

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Liles (Lyles) S47930

f32GA[sic, SC]

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/18/08: rev'd 5/22/16

[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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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled

Respectfully shows John Lyless [sic] of Escambia County in the Territory of Florida that he was duly commissioned as a Captain and also as Major in the South Carolina line of troops and served as such during the War of the Revolution, that he is now about eighty-four years of age, in indigent circumstances and requires the assistance of his country. That he has applied for a pension under existing Statutes and the court to whom the same was submitted duly certified that your petitioner had served in the Revolutionary War according to the requisitions [sic] in such cases – but your petitioner's claim was rejected as he is informed because the period of service was not stated according to the regulations in such cases.

And your petitioner states that before he could procure the testimony of his time of service with sufficient accuracy the Witnesses deceased, and from this and other causes he has not been able to exhibit the evidence required by the regulations in such cases at the Pension office. But your petitioner believes he can procure competent evidence to prove that he is entitled to the bounty of his country. He therefore prays for such consideration and relief in his case as may seem just and liberal.

Annual petitioner &

S/ John Lyles

Pensacola March 1, 1838

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Comptrollers Office of
South Carolina

I certify that the following Indents were issued to John Lyles viz.

In Book X No. 1819 – issued March 4th, 1786 to John Lyles for \$206.10 for duty as a Captain of Course in the Militia per account audited £206.10/

On referring to the Account it appears that it was presented for 75 days of Service on foot and 398 days for Horseback. The Commissioners reduced the same and issued the Indent for 56 days service as Captain of foot and 365 days as Captain of Course.

In Book X No. 3320. Issued 18th July 1786 to John Lyles for £9.S.9 1/4 for forage for Continental and Militia as per account from the Commissioners.

Given under my hand and Seal at Charleston South Carolina this 16th of April 1838

S/ Wm: Ed: Hayne, Comptroller General

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Territory of Florida, Escambia County: SS

On the fourth day of September in the year of our Lord 1838 before me Charles Evans Judge of the County Court of Escambia County in said Territory, personally appeared John Liles commonly known as John Lyless [sic] at his residence, about fifty miles from the city of Pensacola in said County said Liles [sic] being a resident of said County and aged about eighty-three 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. -- At the age of 18, he belonged to a company of Horse, engaged in operating against the Cherokee Indians. When the revolutionary war broke out, he was among the refugees (as they were called) and was appointed a Captain of Infantry, having been drafted into the militia before the British got possession of my part of South Carolina. He was then stationed at Augusta Georgia under General Williamson [Andrew Williamson of the South Carolina militia], James Liles, oldest brother of this declarant being the Colonel of the Regiment. The field officers not remembered. The only company officers remembered is the younger brother of declarant, named Henry [Henry Liles]. Declarant served three months in this corps until the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779]¹ under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. He was soon after appointed a Captain of Cavalry and served as such for two years and a half; after which he was promoted to a Major. In this rank he served until the end of the war. When General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] took the field against the British, Colonel James Liles was appointed Colonel of the Regiment to which declarant belonged. The other field officers not remembered. Henry Liles brother of this declarant was second in command in his company. Declarant was born at Ninety Six District South Carolina, about 180 miles from Charleston, June 15, 1755, and was living there when he was first drafted into the Infantry. He has a record of his age but it is not with him. It is with a member of his family in Alabama. He volunteered in the Cavalry. While in the Infantry he was in the battle of Stono under Lincoln afterwards he was in the battle at the Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780]² under Sumter, and the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]³ under Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and in the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]⁴ under Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. He was in several other battles and skirmishes of less importance. He never served out of South Carolina except as a Captain of infantry at Augusta. There were no Continental troops serving with the Corps to which declarant belonged, except at the battles above named. Said Corps was employed in ranging over South Carolina and keeping down the Tories, and was never embodied with the Continental troops. After the battle of Stono the declarant went home and was there a month or more before he again entered the service. After this he remained in the service during the whole of the war, until the battle of Eutaw Springs. Declarant has no documentary evidence of his services. Until within ten or twelve years past, he had many letters and several commissions which might have proved such service, but as they were not supposed to be of use, they have been neglected and destroyed. There is no person whose testimony he can procure to prove his said services. When the declarant was first informed that the Pension law of 1832 had been passed, he made an application⁵ which turned out to be informal. In support of that application he procured evidence. The papers were forwarded to Washington and this declarant has not been able to get them since or ascertain where they are.

¹ http://www.carolina.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

² http://www.carolina.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

³ http://www.carolina.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

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

⁵ this earlier petition is not included among the documents in this file

Since the Revolutionary War declarant has lived mostly in the State of Georgia. About 20 years ago he removed to the State of Alabama and last fall came to this County where he now resides. He received two Commissions in the Cavalry – one as Captain and one as Major – both signed by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge]. They have been destroyed as above stated.

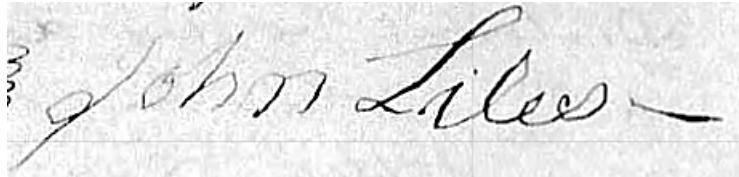
Declarant refers to John Dixon, G. A. Gage and Jesse Donaldson as witnesses of his truth and veracity &c and of his being reputed to have been a revolutionary officer.

He hereby relinquishes every claim what ever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency of any State.

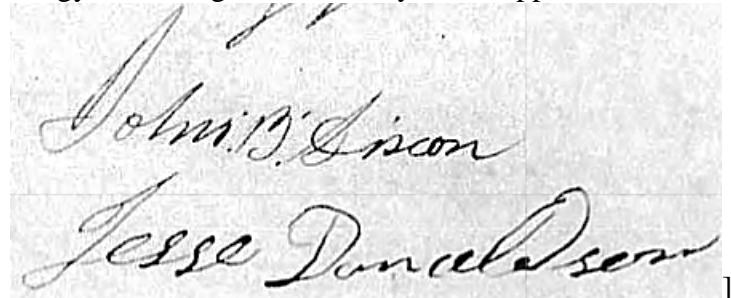
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Charles Evans, Judge County Court

S/ John Liles

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Liles". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

[John Dixon and Jesse Donaldson gave the standard supporting affidavit, there being no clergyman living in the vicinity of the applicant.

Two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The top signature reads "John B. Dixon" and the bottom signature reads "Jesse Donaldson". Both signatures are written over horizontal lines. A small square bracket is positioned to the right of the "Jesse Donaldson" signature.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$337.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Captain in the South Carolina militia for 13 months and 26 days.]