

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Evidence of service of Humphry MacCumber, Ransom Savage, Thomas Duffey, Thomas Woods and Jesse Farrar¹ NC46²

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/23/21

[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 8th 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.]

[p 238]

Richmond, Virginia, the 10th of August, 1781

Sir,³

The moment we were permitted to act, it became our duty to represent some facts, which have given us infinite mortification and although this is signed only by the three field Officers now with your army, yet we are confident there is not one of those exchanged but joins us in sentiment.

The uncandid conduct of the Enemy commenced with their relation of the reduction of Charles Town [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780]. The breast of every American Officer and Soldier has felt indignation in hearing, that six thousand American troops, in works, had surrendered to eight thousand British; when, by their own confession, the Enemy's army amounted upwards of thirteen thousand men, whilst the Continental Troops, after a siege of forty two days, were short of two thousand. We would add that, in our opinion, nothing even then could have induced a surrender, but the exhausted state of our Provisions. The Enemy, on their first discovery of the disproportion between our numbers and theirs, could not forbear expressing their astonishment.

We beg pardon, Sir, for taking up your time with what you must know. But your heart will experience the feelings of a Soldier, whose captivity has been embittered by such a misrepresentation.

We will not enumerate the many breaches of a sacred Capitulation. What we would principally beg leave to lay before [p 239] you is, the conduct of the Enemy, in confining our Soldiers on board Prison-Ships, and afterwards, compelling them into their Service; the latter of which facts is sufficiently confirmed by the annexed attestations.

And now that we have given this account to one of our Generals, and the Commander of the first American Army, which after a long captivity we had the pleasure to see, nothing remains for us, but to ask in the name of every Officer and Soldier, for the adoption of some speedy and

¹ Probably the same man as [Jesse Farrow S38687](#)

² Transcribed from The Continental Congress Papers, Item Number: 156; Publication Number: M247; Item Description: Letters from Generals Lafayette and Coudray, 1777-87; Item Title: Ltrs from Gen Lafayette, Coudray; Page: 238 available on Fold3.com

³ Addressed to the Marquis Lafayette

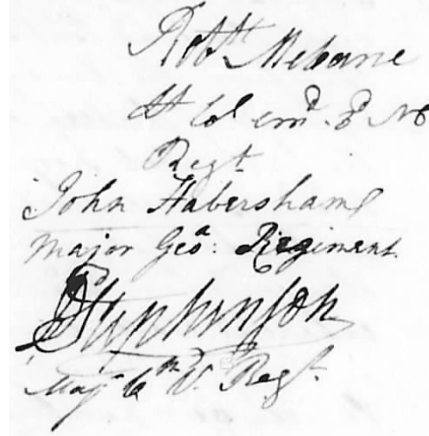
effectual mode of retaliation.

We have the honor to be, most respectfully, Sir,
Your Obedient, humble
Servants

S/ Robt. Mebane [Robert Mebane],
Lt. Col. Com'd 3rd NC Regt.

S/ John Habersham
Major Geo.^a Regiment

S/ Dd Stephenson [David Stephenson]
Major 6th V. Regt.



Robert Mebane
Lt. Col. Com'd 3rd NC
Regt.
John Habersham
Major Geo. Regiment
David Stephenson
Major 6th V. Regt.

Major General, the Marquis de la Fayette

[p 242]

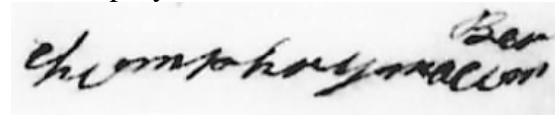
State of Virginia, the
the 7th of August, 1781 }

Humphry Meckhamber, a Serjeant in the third Continental Regiment of North Carolina, being sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that early in March last, he being then a Prisoner of War on board the British Prison ship, *Esk*, being in Charles-Town harbour, a certain Serjeant Brown came on board said Ship with a number of Captains of Transports, and immediately ordered the Guard of the Ship down between decks to drive up the Prisoners, when Centinels were placed over them, and the Captains proceeded to point out such men as suited their purpose; that the men were then ordered into the Boats, and such as discovered any backwardness to go were beaten by the Guard with their swords and the butts of their Muskets, and also by the said Serjeant Brown, and were finally driven by force into the boats.

Sworn before me

S/ David Stephenson, Major 6th V. Regt.

S/ Humphry maccumBer



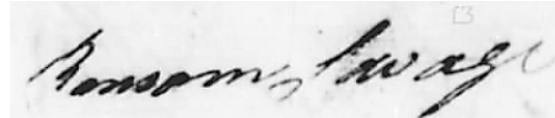
Humphry Meckhamber

State of Virginia, the
7th of August, 1781 }

Ransom Savage, a Serjeant in the second the Continental Regiment of

North Carolina, being sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that early in March last, he being then a Prisoner of War on board the British Prison Ship, *Success Increase*, lying in Charles Town Harbour, a certain Serjeant Brown came on board said Ship with a number of Captains of Transports, and immediately ordered all the Prisoners on deck, when said Brown desired the Captains to make choice of such men as they liked, which they did; that on one of the mens refusing to go, the said Serjeant caned and kicked him very severely, and forced him, with a number of others, into the Boats; that the prisoners were told by said, Brown, they must either enlist in Lord Charles Montagu's Corps, going to Jamaica, or will be impressed [p 243] on board Men of War

S/ Ransom Savage

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ransom Savage". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There is a small, faint mark above the end of the signature.

Sworn before me
S/ David Stephenson
Major 6th Virg^a Regt

[p 244]
State of Virginia, the
7th of August, 1781 }

Thomas Duffey, a private Soldier of the second Continental Regiment of North Carolina, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that sometime in March last, he being then a Prisoner of war on board the British Prison Ship *Success Increase*, lying in Charles Town harbour, Captain Cook, British Commissary of Prisoners, attended by a Serjeant Brown and four or five Captains of Transports, came on board the Ship, and asked the Prisoners if any of them would go to London in the fleet, where they should all be set free; that the Prisoners declined his offer upon which Captain Cook assured them if they did not go voluntarily, they would be forced on board; that the Captains of Transports then proceeded to make choice of the Man, and on their appearing very much adverse to go into the Boats, the aforesaid Serjeant Brown beat and abused them in the most barbarous manner, particularly one of the Men, whom he threw from the Gunwhale [Gunwale] of the Ship into one of the Boats; that the Deponent was among those who were thus forced on board the Boats, and was sent on board a Transport Brigantine, where he was kept five days with a few other Prisoners (the impressed Prisoners being distributed among different Vessels) and then went to Charles-Town, on promising to enlist in the British Cavalry; that the Deponent heard Captain Cook declare, previous to the above Transaction, that if the Prisoners did not enlist in thirteen days in the British Service, they would all be sent to the West Indies, where they would be put on board Ships of War.

Sworn before me
S/ Nathaniel Welch, Major G. A.C. S/ Thomas Duffey, X his mark

[p 245]
State of Virginia, the
the 7th of August, 1781 }

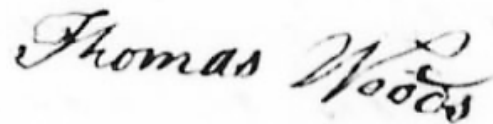
Thomas Woods, a private Soldier of the third Continental Regiment of South Carolina, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth

and saith, that sometime in March last, he being then a prisoner of War on board the British Prison-Ship *Prince George*, lying in Charles-Town harbour, the Serjeant of the Guard on board said Ship informed the Deponent that himself with twenty three more of the Prisoners were to go on board some Ships that wanted Men; that upon the Deponent's refusing to go, a certain Serjeant Brown, then on board the *Esk*, another Prison-Ship, commanded the Serjeant of the Guard to call to his assistance the Mate and crew, and tumble him, the Deponent, neck and heel, into the boat alongside the Ship; that, upon hearing this, the Deponent ran down into the hold [hole], and thereby made his escape: that the Deponent was informed one William Williams, another Soldier, offered himself in his, the Deponent's stead, and was accepted by the British Serjeant.

Sworn before me

S/ Nathaniel Welch, Major G. A. C.

S/ Thomas Woods



State of Virginia, the
7th of August, 1781 }

Jesse Farrar, a private Soldier of the third Continental Regiment of South Carolina, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that sometime in March last, he being then a Prisoner of War on board the British Prison Ship, *Prince George*, lying in Charles-Town harbor, a certain serjeant Brown came on board the Ship, and informed the Prisoners that 24 of them must immediately go on board some Ships, lying in the Harbor; that upon 3 of the Prisoners observing that they thought it hard Congress should find Sailors for the *Keen*, they were put under Guard; that said Brown informed the Prisoners unless they would go on board the Vessels voluntarily, they should be compelled to do it, in which case they would not be sent on board Merchant Men but Ships of War; whereupon the number demanded, with great seeming reluctance, went on board the boats with the British Serjeant.

Sworn before me

S/ Nathaniel Welch, Major G. A. C.

S/ Jesse Farrar, X his mark