

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ross S1929

Transcribed by Will Graves

f15NC

rev'd 3/4/17 & 6/18/20

[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 Tennessee, County of Giles: August Term of the Court of said County for the year 1832

On this the 22nd day of August in A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, now sitting, John Ross, a resident of the said County of Giles and State aforesaid aged 74 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 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, that is to say—He was in the service as a volunteer under Col. Polk [Thomas Polk] and fought with him under his command at Reede [sic, Reedy] River¹ in South Carolina, in the battle fought at that place, which applicant believes was the first battle fought in South Carolina in the Revolutionary War. He volunteered and entered the service under Col. Polk in Charlotte town McInburgh [sic, Mecklenburg] County in the State of North Carolina in the winter season but applicant cannot tell in what year. He was marched under the command of the said Col. Thomas Polk, through North Carolina, directly into South Carolina, on the Reedy River where they fought the above battle. He states that at that battle, or skirmish, but a few rounds were fired, the enemy fled and the Americans made several prisoners. He served during this short expedition which was principally against the Tories on Reedy River, as a malitia [sic, militia] man under the individual command of Capt. James Alexander in said Polk's Regiment. He does not think that he was in service in the above campaign more than four or five weeks—nor were they attached to any regular troops during this service. He was marched home by his officers and discharged. He does not believe they ever got any regular discharge. He states that the said Polk was afterwards General Polk. He next, afterwards, volunteered for five months, for the purpose of marching against the British in South Carolina. Applicant still resided in the said County of McInburgh in North Carolina where he last volunteered, which he continued to do only when absent on military service during the whole Revolutionary War. He was in this expedition under the command of Capt. Brumfield [John Brownfield] in Col. Lock's [sic, Francis Locke's] Regiment and General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Brigade & marched from North Carolina into South Carolina as far as Purysburgh [sic, Purysburg]--where the troops lay principally during the winter season. He with other troops, was marched to join General Ash [sic, John Ashe], who was defeated by the British before they reached his quarters. Ashe's defeat took place on Brier Creek [sic, Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]² in the State of Georgia. Some short time after Ashe's defeat, in the month of April he was discharged at Purysburgh, his term of service having expired—when he returned home into North Carolina—And He next went on an expedition as a volunteer militia man

1 Great Cane Brake, December 22, 1775 http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_cane_brake.html

2 Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

against the Tories upon the Catawba River into the Ramsours Settlement in the State of North Carolina and fought in the Battle at Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780]³ on the west fork of said Catawba River in which engagement his Capt. Gilley Falls [Galbraith Falls] was slain in ~~this~~ battle. This Battle was warmly contested, but the Tories who fought the American forces in that engagement were completely defeated and fled leaving the American troops in possession of the field. He returned home the next day after this Battle and was dismissed by his commanding officer. He next served under Capt. Johnathan Potts in General Davidson's [William Lee Davidson's] Brigade. He does not recollect the term of this service under Davidson but states that it was a long time. During this term of service, he was marched through North Carolina flying before the British on to Guilford [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] and was in hearing of the battle fought at that place but was not in the engagement. He was afterwards marched home and discharged or rather dismissed for he does not recollect that they received any regular discharges. He next listed [sic, enlisted] for the term of ten months under Col. Wade Hampton, the troops in this service were called State troops. He here again joined the United State Army in the said County of Mecklenburg in the State of North Carolina and marched from there into South Carolina. He was not at the Battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781],⁴ which was fought by his associate [?] troops on this expedition, and part of the British Army, having been previously ~~directed~~ ordered as a Sergeant in which capacity, he served during this expedition, to carry the sick to Camden, a town high up in South Carolina on Wateree River. Previous to the battle of the Eutaw Springs, he was in the engagements at the taking of Congaree, Fort Orangeburgh Fort [May 11, 1781]⁵ & the Quarter House & several other places of some note and was finally discharged at the Four Holes in South Carolina about forty miles from Charlestown [sic, Charleston], which completed his service during the Revolutionary War. He was under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] for some time while the State troops lay at Purysburg. This is the only time that he was attached to the regular troops during the war. He knows of no written documentary which would aid him in establishing his claim. He states that Hugh King⁶ & James Shields of Maury County and said State, knew of his being in service in the United State Army or different expeditions during the war but he does not know what statements they can now make as to the above facts.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state to the best of his knowledge.

Sworn to in open Court 24th August 1832

S/ John Ross

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Ross", written in dark ink on a light background.

S/ German Lester, Clk.

We Gilbert D. Taylor a clergyman and residing in the County of Giles and said State and Thomas Simpson residing in the same State and County hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Ross, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration: That we believe him to be

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html

⁶ [Hugh King S32365](#)

74 years of age or thereabouts: that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he now resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in the opinion.

S/ G.D. Taylor

S/ Thos. Simpson

Sworn to and subscribed on the 24th day of August 1832

Sworn to in open Court this 24th August, 1832

Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in the year 1758, in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina.

2nd : Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have a record of my age on a piece of paper at my house in the said County of Giles, which I took from my father's family record the last time I was in North Carolina a number of years ago.

3rd : Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you live now?

Answer: I lived in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina during the whole time of the Revolutionary War except when on service out of the state. I since lived in the State of Georgia about 18 years -since which time, I have lived in the State of Tennessee and have been a citizen of Giles County and said last mentioned state for at least twenty years last past where I now live.

4th : How were you called into service were you drafted. Did you volunteer or were you a substitute. And if a substitute for whom?

I volunteered to enter the service above specified in every instance.

5th : State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops, under you served; such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I was under General Rutherford, General Sumpter,[sic, Thomas Sumter] Col. Polk, Col. Locke, Col. Williams, Col. Wade Hampton, and such others as I have named in the declaration. I have also stated most of the circumstances of my services in the above declaration which I now recollect.

6th : Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer: I did receive some discharges but from whom I can not now recollect. I have none in my possession at this time. They have been lost or mislaid. As I long since thought they would be of no service to me.

7th : State the names of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Ans: There are a number of persons and neighbors who can testify as to my character viz. Thomas Simpson, Thomas E. Gordon, Samuel Hampton, William Morris & Gilbert D. Taylor &c.

S/ John Ross

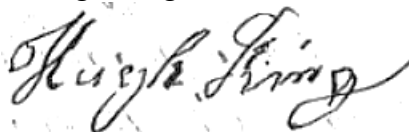
State of Tennessee, Giles County

On this 23rd day of August 1832 personally appeared before me William M. Shields an acting Justice of the peace for said County Hugh King a resident of the State of Tennessee & County of Maury aged 77 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say that John Ross served Ten months together with himself in General Thomas Sumter's Brigade of South Carolina & Col. Wade Hampton's Regiment.

Worn to & subscribed before me on the day & year above written.

S/ Wm. M. Shields, JP

S/ Hugh King

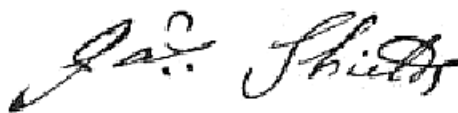


Maury County August 23, 1832

Dear Sir Mr. Ross applied to me to certify what I know about his Services in the Revolutionary War. He lived in the same neighborhood that I did at that time and I never was in the Army with him but make no doubt but he served Ten months in the lite [sic, light] hore [sic, horse] Service under the Command of General Sumter I know that he was from home for that length of time and I had two brothers with Sumter at the same time and said he was with them in the service of his Country.

Certified by me.

S/ Jas. Shields



to E. J. Shields

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 16 months in the North Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁷ relating to John Ross
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 6614

AA13

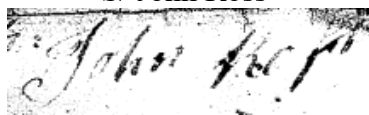
Transcribed by Will Graves

6/18/20

[p 2]

Know all Men by these presents that John Ross of the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina have this day bargained and sold unto Andrew Alexander of the same place My Negro I have due me from the State of South Carolina as a Soldier in General Sumter's brigade Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment for the term of ten Months for & in consideration of fifty pounds specie to Me in hand paid for which Draw I do Warrant and Defend from all Parsons [sic]. Given under my hand this [illegible] day of November 1784

S/ John Ross



⁷ 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.

[p 3]

I do hereby Authorize Andrew Alexander to receive what may be allowed by the Commissioners for my service done

S/ John Ross

[p 4: Printed form of an indent the image of which is extremely poor. If I had to guess I would guess that the Indent number is No.2067 Book M dated October 1st, 1784 and that it is in the amount of £94 Sterling and that the substantive text of it reads as follows: "delivered to Mr. John Ross late a private, Alexander's [William Alexander's] Troop Sumpter's [Thomas Sumter's] Brigade this our Indented Certificate for the Sum of Ninety four pounds Sterling being amount pay and bounty due him for Services in that Troop Together with Interest thereon from the first April 1782 to date hereof Agreeable to Resolution of General Assembly of the 8th March last."]

[p 5: Reverse of the above Indent bearing endorsements by Andrew Alexander, an example of his signature is as follows:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrew Alexander". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first name "Andrew" is written in a slightly larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Alexander". The signature is enclosed in a small rectangular box with a closing bracket on the right side.