gates was pointed out to him by his brother; he cannot state why they were not in the battle of Camden. On the retreat of Capt Hathorn's company on the south side of Big Pedee they encountered a small body of tories under command of Capt Thomas Gibson and defeated them. That from great length of time and very imperfect memory deponent cannot recollect all the incidents of the war. He was with his company under Command of Capt Hathorn and another Company under command of Capt Clayton in a severe skirmish with the tories at Kelly's cowpens in South Carolina; that he removed to South Carolina Saint Bartholomew's Parish in Colleton District about the eleventh or twelfth of March one thousand seven hundred and ninety and has resided in the said Parish and District from that time to this.

2 The deponent was at one time drafted from Capt Hathorn's company of Light horse and

¹ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/beattysbridge.htm>

² *Beatti's Bridge, August 4, 1781.* http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beattis_bridge.html

placed under command, he thinks of Capt Rice and acted as pilot or guide for General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Light horse in Bladen County North Carolina. He was stationed in a Big Swamp called the ten mile swamp about ten miles below Cross Creek, does not recollect how long he served there, thinks not more than a month, General Rutherford and his troops left there and came south.

3 After they left there deponent returned home and was very shortly after called out by and served again with Capt Hathorn's company. During deponent's service as a guide or pilot the company of Capt Rice and deponent occasionally went into General Rutherford's camp. One Lieutenant Jesse Little who commanded the Tories about there came up back to the fence hurraid for King George and waived his hat for some of his company to follow him. Capt Rice ordered ten or fifteen of his men to mount and follow Little and run him down. They pursued him and in the woods a mile from the house they came up with Little and some of his men; a skirmish took place with Little and some of his men; a skirmish took place in which Little was killed and one of Rice's Light horse also.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on any pension Roll of any agency in any State.- Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Sworn to in open Court

April 6th 1835

Alexander M white



A. Campbell, Clerk

[John Youmans, a clergyman, and William O'Bryan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Will Graves' transcription note:

[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.]

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North Carolina Robartson [Robeson] County}

This may certifi [Certify] that that these two persons [persons] do appear [appear] Before me John Wilas one of the justices assigned to keep the Peace in and for said District and do testify that Mr. Alexander M White was drafted Solgor [Soldier] with them in the first Reverlution [Revolution] wore [were] Drafted under Curnel [Colonel] Robartson [Robeson Robeson, Jr.], served under Captain John hafe horn [John Hawthorne] we was of the Company that Hung to murderin [murdering] torys [Tories] in the State of South Carolina and Nick Less hender son [Nicholas Henderson] we hung. At Elizabeth theare [there] we got our Dischards [discharges]

S/ John Jacson, X his mark

S/ Aaron Talor,³ X his mark

S/ John Wilsas feb. 2, 1832

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State of South Carolina Colleton County}

The second amended Declaration of Alexander M White to his application for a Pension made on 6th April 1835.

Alexander M White, deposes and says that in 1778 he was a private in Captain John Ringan's [sic, John Regan's alias, John Riggins'] Company, that Captain Riguns [sic] ordered his Company as he stated to Deponent, by order of General Willis of North Carolina, for the purpose of a Draft to form a Company of Light Horse to be commanded by Captain John Hathorn [John Hawthorne] that Deponent, was one of this Draft and six others named, Aaron Taylor, John Jackson, Reuben Rozier, Wm Gibert [William Gilbert?], Frank Cabett [Francis Cabot?] & John Ghavez [John Chavez?], they were ordered to meet in 2 days after the Draft at Richardson's old Gate on Drowning Creek, they all went there, and the rest of Hathorn['] men met them thirty-five in number, all of whom were drafted from other Companies – he was then drafted for & served Three months, on the service of guarding the “Truce Line” and protecting the Country from the Tories – and on this Term he went to Cross Creek, and there had a skirmish with the Tories in which, one of their men William Gibert was killed. Deponent then returned home with his Company, and after being there were 2 or 3 days, Captain afterwards Colonel Robertson [Thomas Robeson, Jr.] came & pressed him & Aaron Taylor to go in pursuit of Tories to Drowning Creek, he was not out long, as his horse was killed & fell on him at this time – he was confined by the injury then received for some time – After he got well – he was then again ordered out by Captain Hawthorne, who [indecipherable word] he had orders to go out again, but he never learn and does not know who gave these orders, he went then over the line into South Carolina, “the Truce was at an end” or nearly so – he was four weeks in this Tour; – he was then at home for 2 or 3 days, again ordered & went out with Captain Hawthorne's Company – the Deponent states that he believes his Company of Captain Hawthorne was in the duty of guarding the Frontier or Truce line were called minute men and he served & was drafted during the whole [?] War on this & other Service, in company & with Aaron Taylor – his memory is feeble & weak and cannot remember everything – his comrades Aaron Taylor & John Jackson both wrote this Deponent that they had received a Pension – he has heard since that Jackson is dead.

Sworn & subscribed to before me in open court this 9th day of June A.D. 1834

S/ Alexander M white

S/ Malachi Ford , Judge [the judge dates his attestation June 9th 1835, not 1834 as dated by the veteran]

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The State of South Carolina Colleton District}

The amended Declaration of Alexander Muscle White, to his declaration taken before Judge Evans at Walterboro Court House Colleton District on the 6th day of April 1835 and now on File in the War Department of the United States, Pension Office at Washington District of Columbia

Alexander Muscle White being duly Sworn, says that he was a private in Captain Rigings Company of Militia in Bladen County North Carolina this was a Company of Infantry, he was drafted from this company in the year 1778 into the light horse company of Captain John Hawthorne of Bladen County North Carolina as a private Soldier, that he served two years with

³ Sic, [Aaron Taylor R10403](#)

Captain John Hawthorne. That at the expiration of two years on or about that time, he was then drafted as a private, into Captain Samuel Richardson's Company of Light Horse, Captain Samuel Richardson lived on Drowning Creek in North Carolina that Nathaniel Richardson was the lieutenant of his Company, he thinks, he served under and with Richardson's Company about 2 years, he went with this Company to Wilmington North Carolina, also to Georgetown in South Carolina, and on Cooper River in South Carolina at Strawberry Ferry and on the Santee River in Same State. He was then drafted into Captain William Robertson's Company of Light Horse as a private, he thinks, he only served 3 months with Robertson's Company, Robertson was afterwards a Colonel, he went with Robertson to Batties Bridget North Carolina across Drowning Creek, here his horse was shot under him, fell back on & ruptured him, this injury confined him about 3 months – After this he was drafted back to Captain Hawthorne's Company of light Horse (his old & first Company) he was drafted then for 3 months, but thinks he did not serve so long, as peace was shortly declared, he went in this Tour to the Big Pedee [River] in South Carolina, and to Shu Hill Swamp [Shoe Hill Swamp?] but does not remember if this Swamp is in North or South Carolina, while on this Tour near Gibson's Ferry in South Carolina on the Big Pedee [River], they caught a Tory named Charles Gates and hung him, he had murdered Captain Hawthorne's son Nathaniel, also above Gibson's Ferry caught another Tory named Nicholas Henderson and hung him for the same offense and at Shu Hill Swamp caught another Tory named Dickerson and hung him for the same offense – the Character of his Service was to Guard the Country, go in pursuit of the Tories and prevent their doing mischief and injury

The deponent is very infirm and from an attack of palsy can with difficulty he understood – His memory is feeble, and he cannot recollect precisely how long he served each tour of duty – He however positively swears that during the whole war (with the exception of 3 months when he was confined from his horse falling on him) he never was at home one week at every one time and putting all the time together he was not out of Service for one year during the whole War –

S/ Alexander M white

[Attested May 14, 1835 by Judge Malachi Ford]

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The State of South Carolina Colleton District}

The third amended Declaration of Alexander M. White, for a pension –

Personally appeared Alex M White 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 precise length of his Service: but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the times mentioned in his Declarations now on File in the War Department at Washington and in addition that he served as a private in Captain John Hathorns Company of Light Horse in the year 1781 for six months, for which he was drafted at the house of Solomon Messer in North Carolina, Bladen County near Ten Mile Swamp, and for this and his other services, he claims a pension.

Sworn to this 24th day of July A.D. 1835

S/Alexander white

Alexander white

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The Amended Declaration of Alexander M White to his previous applications for a Pension now

on File in the War Department, Pension Office at Washington City –

The Deponent Alexander M White, states & declares on oath, that in or about the year 1777 – though at the time he cannot specify certainly, yet he is certain or nearly so, that it was the year before what is called the South Carolina Truce, at a General Muster at Lumber Town [Lumberton] in the State of North Carolina, where were assembled several Militia Companies, he [indecipherable word] his own Company commanded by Captain John Rignings, one Company commanded by James or Jacob Blount, one by Jerry Richardson and other Companies the name of the officers he does not recollect, one was he does namely Captain Shadrach Lee's – that in this occasion General John Willis was present and the Deponent saw him, he also understood the Governor of North Carolina was present but he did not see him, if he did, he did not know him – that at this time & place, a Draft was made from all the Companies assembled, And that this Deponent Alexander M White and Ruben Rosier, David Rosier, Isaih Powell [Isaiah Powell?] & Joseph Bubay [?] and some others whose names he does not recollect, were drafted from the Company of Captain John Rignins for one year, and attached to the Company of Captain William Moore, whose Lieutenant was named Joseph Wood, that he served as a private Soldier with Captain William Moore under this Draft for one year – that Captain William Moore's company was a light Horse Company, consisting of Thirty-five Privates – that he marched under command of & in Captain William Moore's [paper damaged and text missing] as a Private, from Lumberton up to Rock Fish Bridge, and went there into Camp, that on their arrival at the Rock Fish Bridge, they found there a company of Foot Soldiers commanded by Captain Jerry Willis [Jeremiah Willis?] and Lieutenant Isaac Plummer, – that Deponent went from Rock Fish Bridge Camp under Captain William Moore in pursuit of a band of Tories said to have been commanded by Thomas Gibson, they first went to Fair Bluff on Drowning Creek in North Carolina, found the Tories had gone to South Carolina, followed them across the Big & Little Pedee rivers, across Britten's Ferry and came up with them upon Lynches Creek at Witherspoon's Ferry and there had a fight & dispersed the Tories, and that at this Fight, his Lieutenant Wood was killed – the Deponent then returned with Captain Moore to the Camp at Rock Fish Bridge – and remained in the During the rest of the year, occasionally they left the Camp under orders & were scouting about the Country – that the Company of Captain William Moore at this time was ordered down to Elizabeth Town, and Deponent was then with them, stayed at Elizabeth a night or 2 & returned to the Camp –

And this deponent refers to his previous declarations to show his want of memory –

Sworn to & subscribed before me in open Court this Tenth day of September A.D. 1835

S/ Alexander M white

S/ Malachi Ford, Judge