

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Charnel Durham W9418 Nancy fn52SC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 2/13/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[NOTE: I think the pages of this veteran's application were badly scrambled. What appears to be the body of his application is set out in Footnote.com pp. 7-12, but is missing two pages which don't appear in Footnote.com until pp 45 and 46 [in reverse order, even then]. I have put the application in what I think is proper order below. The two pages which I think are out of place on Footnote.com are missing altogether from the HeritageQuest.com version of this application. To help folks using this transcription to track my rearrangement of the pages, I have numbered each page of the application.]

[fn p. 7

State of South Carolina, District of Fairfield

On this 30th day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before me William D. Martin one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas & General Sessions of the State of South Carolina now in session Captain Charnal [sic] Durham a resident of the District of Fairfield in the State aforesaid, aged Seventy nine 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.

Deponent was born on Rappahannock River, Marratica [sic, no such county¹] County, northern neck in Virginia, on the first day of July A.D. 1753. His age was recorded in his father John Durham's family Bible. The Bible fell into the hands of Deponent's oldest brother Joshua Durham, and was burnt when his brother's house was burned before the Revolutionary War in Amelia County Virginia.

Deponent was living in Fairfield District then known as Craven County within one mile of a little village that now is called Monticello when first called into service, removed from that place during the revolutionary war and settled about half mile below Monticello, and lived there until one or two years after the war closed, and then removed to Dutchman's Creek about seven miles South East from Winnsborough in Fairfield District where he has lived ever since and still lives.

Deponent enlisted as a private soldier in Captain Thomas Woodward's company 3rd Regiment, Colonel William Thompson [sic, William Thomson], South Carolina

¹ Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland are the counties which constitute what is today called the "Northern Neck" of Virginia. There is a small fishing village named Morattico in Lancaster County.

Rangers on the first July 1774 for six months certain & for three years if services called for. At the end of the six months, Captain Thomas Woodward resigned and Lieutenant [fn p. 8]

Richard Winn of same company took the command as Captain, and Deponent was again enlisted for the remaining two years and six months. Deponent was first marched under Captain Woodward to the Congaree above Columbia, thence to Amelia Township, the whole Regiment was at this place. Lieutenant Colonel Mason [sic, James Mayson] second in command Major Wise [Thomas Wise], Captains Eli Kershaw, Samuel Boykin, Robert Goodwyn [Robert Goodwin?], Moses Kirkland (who afterwards deserted and as was said joined the British at Augustine), Robert Lile [sic, Robert Lyle] and Felix Warley, Francis Taylor, Oliver Tolls [sic, Oliver Towels] & others not now recollected. The Regiment laid there some time, marched to the ten mile house next to Sullivan's Island (part of the Regiment only went there as Deponent believes) where the troops commenced the building of Fort Moultrie. We were engaged in this about three months. Left the Island, the Regiment went to Granby. Deponent was one of a detachment of 21 under the command of Lieutenant Thomas Charlton, an officer under Captain Eli Charlton, to guard ammunition wagons to ninety six, was attacked by a body of Tories near 600 Colonel Fletcher [sic, Thomas Fletchall], and some of the Cunninghams commanding and the wagons captured and the guard made prisoners for one day & night. Guard were then released and went into Ninety Six and joined General Andrew Williamson who there commanded about five hundred of the Militia, and stayed there for some months before the Regiment joined. During this time General Williamson had intimation of the approach of a large body of Tories four [could be 'five'] thousand strong as supposed

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He threw up a temporary Fort, made of fence rails stuck in the ground for post, tied together with rawhide, and filled up with rails. The Tories commanded by Robert Cunningham (their General as said) surrounded and attacked the Fort on Sunday afternoon and continued the siege until Tuesday night about 11 o'clock one man killed and several wounded when a cessation of hostilities was concluded for twenty days, in the meantime Colonel Thomson's Regiment, and other troops arrived. The Army then marched up 40 or 50 miles to the Big cane Creek Indian land, attack a large body of Tories, took a good many prisoners and dispersed the balance. This expedition known as "the Snowy Camps," Deponent was one of the guard that took the prisoners to Charleston. After the Regiment with the prisoners got to Charleston in the year 1776 the Fleet of Sir Peter Parker arrived. The Regiment was stationed at Sullivan's Island before and during the attack in Fort Moultrie, with some other troops. The Deponent was in the Fort part of the engagement. The battle began about 10:00 AM lasted until night, and called off next morning. The British Admiral's flag ship then ran aground and burnt. The Regiment was then sent to Charleston. General Lee ordered a detachment from each Regiment (if not obtain by volunteers then by draft) to be marched to Savannah. Deponent volunteered and Captain Frank Boykin commanded the Company deponent was then. Stayed in Savannah some time, placed under command of General Habersham Georgia. It was late in the summer and very sickly and General Habersham ordered the troops to Augusta Georgia

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After lying some time in Augusta, news arrived of a large body of Indians and Tories supposed 2700 at Rogers fort in Ogeechee. Deponent went in a detachment commanded by Colonel Leroy Hammond. The enemy had information of the approach of the Detachment, burnt the Fort and fled, were pursued and overtook them at a swamp between the Ogeechee & Rocky Comfort.² Took 29 scalps, 8 white men killed, 3 Indian prisoners and 5 white men. The Americans lost one in wounded Major Ross [John Ross] who died the 3rd day after the battle. Returned to Augusta stayed there some time, marched into the low country to many goes ferry and after performing various excursions were discharged at headquarters, Williamson's branch above the Eutaw on the 1st July 1777. Colonel Thompson gave the Deponent a written Discharge, stating that deponent was honorably discharged after having served his term of enlistment three years as a faithful and brave soldier. This discharge has been lost or destroyed by time or accident. It was in being until within some 6 or 7 years as deponent believes and has been same by several persons. After Deponent's discharge he was sometimes engaged in assisting the American Officers in recruiting once in Virginia, he recruited 15 men for Captain Liol or Lill and otherwise engaged in the service of the Country until about the fall of Charleston in 1780. The deponent was taken prisoner by the Tories about this time and carried to Ninety Six, and then sent to Charleston, and placed in the British dungeon under the Exchange, there confined 8 months and 7 days, (there had the smallpox and [4 indecipherable words] and then removed on board a British prison ship 5 months lacking [?] a few days confined in all 13 months & one day [fn p. 9]

made his escape in the night by means of an [illegible word] boat, passed near the *Bologue* [?] frigate 50 Gun guard ship and escaped to land, and arrived safe at home (near [illegible word] as now call) was then elected Captain of a Beat [?] Company and duly commissioned in 1781.

First time deponent performed as Captain was to the Four Holes. Colonel David Hopkins commanded the Regiment. This detachment was designed to keep a watch on the movements of the British at Charleston. This tour lasted three months.

The next tour as Captain was also to the Four Holes for the same purpose, but William Bratton commanded the Regiment. This tour was also for three months each.

Was also in a tour of militia duty to Augusta Georgia. Colonel John Pearson [?] Commanded the Regiment, thinks Captain Raiford [Philip Raiford] was along with his company. Deponent and his company were out five months in this tour. Intended to keep in check the Tories and Indians.

Was out in several other tours as Captain. [Illegible word] not particularly recollect the time out in duty. Was out as Captain and commanding his company he is certain more than eleven months during the Revolutionary War. His commission has as well as his discharge been lost or destroyed but has been seen by several persons now alive. The commission was signed by Colonel John Pearson.

Deponent does not now know any of his fellow soldiers who live within his reach now remaining that can testify of his services from personal knowledge excepting Captain John Hillis³ & Thomas Parrott.⁴ He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present

² The engagement at Rocky Comfort Creek occurred on March 22, 1779.

³ [John Hollis S21827](#)

[fn p. 10]

and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid.

S/ Charnel Durham, C his mark

Sworn to in open Court

S/ J. Elliott, CCp QU Exo

I Thomas Parrott residing in Richland District in the State of South Carolina do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Captain Charnal Durham who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that I am seventy two years old since July 1, 1832, and believe Captain Durham to be seventy nine years of age. That I first became acquainted with Captain Durham about the year 1773 in Fairfield District, then Craven County, near a place now known as Monticello. That deponent always understood and such was the universal belief in the neighborhood, that he had enlisted as a soldier in Colonel Thomson's Regiment 3rd So. Ca. Rangers. Deponent saw Captain Durham once whilst in the service when in his return from ninety six during the cessation [?] of arms for twenty days spoken of above. He had his uniform, and deponent recollects a plate in his cap having the motto inscribed "**Liberty or Death.**" Deponent knows that the belief of the neighborhood was that he served out his three years faithfully and was honorably discharged.

Deponent afterwards understood and such was the belief of the neighborhood that Captain Durham was taken prisoner by the Tories and taken to Charleston and their kept as prisoner for more than one year, knew when he was taken

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prisoner and saw him return home. And from his knowledge of the circumstances has no doubt that Captain Durham's statement is correct.

Deponent was present when Captain Durham was elected Captain of the Militia Company previously commanded by deponent's father Thomas Parrott, afterwards by William Rabb and then by Captain Durham. He is very sure he was commissioned by Colonel John Pearson as Captain.

Deponent was at the four holes on one tour of Militia duty under Captain Durham when commanding his Company. This was deponent thinks in 1781.

Was out in another tour of militia duty under Captain Durham acting as Captain.

Deponent is satisfied that Captain Durham was in actual duty more than eleven months as Captain in the Revolutionary War. He always sustained the reputation of an active brave and zealous soldier. And his reputation in that respect has ever stood unimpeached and is still unimpeached. Deponent lived in the same neighborhood with Captain Durham during all the period testified to.

S/ Thomas Parrott

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year first aforesaid in open Court

S/ J. Elliott, CCp Qu Exo

I John Hollis of the District of Fairfield in the State of South Carolina do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Captain Charnal Durham, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that he believes him to be seventy-nine years of age.

That he first became acquainted with him in Colonel William Thomson's Regiment 3rd South Carolina Rangers in the year 1775 December. Captain Durham was then serving as a private soldier in Captain Richard Winn's company and continued to serve during [fn p. 12]

three months together when Captain Durham was detached under Captain Frank Boykin to Savannah. Heard of his being in the Regiment afterwards, but never were again united whilst deponent belonged to the Regiment. Deponent was discharged from the Regiment June first 1777.

Deponent always understood that Captain Durham served out his 3 years of enlistment and that he was afterwards taken prisoner by the Tories and detained in prison by the British in Charleston for a long time, and that he afterwards was made Captain of a militia Company and served several tours of duty during the Revolutionary war as Captain. Such has been the report and belief of all the old revolutionary soldiers that deponent has conversed with, and such the belief of the neighborhood ever since the revolutionary war, and never doubted that deponent ever heard of. That Captain Durham's declaration above is entitled to every credit, being a respectable citizen. Deponent was born in December 3rd 1751 and has lived in Fairfield District ever since the year 1763 or 4. Deponent and Captain Durham were together in the battle of Sullivan's Island.

S/ John Hollis

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day and year above first written in open Court
S/ J. Elliott

[fn p. 22: on October 29, 1847 in Fairfield district South Carolina, Robert W. Durham, 63, son of Charnel and Nancy Durham filed a claim in which he states that his father was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$190 per annum for his services in the revolution; that his father married Nancy Eckles January 2, 1777; that they lived together as man and wife until his death in Fairfield district South Carolina April 13, 1836; that his mother died June 1, 1840 having never intermarried after the death of her husband; that the record of their marriage appears in the family register or record giving the date of their marriage together with the ages of their children viz. Lucretia, John and Robert W. Durham, issue of said marriage; that Robert W. Durham is the only surviving child of his parents.]

[fn . 20: on February 7th, 1851 in Fairfield District South Carolina, Robert W. Durham, filed a claim as the son of Charnel Durham and Nancy Durham stating that his father was a pensioner at the rate of \$263.33 per annum for his services in the revolution; that his father died April 13, 1836; that his mother Nancy Durham was placed on the pension roll at the rate of \$93.88 per annum which he received until her death on June 1, 1840; that he is his parents only surviving child.]

[fn p. 32: certificate dated February 7th, 185_ [last digit missing] issued by the South Carolina Comptroller Generals office detailing the indents reflecting payments to Charnel Durham for military services during the revolution.]

[fn p. 47—labelled "Capt. Durham Sheet 3"]

I Robert Durham a resident of the District of Fairfield in the State of South Carolina do hereby testify that I am well acquainted with Captain Charnal Durham who has subscribed the above declaration, that deponent is the son of Captain Durham and is in his forty ninth year. Deponent well recollects to have seen a Commission in his father's possession some eight or ten years since. The Commission was in his father's name, recognizing him as Captain of a Militia Company in Craven County now Fairfield District. The deponent cannot say by whom the Commission was signed. It was always understood in the family that the Commission covered part of his father's services during the revolutionary war. Never heard of his acting as Captain afterwards. Does not recollect the date of the Commission. Has seen it several times. The last time Deponent saw it, he had been called in by his father to arrange and sort his papers, and to preserve such as were useful and to destroy the others. The Commission was then examined and some altercation arose about the propriety of destroying it, when his father contrary to the wish of his family threw it in the fire, saying it would no longer be of any use to him. A list of members of the Company was either attached to or folded up with the Commission. Such persons as deponent knew, that were in the list were then old men.

Deponent may have seen the discharge spoken of in the declaration but cannot now say with any certainty at this time whether he did or not. Thinks he has seen the name of William Thompson on some paper, but has no distinct recollection of the contents but supposes that it was at some time destroyed as was the Commission, as his father did not appear careful of any paper unless he supposed it of use.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year first aforesaid in open court
S/ J. Elliott S/ Robt. M Durham

I William Strother late Major General of the 3rd Division South Carolina Militia, residing about six miles from Winnsborough in Fairfield District in State of South Carolina do hereby Certify that I am and have since a boy been acquainted with Captain Charnal Durham who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that I believe him to be seventy-nine years of age, and that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that I concur in that opinion. That he has always been entitled Captain and Deponent never heard of his being or having any command since the revolution from which that title might arise. That Thomas Parrett, John Hollis and Robert Durham who appear to have subscribed the above Certificates are credible witnesses.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day and year above first written in open Court
S/ J. Elliott S/ Wm Strother

[fn p. 45]

After lying some time in Augusta, news arrived of a large body of Indians and Tories supposed 2700 at Rogers fort in Ogeechee. Deponent went in a detachment commanded by Colonel Leroy Hammond. The enemy had information of the approach of the Detachment, burnt the Fort and fled, were pursued and overtook them at a swamp between the Ogeechee & Rocky Comfort.⁵ Took 29 scalps, 8 white men killed, 3 Indian prisoners and 5 white men. The Americans lost one in wounded Major Ross [John Ross]

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who died the 3rd day after the battle. Returned to Augusta stayed there some time, marched into the low country to many goes ferry and after performing various excursions were discharged at headquarters, Williamson's branch above the Eutaw on the 1st July 1777. Colonel Thompson gave the Deponent a written Discharge, stating that deponent was honorably discharged after having served his term of enlistment three years as a faithful and brave soldier. This discharge has been lost or destroyed by time or accident. It was in being until within some 6 or 7 years as deponent believes and has been same by several persons. After Deponent's discharge he was sometimes engaged in assisting the American Officers in recruiting once in Virginia, he recruited 15 men for Captain Liol or Lill and otherwise engaged in the service of the Country until about the fall of Charleston in 1780. The deponent was taken prisoner by the Tories about this time and carried to Ninety Six, and then sent to Charleston, and placed in the British dungeon under the Exchange, there confined 8 months and 7 days, (there had the smallpox and [4 indecipherable words] and then removed on board a British prison ship 5 months lacking [?] a few days confined in all 13 months & one day

[fn p. 5 family record—very faint]

Charnal Durham and Nancy Eckels [sic] Were Joined in Holy Matrimony January the 2nd in Year of our Lord Christ Anno Domini 1777

Lucracy Durham Daughter of Charnal Durham Was born the 30th day of September 1778

John Durham Was born August the 2nd day Anno 1782

Robert winfield Durham was born September the 10 Day Anno 1784

John Ford and Creacy Durham was join'd in Holy Matrimony January 12th in the year of our Lord Christ Anno Domini 1802

Henry Kenedy and Martha Hughes was Joined in holy matrimony September 20th in the year of our Lord Christ Anno domini 1810 in the 23rd year of her Adge

Lucrecy Ford wife of John Ford was Delivered of two sons Oct. 27th 1816 Nam'd George Washington and John Packson Ford and she Departed this life November 4, 1816