

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Bird S39196

f50SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/26/10 & 8/14/14 & 7/10/18

[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' 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 4]

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 [Charles Cotesworth Pinckney] attached to the company of that Regiment commanded by Capt. ___ Turner [George 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

[p 7]

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 civil & criminal cases at Law, John Bird, aged sixty-four 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

[p 33: Note: 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 [January 17, 1781] under the command of General Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. I was at Sumter's defeat [Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] 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

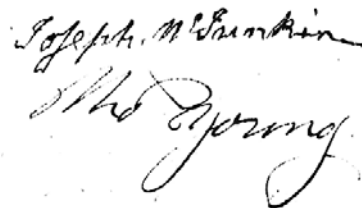
[p 34]

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

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature is "Joseph McJunkin" and the bottom signature is "Thomas Young".

[p 46]

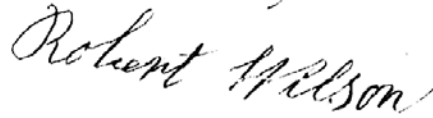
State of South Carolina York District: Personally came Robert Wilson³ before me and being duly sworn as the law directs saith that he was acquainted with Captain John Bird some years before the Revolutionary war, and that he was acquainted with him very particularly during the Revolutionary war from 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

¹ [Joseph McJunkin S18118](#)

² [Thomas Young S10309](#)

³ [Robert Wilson W2302](#)

S/ Robert Wilson



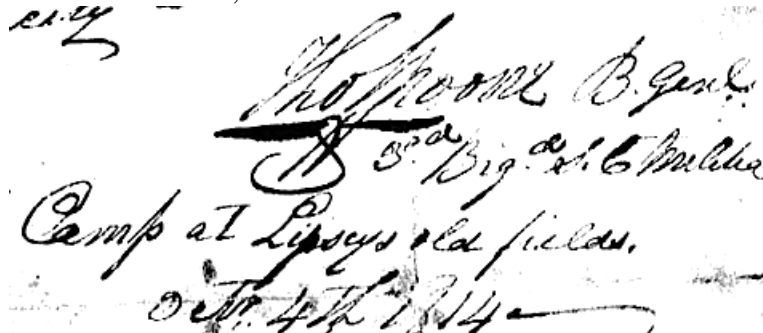
S/ William Jamieson, QU

[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. [Thomas Moore]
3rd Brigade S. C. Militia
Camp at Lipsey's old fields
October 4, 1814

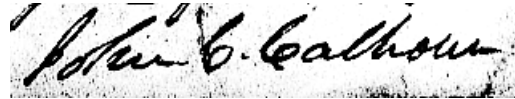


I know that Captain Bird was in the Revolutionary service and have heard that he made a brave officer. I believe he is yet a brave man and a zealous friend to his country. November 12th 1814

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



[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/Ann C Smith



[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 whatever 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.

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

Nancy Sharpe

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[p 17: On June 30th, 1853 in 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.

Joseph Hughes

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

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁵ relating to John Bird
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 497

AA50

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/10/18

[p 12]

To the Honorable David Ramsey Esquire & the Honorable Members of the Senate of South Carolina

The Petition of John Bird humbly Sheweth

That he with his brother William Bird were transferred during the late War from the 6th to the 1st Regiment in consequence of which they were not returned by either Officer to the Auditors & being taken prisoners were prevented from getting information & making such application as the Law required until the limitation Act expired. Your petitioner herewith presents his (with his deceased Brother's) Account both audited by James McCall Esquire with the vouchers which prove their Services & humbly request your Honorable House to put him (& his deceased Brother's Estate) on the same footing with his fellow Soldiers who were returned & permit him to receive Indents for the Amount with Interest from the date of Service & make such other provision as your Honorable House in your great wisdom may think proper.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Charleston [illegible] 21st 1791

S/ John Bird & Executor for William Bird

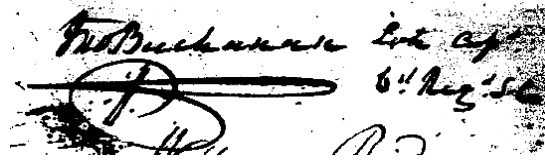
John Bird & Exr for W. Bird

[p 13]

⁵ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

I do hereby Certify that William Bird was a Corporal in my Company in the 6th Regiment of South Carolina during the late Revolutionary war and believe that he continued in the Service, and was taken in Charleston by the British in the year 1780.

S/ Jno. Buchanan Late Capt. [John Buchanan]
6th Regt. S. C.



I Certify that the above named William Bird is in the same situation with Sergeant John Bird
S/ Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Late Major General & Colonel: 1st Cont. I
Regt. of S. Carolina

S/ S. Theus Capt. & pay Master [Simeon Theus]
Of the 1st Regt.



I Certify that John Bird was a Sergeant in the 6th Regiment and was transferred to the 1st Regiment and Captured with the Garrison in the year 1780 and that he received his Pay in depreciated Money to the 1 February 1780 and was entitled to pay to the general exchange on 1st July 1781 if not before settled by the State.

S/ Simeon Theus, Captain

Confirmed by
S/ Charles Cotesworth Pinckney

[p 15]

To the Honorable the Speaker of the house of Representatives and the Members of the Same
The petition of John Bird

Sheweth that he was Sergeant in the 6th Regiment of infantry of Continental troops raised in this State and was transferred to the 1st Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and was captured with the Garrison in Charleston in May 1780 and received his pay, at eight dollars per month to 1 February 1780 in depreciated Money and is entitled to pay to the time of the general exchange which took place on the 1 February 1781 being one year and 5 months [text obliterated] has received.

Your petitioner further states that he is administrator to his Brother William Bird deceased who was a Corporal and entitled to seven dollars per month in the same Regiment of your petitioner and under the same circumstances all which facts will appear by the certificates of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and Major Theus paymaster of the Regiment. Your petitioner therefore prays your Honorable body that he may be paid for the services above mentioned in his own right and also in right of his Brother who is dead with interest thereon.

[p 45]

The Honorable the Legislature of South Carolina

The Petition of John Bird a soldier of the Revolution praying compensation for bounty Land

Your Petitioner shows your Honorable body that he enlisted as orderly Sergeant in 1775 in the 6th South Carolina Regiment in which he served upwards of 2 years, during which time your Petitioner was in several engagements, especially that one so glorious to the Country on the 28th June 1776 when Fort Moultrie was bombarded by the British. The 6th Regiment was commanded by Colonel William Henderson. About 2 years after enlisting your petitioner was transferred to the 1st Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles C. Pinckney. In this Regiment your petitioner entered bearing the rank of Sergeant Major and before the Fall of Charleston was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant – and at the close of the War he bore the same Rank & was adjutant of the Regiment. During this long period of Service your petitioner was in many of the hardest fought battles in the South & underwent many privations and trials – he was at savanna when General Lincoln was repulsed – was at the battle of Stono & the Siege of Charleston – besides many other conflicts of smaller consequence.

By the terms of his enlistment as a Sergeant your Petitioner was entitled to bounty of 250 Acres of land, for which he had the regular certificates of his Commanding Officers & which were a few years ago delivered to the chairman of the Committee on Revolutionary claims [line of text rendered illegible] presented by your Petitioner for compensation for said Lands.

Your Petitioner has never received one cent of said Lands, is now very Old, blind and in great want; and is therefore compelled to Again request your Honorable Body to make him compensation for the lands promised him at his enlistment.

Your Petitioner is informed and believes that the committee of the Said and when this Subject was formerly considered, having all the papers before it, which are now unfortunately lost by the Committee of the Committee of the House of Representatives, decided in favor of his claim & reported accordingly, which report was agreed to in the Senate & only not finally acted on in the House of Representatives for want of time.

All of which is respectfully submitted to your consideration
State of South Carolina Richland District } personally appeared before me John Bird and made
oath that the content of the above petition is true.

[illegible] S/ Jno. Bird

[Note: The file contains a number of other petitions by the veteran seeking bounty land and other compensation but I have elected not to transcribe any of those because they are repetitive of the information contained in the petitions I have transcribed above.]