

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Eleazer Phillips R8205

Martha Phillips

f56SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/21/09: rev'd 11/28/17

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 2]

Charleston August 27th 1838

Lutheran Church of German Protestants

The following extract is furnished from the Records of this Church

"Married on the 13th of November 1786 by the Rev^d Mr. J. N. Martin, Mr. Elias Phillips to Martha Millener."

I certify the above to be correct.

S/ Jacob F. Mintzing, President

I further certify that the Revd Dr. Bachman Pastor of said Church is absent in Europe, that, I believe, the name "Elias" in the above, should have been "Eleaser," because, in all other respects it corresponds with the true names of Mr. & Mrs. Phillips & the last of whom is, known to me -- and because, no other entry of marriage is upon the record or about this period of similar names. Dated at Charleston this fourteenth day of September 1838.

S/ Jacob F. Mintzing, President

[p 3]

State of South Carolina District of Charleston}

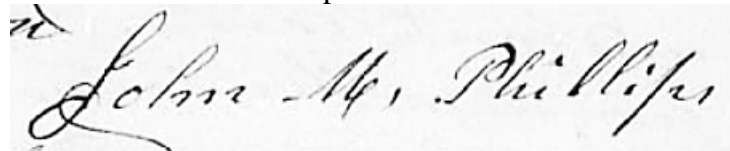
On this 14th day of September 1838 personally appeared before the undersigned Mrs. Martha Phillips (alias Martha Milliner) aged 70 years a resident of Christ Church Parish near Charleston, who being duly sworn according to law doth on Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows," That she is the widow of Eleaser Phillips deceased formerly of said Parish, Cabinetmaker, who was (as Deponent frequently heard said husband relate and as she believes) a soldier in the War of the Revolution, and served in same for two years: and upwards in the following manner, to wit, as early as 1776 he joined a militia company in Charleston and served therein 6 months, and was then discharged. Deponent saith that after being thus regularly discharged he entered as a mariner on board the US Brig *Wasp*¹ Captain Bulfinch [Samuel Bulfinch] and served therein 12 months, and while in said Brig, he acted in the capacity of steward and Purser, but cannot say whether he was commissioned so to act, or whether they were appointments temporary made by his superior

¹ The Wasp was a privateer. See,

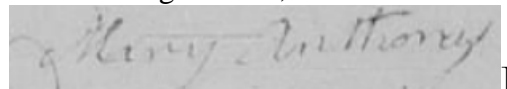
<http://www.awiatsea.com/Privateers/W/Wasp%20South%20Carolina%20Brig%20%5bBulfinch%20Ferrer%5d.html> (viewed 11/28/17). See also, http://www.poles.org/p_body.html (viewed 11/28/17).

officers, neither can she say how long he acted in these capacities, Deponent saith that while he was in the Marine service as above, He was at the taking of several prizes and in several actions, Deponent saith that the gallant Pulaski being wounded at Savannah in October 1779, He was put on board said Brig where he died, and was buried in the ocean between North and South Edisto. Deponent saith that, when the said Brig arrived in Charleston the said Eleaser Phillips was honorably discharged, and immediately thereafter he joined a militia company and served at the siege of Charleston as a private soldier and when the towns surrendered to the British in May 1780, He was taken prisoner while under arms and retained a prisoner for 12 months on parole. Deponent saith, said Eleaser then left Charleston and reached St. Thomas' Parish contiguous to the Camp of Marion [Francis Marion], whom he aided and assisted in many ways, and became in consequence obnoxious to the British, with whom he had several encounters and from whom he had several narrow escapes, perilling [sic, imperiling?] thereby life and liberty. Deponent further declares she was married to the said Eleaser Phillips on the 13th of November 1786 the same being regularly entered in and Original entry in her Bible and by the Reverend J. N. Martin, as appears further by the Certificate from the President of the) Church of German Protestants in Charleston hereto annexed. Her husband's first name being written through mistake "Elias" instead of Eleaser and that, her husband the said Eleaser Phillips died in the month of November 1826, that she was not married prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first January 1794, viz. at the time above stated, and that, she has no other documentary evidence other than those sent and that she believes with the exception of Mr. Jos. Righton² every of said Eleaser's fellow soldiers who knew or remembered him are dead or left the State.

Sworn to before me the 14th of September 1838 & signed in the presence of his mother
by her son John M. Phillips. For my Mother
S/ Jno Lee, Dist. Judge of and in her presence
the United States for SC S/ John M. Phillips



[p 47: On September 27, 1838 in Charleston South Carolina, Mrs. Mary Anthony, 77 gave testimony that she was acquainted with Eleaser Phillips of Christ Church Parish cabinet maker deceased; that she knew him during the revolution had been engaged under arms against the British; that said Eleaser Phillips was cousin to James Wilkins, also a Revolutionary soldier with whom this Deponent lived and at whose house she was married; that she saw Phillips at that house during the war; that she has no doubt he served 2 years under arms against the enemy.

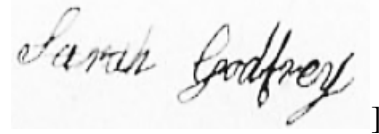


[p 46: On September 29, 1838, Mrs. Massey Graves, widow, 82, gave testimony in Charleston South Carolina that Eleaser Phillips, formerly of Christ Church Parish, planter and cabinet maker, was her brother; that he served against the British for nearly the whole war in one capacity or another and that she has reason to believe he served for 2 years under arms. She

² [Joseph Righton W22074](#)

signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 44: On October 27, 1838 in Charleston South Carolina Sarah Godfrey, 71 gave an affidavit regarding what she recalls having heard Eleaser Phillips say regarding his services in the revolution and her belief of the truth thereof.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sarah Godfrey". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a small loop at the end of the last name.

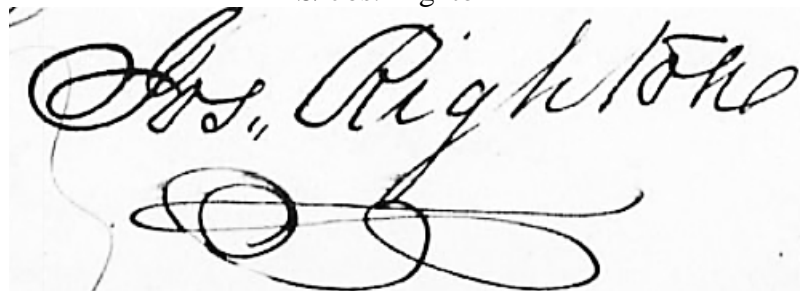
[p 32: Affidavit dated Charleston 31 October 1838 by which D. J. Auld, minister of the Wappetaw Independent Congregational Church certified that Mrs. Martha Phillips is a member of said church; a respectable married lady entitled to credit; and the widow of Eleaser Phillips deceased.]

[p 45]

State of South Carolina District of Charleston }

On this 1st day of November 1838 personally appeared before the undersigned Mr. Jos Righton aged 76 years a revolutionary soldier and a resident of Charleston who being duly sworn depose, that, he was personally acquainted with the late Eleaser Phillips of Christ Church Parish deceased during the War of the Revolution, that, he served in one of the militia companies, during the siege, that, when the Town surrendered to the British and May 1780, he was among those who was taken prisoner under arms and Deponent has reason to believe he said Phillips, was detained a prisoner in the said City 12 months. Deponent saith he knew said Phillips from his boyhood, they were to school together, Deponent knew said Phillips' father, deponent was in Charleston during this period, and from his knowledge of said Phillips' character and history he has no doubt he served during the war under arms at least 12 months before the Siege. Deponent saith, he was acquainted with said Phillips after the revolution also, and has every reason to believe said Eleaser Phillips was lawfully married to Mrs. Martha Phillips (who is now his widow) in the year 1786, and that said Eleaser died in 1826 and that, said Mrs. Phillips' statement is entitled to credit.

S/ Jos. Righton

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jos. Righton". The signature is written in a bold, flowing style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

[p 41]

State of South Carolina District of Charleston }

On this 28 day of April 1840 personally appeared before the undersigned Mrs. Martha Phillips of Christ Church Parish South Carolina aged 71 years who being duly sworn according to law, depose that, she has reason to believe, that, her husband Eleaser Phillips served as a private volunteer in a militia company in Charleston during the war of the revolution six months

that, this service was performed at or near a place then called Fort Wilkins in said Charleston; previous to the departure of the English from the State in 1776. That in 1778 and 1779, he served 12 months on board as a mariner the US Brig *Wasp* Captain Bullfinch, for which she refers to the Rolls of said Brig at the Department, -- That, at the close of 1779 and previous to the month of May 1780, he joined & served in a militia company at Charleston (& served at the Siege of same six months, that, at the surrender he was made a prisoner on parole and remained a prisoner to wit he was not permitted to quit the City, nor go nor be at large outside the City for twelve months, or to follow his business as a Cabinet maker & Deponent again refers to her affidavit of 14 September 1838.

S/ Martha Phillips, X her mark

[p 39]

State of South Carolina District of Charleston}

On this 11 day of May 1840 personally appeared before the undersigned Mr. Joseph Righton age 78 years a Resident of the City of Charleston, who being duly sworn according to law depose, that, in explanation of the 12 months service mentioned by Deponent as having been performed during the War of the Revolution by Eleaser Phillips, deceased, in Deponent's affidavit of 1 November 1838, Deponent saith, he has reason to believe that said Eleaser served under arms in a militia Corps six months and more, during the year 1776 in Charleston that, he served at the Siege of Charleston and some short time previously six months, -- and that, he has reason to believe, that, when he was made a prisoner at the surrender of the City in May 1780 he was so much a prisoner as to the forbade to leave the City and was prevented from following his business as a cabinet maker, and remained in this condition as Deponent has reason to believe six months, and for his Deponent's personal knowledge of said Phillips, and the reasons upon which this his belief is founded, Deponent refers to his said affidavit of first November 1838.

S/ Jos Righton

[p 29]

State of South Carolina District of Charleston}

On this 5th day of May 1841 Personally appeared before the undersigned Mr. Joseph Righton age 79 years who being duly sworn according to law deposes, that, on the 14th May 1840 he depose, that, he had reason to believe Eleaser Phillips served under arms in a militia Corps 6 months & more during the year 1776 in Charleston. Deponent saith his subsequent recollections confirming him in this conviction -- that, he did so serve 6 months -- Deponent has distinct recollection of the period and of the Battle of Fort Moultrie [June 28, 1776]. Deponent saith, that, although he was but 16 years of age at the time he had opportunity of seeing said Phillips in the service and that he (this Deponent) was in the service before he was 16 years of age. Deponent therefore saith, that, no doubt remains in his mind that said Phillips did perform 6 months service in the year 1776.

S/ Jos. Righton

Sworn to before made this 5th day of May 1841 and I also certify the credibility of the witness
S/ P. Cantwell, NP & Magt.

[p 36: On March 29, 1848, Philip Moore, 80, testified in Charleston district South Carolina that he heard Eleaser Phillips in his lifetime speak of his services in the revolution and that he heard others who knew of such service; he understood that Eleaser Phillips was at the siege of

Savannah as a mariner on board a vessel and that he made the coffin for Count Pulaski.]

[p 35: power of attorney dated October 23, 1852 executed by Martha Phillips, widow of Eleazar Phillips.

Martha Phillips

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