

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

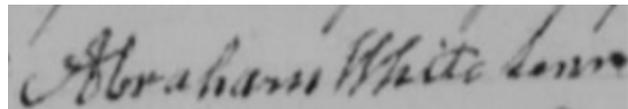
Pension Application of Abraham White R11400

MD VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Maryland

on this Eighteenth day of May in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and thirty three Personally appeared in open Court before the Honourable the Judges of Baltimore City Court Abraham White a resident of the City of Baltimore in the state of Maryland aged eighty seven years and upwards, 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 the 7th June 1832. That he resided in Frederick County in the State of Maryland, aforesaid before and at the Commencement of the Revolutionary War. That early in the year 1776 He entered into the service of the United States and served as first Lieutenant in a Company of Infantry Commanded by Patrick Watson, which company was part of a Regiment Commanded by Colonel Normand Bruce of which Regiment William Blair was the Lieutenant Colonel. that he continued on military duty in said Company in Frederick County aforesaid from the time he entered until January 1777 when he marched in and with said Company as the first Lieutenant thereof to Weal Town [probably Vealtown, now Bernardsville] in the State of New Jersey where he remained upwards of two months on duty and was then discharged or ordered back with said Company to Maryland by Thomas Johnson who was then in the state of New Jersey as Commander of the Maryland [militia] troops in that state. That shortly after the return of said Company to Frederick County, Captain Watson resigned when he (deponent) took Command of the Company by directions of Colonel Bruce, and Continued to Command said Company until some time in the year 1780 and during all the time was employed on Military duty under Colonel Bruce, that in the year 1780 he left the Infantry Service and joined the artillery under the Command of General Davis then Commander of the American and French Artillery [sic: see endnote], and proceeded to Williamsburg in the State of Virginia, where he (deponent) served as Commander of the first Brigade of Artillery until July 1782 when he with the troops stationed there, proceeded, agreeably to orders, to Boston in the State of Massachusetts, under the Command of General Dan'l. Alcott [sic: Daniel Olcott], who had succeeded General Davis in the Command, that the troops arrived at Boston in December following and shortly after discharged when (deponent) returned to his Home in Frederick County aforesaid; deponent further says that to the best of his recollection and belief he served as first Lieutenant of Infantry one year and upwards, as Captain of the same Company of Infantry he served three years and upwards, and as Commander of a Brigade of Artillery he served two years and upwards. He also says he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure who can Testify to his service except Peter Storm Esquire formerly a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, now a resident of the City of Baltimore. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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



Interrogatories put to Abraham White and his answers.

Qu. Where and in what year were you born

Ansr. I was born in York County Pennsylvania, in the year 1745

Qu. Have you any Record of your age and if so where is it.

Ansr. I have not any Record of my age, other than that made by myself as a family record.

Qu. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live

Ansr. I lived in Frederick County in the State of Maryland when I entered into the service, resided there

short time after the war, and then I removed to the City of Baltimore where I have resided ever since

Qu. How were you called into Service were you drafted did you Volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a substitute for whom

Ansr. I Volunteered, and received the appointment of first Lieutenant of a Company of Infantry

Qu. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general Circumstances of your service

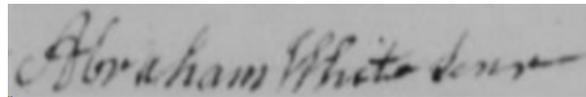
Ansr. The Company of Infantry in which I was first Lieutenant was Commanded by Patrick Watson, Colonels Bruce and Blair Commanded the Regiment in which were Companys Commanded by Michael McGuire, John Icher[?], and others, while the Company I belonged to was in New Jersey I saw and received orders from Thomas Johnson the Commander of the Maryland troops – while at Williamsburg in Va. I saw and knew there General Daniel Alcott, who succeeded General Davis in the Command there, and who accompanied the troops to Boston in the Fall of 1782. I was also acquainted with Lewis Pease, who Commanded the second division of Artillery at Williamsburg.

Qu. did you ever receive a Commission, if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it.

Ansr. I received a Commission as first Lieutenant when I first entered into the service, I also received a Commission when I entered into the artillery I never received any Commission as Captain. I commanded the Company after the resignation of Captain Watson, by the orders of Colonel Bruce, the Commissions I received were in my possession until the year 1817 when they were lost with many other papers belonging to me in the great Freshet, that overflowed a considerable part of Baltimore I cannot recollect by whom they were signed.

Qu. State the names of persons to whom you are known in 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.

Ansr. I have been long a resident of the City of Baltimore and am known to many of the old Citizens any of whom would I believe testify as to my Character for Veracity, but not of my Revolutionary services among them I name Mr. John Hellin, William Jenkins, Sam'l. Meale, and B. S. Elder – there are others who from hearsay believe that I was a Soldier of the Revolution, Among them are Mr John Casserry, Mr. Baul S. Elder, and Mr Michel J MaGuire, the latter of whom is a son of Captain Michael MaGuire who Commanded a Company in the same Regiment with myself under Colonel Bruce.



[Certified by Michael Macguire and John White.]

The DELEGATES of the FREEMEN of MARYLAND, in CONVENTION,
TO Abraham White Gentleman We, reposing especial trust and confidence in your fidelity, courage, good conduct, and attachment to the liberties of America, DO, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be first Lieutenant of Captain Watson's Company in Colonel Buvais Battalion of Militia in Frederick County YOU are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the trust reposed in you, by disciplining all officers and soldiers under your command; and we do hereby strictly enjoin and require them to obey you as their first Lieutenant And you are to observe and follow all such orders and directions as you shall, from time to time, receive from this or a future Convention, or from the Council of Safety of Maryland for the time being, according to the rules and regulations established by this or a future Convention. THIS Commission to be in force until revoked by this or some future Convention of the Delegates of the Freeman of Maryland, or by the Council of Safety of Maryland for the time being, according to the powers and authorities in such Council of Safety to be hereafter vested by such Convention.

Given in Council of Safety this 10th day of January Anno Domini, 1777.

[signed] Dan'l of St. Thos. Jenifer, J Hall, Geo. Plater, Nic Thomas, Brice B Worthington, Sam'l Wilson, Thos. Contee

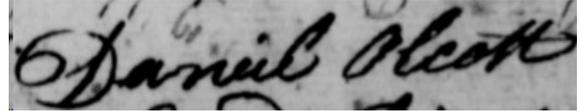
Mr. Abraham White, Principal Conductor attached to the 1st Division.

Will in case any Horse should be drowned in passing the Rivers, or should be killed by the Enemies apply immediatly to the Commanding Officer of the Artillery for a Certifficate for the Horse with which he is attached; also he will to every part leave for me a Copy of the Return which he makes of his Division to the Commanding Officer of the Artillery, that I may know the state of the Division; Should any inferior officers or soldiers offer any ill usage either to man or Horse the person so treated will apply to the Commanding Officers

Willia[msbur]g June 28 1782.

June 28 1782

[signed] Daniel Olcott
Cond'r. Principal



[Samuel Fernandis, attorney for the heirs of Abraham White, certified that between the 10th and 20th of June 1833 John White, son of Abraham White, gave him the above commission and order by Daniel Olcott to send to the Secretary of War. On 12 Oct 1833 George William Crump, acting Commissioner of Pensions, wrote to Fernandis in part as follows:]

“The Commission, and order referred to, by you, in previous letters, have been found, and used in the investigation. They certainly prove that he was in service, and shew the capacity in which he was employed, but do not establish the next greatest point in an application, viz. the duration of the terms of service./ Col. Bruce was a Colonel of Maryland Militia. Now, as it is well known to the Office, that no body of Militia was ever in actual service for as long a period as the applicant alleges, the conclusion is naturally drawn, that the claimant demanded pay for the whole time intervned between his appointment and removal to another service, whether he were or were not under arms. It is impossible to allow such a claim, Each term of service, the names of the officers, in what corps, and where rendered, must be separately, and fully stated, and only tours, which are there set forth, can be taken into the computation of a pension./ The order from Olcott shews decisively that he was only a conductor of the necessary teams and horses and men employed for these teams and horses, attached to a division of the Artillery. He could not therefore be entitled to the pay of a Captain of Artillery.”

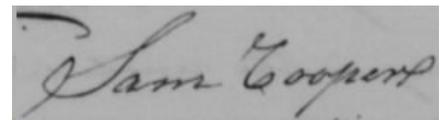
Georgetown DC. Nov'r. 1 1836

Having been called on to state what I know in regard to the appointment of conductor of artillery in the revolutionary army of North America, I give the following as far as my memory serves me.

The duties assigned to the Conductor of Artillery (more commonly called conductor of military stores) were the safe keeping and proper disposition of all ammunition required for the troops. The conductor had the charge of the caissons, or ammunition wagons, from which they supplied the wants of the troops as occasion required. They were generally appointed from lieutenants, sometimes from sergeants, for faithful and distinguished service, and sometimes from citizens, but in no case, to the best of my recollection, did the pay exceed that of lieutenant, nor did I ever hear of a captain having been appointed to that station; although such might have been the case without my knowledge. I can only speak as to what occured in the regiment to which I belonged, whose lieutenants and sergeants only were assigned to that duty, for which they both received the pay and emoluments of lieutenant.

[Samuel Cooper]

Formerly an officer of the Revolutionary Army.



About two years since, at the request of Mr Abraham White of the City of Baltimore now deceased I went before a Judge of one the courts in Baltimore and made a declaration on Oath of my

knowledge of said White's having served in the War of the Revolution. Now I do Hereby certify that all the facts therein stated by me to which I did at the time subscribe my name are true. I further Certify, that at the time of so doing said Abraham White was present and to the best of my knowledge and belief in his perfect senses, and was remarkable for his perfect recollection of the events of the Revolutionary War. I also Certify in addition to the facts stated before the Judge, that some time after said White went to the South (I believe two years and upwards) as mentioned in my declaration before the Judge. I saw him in Maryland with a number of troops, and was then informed by him that he and the Troops were on their way to the North (I believe to Boston) that said White was then in Uniform and was called Captain or Major White I cannot say positively which. [signed] Peter Storm
 Balt'o December 30 1837

Washington/ Decr 22, 1838

To the hon the Senate and house of Representatives of the United States
 Your Petitioner represent that the late Abraham White of the State of Maryland died entitled to certain arrearages of money by way of pension for services rendered to the United States during the war of the Revolution, the payment of which to your Petitioners they pray, and that an act of congress for that purpose be passed. The heirs of the late Abraham White by Jas Hoban their attorney

NOTES:

Gen. Henry Knox commanded the artillery of the Continental Army in 1781.

The essential facts of White's service are confirmed by pension applications excerpted as follows:

Peter Summers, pension application S22546: "That he entered the service of the United States during the revolutionary war as a drafted militia on the first of November in the year 1776 at a place called Tawney town [Taneytown] in Frederick County Maryland where he then resided under Captain Patrick Watson first Lieut. Jacob Fletcher, second Lieut. Abraham White commanded by Colonel Bruce and Major Blair. That they marched into the State of New Jersey to a place called Wheeltown. The British army then lay at new Brunswick about 10 or 15 miles distant. that he went out for a tour of six months which time he served out fully and some time over

George Snyder S6135: "He next engaged in company with two of his brothers at Tawney Town M.D. to serve in an Artillery Co., under a Capt. Abraham White (afterwards Major), whence in company with a Major Theys he proceeded to Lancaster Pa. where they purchased horses for the service: & then went to meet Rochambeau's Army at Williamsburgh Virginia [fall 1781]. On the promotion of Capt. White, a Capt Jamison succeeded to the command of the Co."

The following table is in the file apparently in the mistaken belief that it pertains to the "Gen. Davis" mentioned above.

Extract from a paper headed "Numerical List of Officers belonging to the Virginia Line and Artillery who wish to retire with the emoluments of Officers acting under the Acts of Congress of the 3^d and 21st October 1780 relinquishing rank and future right of Promotion in the Army."

"Note a Denotes officers of the Artillery."

contained in a volume of the Washington Papers marked "Letters to Washington Army Returns 107."

Rank	No	Names	Date of Commissions	Remarks
Colonel	1	William Davies	March 20 1778	"

On 9 May 1837 James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, wrote to J. R. Poinsett, Secretary of War as follows, apparently in response to a query regarding the petition of Abraham White's heirs: "The writer of the enclosed memorandum says that the rule requiring evidence from muster rolls applies to Continental troops only. It applies to militia as well as other troops where rolls do exist; and of the

Maryland Militia there are rolls in existence. It is not, however, necessary to enter into any argument concerning the rule. The Department has always reserved to itself the right of requiring positive and satisfactory proof; and where it is not produced the claim is not admitted." In fact the Register of the Land Office in Annapolis, where Maryland military rosters were kept, frequently informed Edwards that there were few if any rosters for the militia. In addition, the regulations approved by Edwards for administering the pension law of 1832 clearly states that the rule requiring that the applicant's name be found on a roll applies only to Continental soldiers. For militiamen, a plausible declaration of service and certification by two neighbors of the applicant's honesty and reputation as a soldier were usually considered sufficient.