

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Henderson R4869      Elizabeth Henderson      f40SC  
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves      8/2/06 rev'd 1/11/11 & 6/2/15 & 6/10/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

### State of Alabama, Lawrence County

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833 personally appeared in open court before me James B. Wallace, Judge of the County Court of Lawrence County, Alabama, John Henderson, a resident of the County of McNairy and State of Tennessee, aged about Seventy Seven 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<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of November 1756 in Rowan County North Carolina according to a record in a family Bible but does not know where the Bible is at this time—that he entered as a volunteer in a troop of horse in Feb. or March, 1780—raised in York County So. Carolina—where he then resided—which troop was commanded by Major Frank Ross [Francis Ross]. We marched to Genl. Williamson's [Andrew Williamson's] camp [who] then commanded the South Carolina militia-army, then on [to] the North fork of the Savannah river opposite Augusta—after remaining a few days Major Ross was ordered to join Genl. Ash [sic, John Ashe], then on Briar Creek in Georgia—I was behind with some baggage wagons when we heard of Gen. Ashe's defeat [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779], and we returned to the Camp of Genl. Williamson—We volunteered for a three months tour, but were discharged at the end of two months—my company was commanded by Capt. James Martin.

After the fall of Charleston [May 10, 1780], I joined Genl. Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] at Clem's Branch, on the Catawba River—this service commenced immediately after the fall of Charleston which took place in May 1780—he was attached to the company of Capt. Thomson from the time he joined Sumter and served as a private until the October following—he was appointed a Capt. by Genl. Sumter—the Commission given by him was last or mislaid—on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 1781, he received a commission as Captain, signed by John Rutledge, as Governor of So. Carolina—at this time and for a long time afterwards the army of Genl. Sumter was without any regular organization. He continued in Sumter's army from this time to the close of the war—he was in many battles and skirmishes with Sumter—but is unable at this length of time to detail them in the order in which they took place—amongst them he was at Rocky Mount where Sumter was driven back and Col. Neil [sic, Andrew Neel] and many others were killed—was at the Skirmish at Fish dam ford Broad River—while Gates [Horatio Gates] was marching to the South, Sumter was worrying the Tories and made his way to the South join Genl. Gates—below Camden South of Congaree we heard of Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16,

1780] —we retreated up the Country crossed Fishing Creek and halted to refresh, having Capt. Thompson at the ford—he left his post, and Sumter was defeated [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780], by the enemy coming suddenly upon him—this applicant joined Genl. Morgan<sup>1</sup> the evening before and was in the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] —The So. Carolinians were commanded by Col. Williams [James Williams], who was wounded and died—he was with Sumter at Buckhead, at Wrights Bluff and at Lynch's Creek near Camden—he was at Blackstocks [November 20, 1780], where Sumter commanded. I saw Col. Clarke [Elijah Clarke] when a British officer cut off the run of his hat—and through his epaulette. At this place Genl. Sumter was wounded in the shoulder—and applicant assisted in carrying him the whole night—he served three months under Genl. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]—at this time he commanded the Station at Orangeburg —was also attached for a short time to Pulaski's infantry in the Campaign of Stono—but was not in the battle—was discharged from the army some time after the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] —if he ever got a written discharge, it has been long since lost—in his former declaration he stated that he was in Byers' Company—but from further reflection thinks that Martin was the Captain—accounts for the mistake from the fact that the troops were volunteers collected in an irregular way and frequently changed officers. After the war, he removed from York County So. Carolina to Wilkes County Georgia then to Franklin County Georgia, then to Lincoln County Tennessee and in 1821 or 2 to Lawrence County Alabama and in Feb. 1832, to McNairy County, Tennessee where he now resides—but was induced to come to Lawrence County Alabama to make this declaration, as he was comparatively a stranger in McNairy County and as the only living witness he could produce, who had personal knowledge of his service, John McWhorter lived here—he refers to the deposition of said McWhorter as testimony of his Services and also to the deposition of Hugh B. Stevenson and Hugh W. Stephenson—as evidence of his character; he refers to Crockett McDonald, a clergyman of this County and Argyle Campbell and Samuel Goode.

He also sends herewith enclosed the commission of Capt. Signed by the Governor of So. Carolina as above stated—as farther testimony. The following interrogatories put by the Court 1<sup>st</sup>: Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. This is stated in my declaration.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so, where is it?

Ans. I have stated all I know on this topic above.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I have also answered this above.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Ans. These facts are all stated as I recollect them above.

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ans. He believes he has given a correct narrative embracing all these facts above.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a commission; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Ans. I received two commissions, one signed by Genl. Sumter, he having placed me in command of a Company—the other by the Governor of So. Carolina, and herewith enclosed.

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<sup>1</sup> Presumably a reference to General Daniel Morgan. Morgan, however, at the battle of Kings Mountain.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans. I am known to most of the public men of this County—but refer particularly to the testimony of the Rev. Crockett McDonald, Argyle Campbell Esqr., and Mr. Saul Goode.

And the said John Henderson personally appeared in open court, & after being sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age, and 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 period mentioned below, and in the following grades: for seven months I served as a private and for twenty six months as a Captain and for such service I claim a pension.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ John Henderson



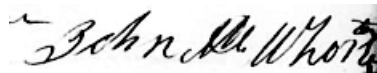
Sworn to & Subscribed in open court.

S/ J. B. Wallace, Judge

The State of Alabama—County Court aforesaid—Personally appeared before James B. Wallace, Judge of said Court in open court, John McWhorter,<sup>2</sup> who being duly sworn says that he lived near the said John Henderson when he entered the troop of horse commanded by Major Ross, and was with him in that Campaign—that from that time until the end of the war he knew the said John Henderson in actual service under Genl. Sumter, with but little interruption, and for a great part of the time a Captain, but how long I do not recollect—we were often separated, but in many engagements together but there are some I was not in; to wit: Kings Mountain, Gates defeat, Rocky Mount—at Buckhead, Wright's Bluff on Lynch's Creek—in the first and last campaign above I knew him well—he was my Captain in the last but I served my time by furnishing a wagon and was not much with him—I believe he served over two years actively and that his statement is strictly true.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day and year above.

S/ John McWhorter



[Crockett M. Donald, a clergyman, Argyle Campbell and Samuel Goode gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 15: Veteran's Captain's commission]

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<sup>2</sup> [John McWhorter S32400](#)

South Carolina. By his Excellency John Rutledge, Esq; Governor  
and Commande in Chief of the said State.

To John Henderson Esq

Reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Courage and  
good Conduct, and in your Fidelity and Attachment to the  
of America, have commissioned and appointed and by  
these Presents do commission and appoint you the said

to be a Captain of a Company of Militia  
and exercise, according to military Discipline. And you are to  
follow and observe all such Orders and Instructions as you shall, from Time to  
Time, receive from me or the Commander in Chief for the Time being, or any  
of your superior Officers, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, pursuant  
to the Laws of this State.

And all inferior Officers, and others belonging to the said  
are hereby required and commanded to obey you as their  
This Commission to continue during Pleasure.

Given under my Hand and Seal  
this 21<sup>st</sup> of December 1781  
and in the 11<sup>th</sup> Year of the Independence of America.

[p 38: The Hugh B Stephenson of Lawrence County Alabama gave testimony that he was acquainted with Captain John Henderson in the revolutionary war; that his, the affiant's, father served under him and that he, the affiant, was called on to serve but did not in consequence of the surrender of Cornwallis.

Hugh B. Stephenson ]

[Evidently the widow of the veteran, Elizabeth Henderson, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act and that application was rejected. However, I could not find the actual application filed by the widow in this file. The following notes appears on a document appearing at p 20: "The printed list of 1852 gives cause of suspension as: "papers sent to A. V. Brown January 17, 1846, not replaced – Act of July 1, 1848, removed the objection to the service, and the parties Interested may frame a new declaration and proof the marriage, provided she was a widow July 7, 1838. Residence Purdy, McNairy County Tennessee"]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$263.33 commencing March 4th, 1831, for seven months service as a private and one-year service as a Captain in the South Carolina militia.]

<sup>3</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) 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"

[Note: I believe, but am not certain, that the following documents relate to this veteran. My lack of certainty is attributable to the disparities in the services claimed in the following documents versus those set forth in the veteran's application for a federal pension as set forth above. There are some overlaps but there are also some significant omissions in the federal application versus services claimed against the State of South Carolina.]

[p 8]

John Henderson's Account

1778

December a Wagon & team & driver impressed in Charleston by Major Sheppard 30 days at 80/[80 shillings old SC currency] per day, Certificate wanted 120.0.0  
[undeciphered word], may not this [undeciphered word] been paid by the Quarter Master

1 Mare saddle & bridal lost in the service appraised by Joseph & Robert Henderson [paper damaged]

1 Horse lost in the service appraised by John Reid & Joseph Jewel 150.0.0

1 Horse lost in do. Appraised by John Reid & Joseph Jewel 150.0.0

It is necessary that the above Horse be certified by the Commanding Officer [paper damaged and text missing] & how lost or killed and in what service, The appraisement certified under the hand of the Appraisers, & the dates given

[p 12]

1782 One Horse lost in the Service appraised by John Reid and Joseph Jewel 150.0.0

One Horse lost in ditto appraised by John Reid and Joseph Jewel 150.0.0

South Carolina

Granville County} John Reid personally came before me John Beythirva Grigsby one of the Justices of the peace for said County of Granville, and made Oath that he and Joseph Jewel appraised the above mentioned Horses as the Property of John Henderson which said Horses was

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box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

lost in the late War in the service of the State aforesaid. Given from under my hand & seal this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December 1792

S/ John Beythirva Grigsby, JP {Seal}



[p 9]

State North Carolina Lincoln County} Col. John Barber came before me a Justice Assigned to keep the peace in the County aforesaid and being duly Sworn saith upon his Oath that he was in Charleston when Capt. John Henderson was impressed with his Waggon & Team and that he the said Deponent with his [text too faint to discern] at the same time and that the said [text too faint to discern] John Henderson aforesaid Traveled [text too faint to discern] under the Command [text too faint to discern] the said Deponent saith that he knows that Capt. Henderson above mentioned did actually perform the service charged in the uppermost Article of the within Account. And that the said Deponent & said Capt. Henderson with their Waggons came away with the leave of Major Sheppard & without their Discharges or any pay as to [paper damaged and text missing] part, and the said Deponent believes [text too faint to discern] John Henderson received no [text too faint to discern] aforesaid

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 1793

S/ J. Wilson, JP

S/ Jno Barber<sup>4</sup>



[p 11]

1780 The State of South Carolina to John Henderson

Dr.

To One Mare Saddle & Bridal lost in the Service of Said State  
At the time Col. Hill's Iron works<sup>5</sup> was burned by a party  
of the British Army appraised by Joseph Henderson  
& Thomas Henderson at Three Hundred pounds Currency

State of South Carolina York County} Thomas Henderson came personally before me Francis Adams one of the Justices of the peace for said County & made Oath agreeable to law that he & Joseph Henderson did appraised the above mentioned Mare Saddle & Bridle as the property of John Henderson at the Sum of Three Hundred pounds Old So. currency which said Mare Saddle & Bridle was taken by the British from said John Henderson at the time the Iron Works was Burned. Sworn to & Subscribed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 1793

before me S/ Francis Adams, JP

S/ Thos. Henderson



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<sup>4</sup> [John Barber SC327](#)

<sup>5</sup> June 18, 1780 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_hills\\_iron\\_works.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hills_iron_works.html)

[p 18]

To the Honorable the President & other Members of the Senate  
The Petition of John Henderson humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner made returns of Account the State of South Carolina in due time to the Amount of two hundred & thirty Pounds 17/1 ½ – £127.10 of which he has received the Balance to wit, £102.17.1 ½ has been rejected for want of proper Vouchers.

Your Petitioner now believing that he is able to prove to the Satisfaction of your Honorable body that he is entitled to the Remainder of his Account, prays that you would consider his Case and grant him such relief as you may in your wisdom think meet.<sup>6</sup> And your Petitioner will pray

S/ Jno. Henderson



[p 24: same petition as above but addressed to the SC House. The veteran's signature on this petition appears as follows:



Based on other documents in this file, I believe this to be the true signature of the veteran and that the signature appearing on the petition addressed to the South Carolina Senate was made by someone other than the veteran.]

[p 20]

This is to Certify that on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1780 when a Great part of the State of South Carolina was overrun by the British, that there was a party of Our friends made a Stance at the Iron works in York County in said State & that I Sent Captain John Henderson to endeavour to make discovery of the Enemies movements, who in the execution of that endeavour, was Taken prisoner by the British, by which means he lost a large bay mare about five feet high, five years old which mare together with a Saddle & bridle lost at the same time was appraised to three Hundred pounds old Currency as will appear by and appraisement Signed by Thomas & Joseph Henderson  
Certified by me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1795

S/ Wm Hill Col. [William Hill]



[p 36: The veteran renews his petition to the South Carolina General assembly by a document dated December 3, 1808 in which his signature appears as follows:



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<sup>6</sup> In Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of 1755, the first definition of the word "meet" he gives is "Fit; proper...." Johnson noted that even at that time the word "meet" was rarely so used. It must have become fairly popular in South Carolina in the early 1800's, however, as it appears in many petitions submitted to the SC Legislature.

[p 43]

South Carolina York District} And Account of John Henderson formerly of said State & district aforesaid; now of the State of Georgia, against the State of South Carolina for his actual services during the time of the Revolutionary War and struggle with Great Britain in his losses which the said Henderson sustained when in service in defense of his country. Viz.

1<sup>st</sup>, In the year 1788 the morning of the day that Colonel Hill's Iron Works were burnt I the said Henderson when in actual service as a spy by request or command lost a Mare saddle & bridle

South Carolina York District} Personally appeared before me Robert Davison one of the Justices assigned to Keep the peace for said district John Ratchford and being duly Sworn according to Law saith that the Mare Lost and taken by the Enemy the property of John Henderson mentioned above was according to the best of his skill and Judgment worth three hundred pounds old South Carolina Currency. Sworn to and subscribed by

S/ R. Davison, JP      this 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1810      S/ John Ratchford



Secondly, The said Henderson when acting as a Militia Capt. in the Year above Mentioned at an engagement a Battle at the Fish dam Ford on Broad River under the Command of General Sumpter Lost a Horse appraised by Joseph Jewel and John Reed when the [sic, they] were on the Oath to be worth one hundred & fifty pound old South Currency

3<sup>rd</sup> I the said John Henderson in the Year 1781 in the month of January or near that time at a Skirmish at Wrights Bluff had my horse Shot under me which occasioned his death Immediately said Horse appraised by Joseph Jewel and John Reed at a former time when on their Oath to be worth one hundred and fifty pound old South currency

4<sup>th</sup> I the said John Henderson in the year 1778 was impressed with my Waggon and Team by Major Shepperd in Charleston on an expedition to Savannah said Waggon & Team drove by Myself under the direction of said Shepperd for the Term of thirty two days

[p 48]

Columbia December 6<sup>th</sup> 1810

I William Hill do hereby certify that John Henderson did in the Revolutionary War suffered the loss of the Mare Saddle & bridle as stated in the first item of his Account. That I have a faint recollection of his suffering the losses stated in the second & third Items and of the services done with his Waggon and team as stated in the fourth Item. And I also further certify that while the same was fully in my recollection I certified the account for the said John Henderson to  
S/ Wm Hill

[p 49]

State of South Carolina

Personally appeared Captain John Henderson & being duly Sworn on his oath Saith, that the above annexed account of the four sundry items therein Stated is Justly & truly due to him from the State of South Carolina. That he lost the said property & did the said services above mentioned in the service of his Country; and that he has never received any compensation for the same, either directly or indirectly. The Deponent also further saith, that he had the said accounts (as he thinks) sufficiently vouched by Colonel William Hill and Colonel James Hawthorn who



was the commanding Officers; Except for the Waggoning which was done under the Command of Major Shepard [sic]; who (as the Deponent understood) died before he had the opportunity of obtaining a Voucher from him; But had the said Account proven by the Oath of Major John Barber who was privy to the Services. All which Vouchers was put into the possession of the House of Representatives some years ago and as he understands is lost or so mislaid that they cannot be found. And also further saith, that the said Colonel Hawthorn removed to the Western Country & as he understands is now dead, so that he cannot obtain his second voucher.

Sworn to and subscribed the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 1810

S/ John Henderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Henderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ John Henderson".