

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Bird S39196

fn50SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/26/10

[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. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of South Carolina

Before me David Johnson one of the associate Judges of the said State personally appeared Captain John Bird who made the following declaration on oath pursuant to the act of Congress of the United States entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval Service of the United States during the Revolutionary War." That he entered the land service of the United States in the War of the Revolution as a private soldier in a company commanded by Capt. George Warley in the 6th Regiment commanded by Col William Henderson, the precise time of which is not recollected. He believes in the year 1776 or 1777. That he remained in that Regiment for about two years & was then transferred to the 1st Continental Regiment of South Carolina, Col Charles C. Pinckney attached to the company of that Regiment commanded by Capt. ___ Turner. That in this company he acted as Sergeant for some time and was finally appointed and commissioned Adjutant of the Regiment with the rank of Lieutenant & remained in that Regiment in that character until as well as is recollected about the year 1781 when he resigned his commission and that shortly after he joined the brigade of State Troops commanded by General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] in the character of Lieutenant with which he remained until near the close of the war.

The declarant further saith that the several commissions which he held during the war have been lost by time or accident so that he has them not now to produce and that he received three gunshot wounds in the Siege of Charleston and Savannah.

He declarant further saith he is now in his 59 year of age and that on account of his reduced circumstances, his age and bodily infirmities he needs the assistance of his Country for the support of himself and family.

S/ John Bird

I do certify that Captain John Bird did make the foregoing declaration on oath before me at Union Court House this 7th day of July 1818.

S/ David Johnson

South Carolina, Union District

On the twenty third day of March 1821 personally appeared in open court being a court of record exercising unlimited jurisdiction in both [illegible word] and at Law, John Bird, aged 64 a resident in Union District in the State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declared that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows. That he enlisted as a sergeant in 1776 in the 6th Regiment of South Carolina Continental line commanded by Col Henderson [William Henderson] for three years in the company commanded by Captain Warley and was afterwards transferred to the 1st Regiment of the same on commanded by Col Pinckney [Charles C. Pinckney] in Captain Turner's company in which he was promoted to Adjutancy with a rank of Lieutenant and that he has received a pension under a certificate No. 5244 from the War department and "I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled 'An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March 1818' and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than that what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, viz:

1 Bed and furniture valued at	\$15.00
1 pot valued at	2.50
½ dozen of plates	1.00
1 set knives and forks	1.50
1 dish 75. Cups & saucers	1.50
60 acres of land (illegible words)	<u>120.00</u>
	\$141.50"

That the family residing with him consists of a wife, Elizabeth, aged about 60 years, very infirm and not able to support herself.

Sworn and open court before me.

S/ John Bird

S/ Abner Nott

[fn p. 33: portions of the following documents have been compromised to the point of being illegible. Where text cannot be read, I have so indicated by using * to indicate illegible text.]

South Carolina Union District: Personally appeared before me Stephen Johnson a justice of the peace for said district Captain John Bird of said district who being duly sworn saith on oath that he was a Lieutenant in the first Continental Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Coatsworth [sic, Cotesworth] Pinckney and was taken prisoner at the reduction of Charleston in the State aforesaid in the year 1780. And the officers were all sent over to Haddrell's Point. I was taken sick and I got leave of absence from Colonel C. C. Pinckney as a supernumerary till called for if I could get liberty of the commanding officer of the British Army. I obtained from the commanding officer of the British Army a parole on the back of my commission and went home in July 1780 and there came a pretty party to where I was and took my property that he is my clothing I followed them and on the second day I overtook them and Captain Duff had my regimental coat on after showing my papers they gave me my clothing again. I went home again and a few days

after a Tory party came along * and hearing I had come home from the * service and took all I had and the * if they could catch me then my * under these circumstances to turn * country. I broke my parole and * fought for my country to the end of the war. * A letter from Colonel Pinckney when the exchange *claimed anything from this state for my *my bounty land and that I never obtained * to pay and said I must look to the *and I was under the command of * at the battle of Blackstock's on *. I was also at the Siege of Ninety Six where General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] commanded I was at Ferguson's defeat at King's mountain I was at the Cowpens at Tarleton's defeat under the command of General Morgan. I was at Sumter's defeat the day after General Gates was defeated on the Catawba River. I was in many other skirmishes too tedious to mention the above battles are not put down in order they took place but I was at them all.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of May 1836

S/ Stephen Johnson, JP

S/ J. Bird

[fn p. 34]

South Carolina union District: Personally appeared before me Stephen Johnson one of the justices of the said District Major Joseph McJunkin¹ & Major Thomas Young² who being duly sworn saith on oath that they were at Hamlin's old store where we defeated the Tories under the command of Colonel William Washington and that they were at the battle of *and that they believe the above named Captain John Bird was in both of these engagements *they were in several other engagements together * occasionally sol and was with him to the end of the war, and that they know him to be the identical same John Bird as mentioned in his above affidavit.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of May 1836

S/ Joseph McJunkin

S/ Thomas Young

[fn p. 46]

State of South Carolina York District: Personally came Robert Wilson³ before me and being duly sworn as the law directs saith that he was acquainted with Captain John Bird some years before the Revolutionary war, and that he was acquainted with him very particularly during the Revolutionary war from the year 1778 in February until the capture of the city of Charleston in May 1780 that he was with him in the Battle at Stono in the State of South Carolina, and at the battle at Savannah in the State of Georgia that he also served with him in the siege of Charleston South Carolina and after the fall of Charleston he knew him frequently in the militia, that during a part of the time he this deponent was acquainted with the said Captain John Bird he served as an officer in the Continental service that his services were prominent in the Army as a good and faithful soldier both in the Continental & militia service, that he was & ever has been deemed a person of truth and probity. Sworn to and subscribed the 30th of January A.D. 1838 before me

S/ Robert Wilson

S/ William Jamieson, QU

¹ Joseph McJunkin S18118

² Thomas Young S10309

³ Robert Wilson W2302

[fn p. 26]

Captain John Bird of Union District South Carolina Having signified to me his wish to obtain a commission in the Army of the United States & two express my opinion of his fitness to command

Captain Bird has the advantage of much experience, he served through the Revolutionary war, & was promoted from the ranks to a Lieutenancy, which appointment he filled with credit to himself & advantage to the Service; In my opinion he possesses military talents & capacity to command a company.

S/ Thos. Moore, B. Genl.
3rd Brigade S. C. Militia
Camp at Lipsey's old fields
October 4, 1814

I know that Captain Bird was in the Revolutionary service and have heard that he made a brave officer. I believe he is yet a brave man and a zealous friend to his country.
November 12th 1814

S/ Wm Smith

I am personally acquainted with Mr. Moore and Mr. Smith and several other subscribers to Mr. Bird's recommendations and know them to be gentlemen of the first respectability

4th [?] Feb. 1815

S/ John C. Calhoun

[fn p. 11]

State of South Carolina Union District: SS

On this the 24th day of April 1846 personally appeared before the Court of Ordinary for the said District Anna C. Smith, a resident of the District of Union in the State aforesaid who on being first duly sworn upon the holy evangelist of Almighty God deposes & says that she is the daughter of the above named Captain John Bird deceased whom she is informed & believes was a soldier of the Revolution and drew a pension of \$240 per annum under the Act of Congress of the 18th March 1818: That she was informed long before the death of her said Father (which took place on the 4th day of December 1843), that he was entitled to an increase of pension under the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832, and made an attempt to obtain it, but owing to his being entirely blind for several years previous to his death, he was unable to travel about to obtain it will attend to it, and it was therefore neglected. This deponent further states that at the time of the death of her father the said Captain John Bird deceased he left no widow, his wife, the mother of this deponent having died many years before, but that he left the following children, to wit This deponent aged about fifty-six years & resident in the said District of Union, Sally Bird, now the widow of James Carr, aged about sixty years, living when last heard from somewhere in the State of Mississippi, the County of unknown, a son Henry C. Bird aged about fifty-four years, not heard from for some years, but when last heard from said to be living in Texas, Catherine Bird, now Mrs. Faucett aged about fifty-one years, and when last heard from living in the State of Alabama, County not known, James C. Bird aged about forty-six years, living when last heard from in the State of Alabama County not known.

It having been some years since the above named brothers and sisters of this deponent were heard from with any certainty although she has made efforts to hear from them, she does not know whether they are alive or not.

The said John Bird deceased had one other son whose name was John Bird but who died many years before his father and left five children, the survivors of these children if any at the death of the said Captain John Bird deceased resided as deponent is informed somewhere in the far west -- but she cannot state anything more definite in regard to them.

This deponent deems it unnecessary to say anything in regard to the Revolutionary Services of her father. She refers to the evidence now on the files of the proper department upon which the said John Bird was placed upon the pension Roll under the Act of Congress of the 18th March 1818, and solicits that if the said John Bird deceased her father is entitled to an increase of pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, her rights made not be withheld but rendered to her according to law. She further states, that she has always understood that her father did not resign in 1781, but that he was taken prisoner by the British in 1781, and begs that she be permitted to offer proof upon this subject with the view to recover the Commutation & Bounty Land to which she has been led to hope her said Father was entitled. If however her father as stated in his declaration that he did resign in 1781, she admits that is conclusive but begs that his declaration be re-examined upon that subject.

And further this deponent saith not

S/Anna C Smith

[fn p. 16: On June 30th, 1853 in Again in District South Carolina, Mrs. Nancy Sharpe,⁴ wife of John Sharpe resident of said district and state filed as an heir of her grandfather Lieutenant John Bird deceased for what ever commutation and or Bounty land entitlement she made the entitled to; she states that she is one of four sisters still living children of John Bird Junior, deceased, who was a son of Lieutenant John Bird.]

[fn p. 17: On June 30th, 1853 in The union District South Carolina, Joseph Hughes a resident of said district testify that he is well acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Sharpe granddaughter of Lieutenant John Bird; that he was well acquainted with Lieutenant John Bird and his son John Bird Junior father of Nancy Sharpe; that John Bird Junior married deponent's sister and died deponent believes in the year 1828.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing July 7th, 1818 four service as a Lieutenant in Captain Warley's company of the South Carolina line.]

⁴ The scribe spelled her surname 'Sharpe' but her signature clearly is "Nancy Sharp."