

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of George Fisher S46036

fn26SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/14/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and 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.]

State of South Carolina Barnwell District

On this 29th day of October A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before BJ Earle Judge of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting George Fisher a resident of Goodland Swamp near Edisto in the County or District of Orangeburg and State of South Carolina aged 75 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.

That having arrived at Amsterdam from England on his way to America, he accidentally heard of a large Frigate fitting out in that port supposed to be for America; on going on board he found her to be the *South Carolina* Frigate, under the nominal command of a Dutch Capt., though really under the command of a Commodore A. Gillon, and Capt. John Joiner. England and Holland then being at peace he found only two American officers in uniform on board, one of whom was Mr. John Marant<sup>1</sup> of this State, who was a Lieutenant on board this Ship, and has lately obtained a pension from the United States for his services their arms; the declarant engaged with those officers, and served in the capacity of Captain's Stewart during the whole time he was on board. He had been and now has in his possession a certain pocket book in which he wrote down several circumstances and occurrences relative to the frigate her service &c, and as those were written by him at the time they occurred he can safely swear to their truth and accuracy. This pocket book being now before him, faithfully transcribe those circumstances, they are verbatim as follows.<sup>2</sup>

1780 June 13th went on board of the *South Carolina* frigate at Amsterdam John Joiner Esq<sup>r</sup> Captain.

1781 January 1st arrived at Bolx Cove to winter

February 20th left Bolx Cove and arrived in the Texel.

August 24th bore way from the Texel North about for America

September 26th arrived at Corunna in Spain.

October 17th we left Corunna and steered to the S. W.

October 28th passed by within sight of the Islands called the selvedges N. E. of the Cannaries.

31st arrived at St. Croix in the Islands of Teneriff

November 24th left St. Croix 29th crossed the tropic of cancer

December 20th recrossed the tropic of Concer the heat at 83 degrees.

24th Saw the little Islands called the keys North East of the Bahamas.

27th Saw Sullivans Island off Charleston So. Carolina.

31st Saw Charleston again but was chased off by three English Frigates.

1782 January 1st left the coast of South Carolina and steered for the Havannah.

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<sup>1</sup> Sic, John Mayrant. [John Mayrant S32390](#)

<sup>2</sup> The pocket book entries have been transcribed verbatim including spelling and capitalizations.

4th Saw the Island of Abaco<sup>3</sup> one of the Bahamas.

6th Fell in with and took a flat of five Jamaica men homeward bound.

10th Arrived at the Havannah and sold our prize for 91500 Dollars.

April 27th left the Havannah and took under our convoy a fleet of sixty two sail with 2030 Land tro[ops] on board, John Manuel Cazagan Governor of Cuba took the command of the troops and Commadore Gillan of the fleet.

May 8th arrived with the fleet off the Island of New Providence.

10th A capitulation agreed on between the spanish Governor and Commadore Gillan on the one side, and John Maxwell Esqr. Governor of New Providence on the other, without landing the troops.

June 5th got aground near mud fort in the river Delaware.

18 Arrived at Philadelphia. Here ends the remarks in the Pocket Book.

The declarant having under his care of furniture, stores &c of the Commodore and Capt., he was detained on board at least 2 weeks after the frigates arrival in Philadelphia; he then received a certificate signed by Capt. John Joiner, specifying the sum due him and addressed to Gov. Matthews of South Carolina; no written discharges were given to he knows of; The precise date of this certificate is not recollected, but the declarant believes that it was within 3 or 4 days under or over the first day of July 1782.

The sum specified as you was 62 Pounds some odd Shillings Sterling; as his pay was 3 Pounds Sterling per month, had the purser's account against him been mentioned, it would have afforded sufficient data to ascertain his time of service, which was a little upwards of 2 years on board said frigate in the revolutionary war. One 4th part of this Certificate, was paid in Philadelphia by an agent of the State: shortly after the declarant entrusted it to a person who promised to endeavor to get something for it in Carolina, but he has never seen it since nor received any thing arising from it.

The declarant will relate from memory some other particulars relative to the Frigate; she mounted twenty-eight thirty-six pounder's on her main deck, and twelve long twelves on her quarterdeck and fore castle, length of her keel 168 feet, [text missing-- page torn ] of her beam 47 feet, main mast 103 feet, main yard 98 feet, draught of water 22 feet, these dimensions were had from Mr. Lane, the carpenter; she was not over the Pomposes where there was only 15 feet water, on her broadside, hove down by a large old greenlander and towed and steered by 26 dutch lighters; Her long stay in and near the Texel was occasioned by her waiting for the luxingburg [Luxemburg] troops, during this stay Colonel Searls of Virginia, and Major Jackson came on board having under their care a young Son of Mr. Samuel Adams, this youth who was cousin to the late President Adams, spoke the English, Dutch, and French Languages. These gentlemen disagreeing with Commadore Gillon left the frigate in Spain, and took young Mr. Adams with them, it is believed the Major was afterwards attached to the war department.

The Luxemburg troops were sent to assist in the attack on the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, having at length arrived on board the Frigate to the amount of between two and three hundred, under the command of Mon<sup>sr</sup> D. Aubry, the *South Carolina* put to sea as stated in the Pocket Book; Exclusive of the prizes mentioned in that book, she took a small vessel off Berwick and burnt her; in the Atlantic took the fine Brig *Venus* loaded with fish and sent her safe into Spain; in the gulf of Florida took a small vessel from the Bahamas, with fruit for the British troops in Charleston; the capture of the Jamaica Fleet mentioned in the pocket book was owing to their mistaking the *South Carolina* in the night for a British Frigate.

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<sup>3</sup> Abaco

The declarant will now mention the names of those commissioned and warrant officers, which served longest in their respective stations; they are as follows: Messrs Bartlett, Greenwell, White, and Marant [Mayrant], before mentioned, Lieutenants, Drs. Brigs, and Cushing; Gridley, Purser; Perry, Gunner; Conney, Boatswain; Lane, Carpenter; Tredwell, Cook; The affidavits of John Mayrant and Richard Wall requires some explanation. Mr Mayrant and the declarant were summoned by warrant from the speaker of the house of Representatives, to appear before the Legislator [legislature] as witnesses to testify what they knew relative to the whose claims were then before the house, both appeared and Mr. Mayrant made the affidavit annexed to this declaration. The want of the evidence of the clerk of the Court, will be amply supplied by the Honorable John M. Felder, who was present and heard Mr. Mayrant make and swear to the said affidavit. The Honorable member told the declarant that he would make affidavit of this if required by the department; as to the affidavit of Richard Wall; hereto annexed, the declarant is persuaded that the high authorities before whom the affidavit was made and certified, would supersede the necessity of traveling upwards of 100 miles to procure a new one, his health and state of sight which render him unable to undertake a journey of such length, he being so dark as to be unable to see to read or write, by the help of the best glasses that he can find though he makes out to sign his name by guess. These reasons equally apply against the procuring of a new affidavit from Mr. Mayrant. The reason why the declarant procured the certificate of the English Consul on Mr. Wall's affidavit, was this, The declarant [was] born and living in England when the war between England and France broke out, during the American Revolution; England called out her militia in which this declarant was enrolled, he must now serve for sixpence a day without rations or leave the country, he chose [text missing, paper torn] latter, and arriving at Amsterdam entered on board the *South Carolina* frigate, as before mentioned; Near 5 years past having occasion to visit England; with a view to this visit the declarant had some years previous obtain Mr. Wall's affidavit, to be made use of in case he should be called to an account for leaving the militia; in order to its being received as evidence in England, the consular certificate was necessary; the declarant and tending to shelter himself under the treaty of peace of 1783, between the United States and England, an article of which provides for cases of this nature, the article being known to the department need not be Inserted.

The declarant regrets that he has been unable to procure any documentary evidence; In a healthy season of the year he visited the secretary of states office, there was no paper or documents in that office relative to the *South Carolina* frigate.

Through the medium of a friend he had the other branch of the secretary of states office in Columbia searched; The state Treasurer wishing as he said to serve an old Revolutionary character, assisted in the search, the results of this search ended like that in Charleston: his friend had the Controller General's office searched also, the Controller responded that on searching his office, there were no books or papers relative to the *South Carolina* Frigate, except some papers in an old Box relative to the claim of one Delosier, against the *South Carolina* Frigate, the declarant knows nothing of this Delosier, the Controller General further reported that 8 or 10 years past, the portage bill Book of the *South Carolina*, was taken out of his office by a committee of the Legislature, and never returned nor did he the Controller, know where it was or what had become of it.

The declarant failing to procure any documentary evidence has been the more particular in relating so many occurrences and circumstances, with a view to enable the department to judge of the degree of credit due to his declaration.

Since 1783 the declarant has resided in South Carolina, Except for 4 years and he lived in

Georgia, and near 2 years on his late visit to England, for the last 27 years, he has been a resident of Barnwell District, Except the 2 years visit to England and near a year that he lived in Orangeburg District, he now lives about 3 miles from the line that separates the 2 Districts he is yet several miles nearer of the Court house of Barnwell, than that of Orangeburg: his age and imperfect sight keep him almost constantly at home, so that he is but little known in Orangeburg District, where he believes it would be impracticable for him to procure the testimony of the clergyman, and other respectable Inhabitant as required by the department. He therefore thought it most advisable to make his declaration in the Court of Barnwell District, where he is well-known, rather than that of Orangeburg where he is scarcely known at all. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to in open Court at Barnwell C. H. as aforesaid before            S/ Geo Fisher  
S/ B. J. Earle, Presiding Judge

We, Hansford D. Duncan, a clergyman, a resident of the District of Barnwell South Carolina and the honorable Angus Patterson Senator from this District to the State Legislature hereby certify that we are well acquainted with George Fischer who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, who appears to be between 70 & 80 years of age, that he is reputed and believed by many respectable inhabitants in the aforesaid District to have served on board the *South Carolina* frigate in the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion and that we do further declare, that we have seen and examined the Pocket book from which the remarks and occurrences relative to the *South Carolina* Frigate were taken and transcribed into the declaration of the said George, and find them correctly copied from said pocket book into his declaration and that from the connection and said pocket book with other parts of his travels being immediately preceded by his travels in Holland and followed by those in the Jerseys up to his arrival in the State affords sufficient reason to believe and we do believe that the remarks and occurrences in relation to the said Frigate and transcribed as aforesaid and to his declaration are true; and the said Honorable Angus Patterson doth further declare that 10 years ago attending his duty in the State Legislature has Senator from the District of Barnwell saw and conversed several times with the said George in the Senate chamber he having been summoned by Warrant from the Speaker of the house of representatives to attend the Legislature as a witness to testify what he knew relative to the Services of certain persons on board the *South Carolina* Frigate in the revolutionary War and that the said George was examined on oath by a Committee of the House relative to the Services of the foregoing persons.

S/ H. D. Duncan

S/ A. Patterson

Sworn to and Open Court as aforesaid before  
B. J. Earle, Presiding Judge

[fn p. 15]

Baptisms 1758

Mary and George (Twin Children) of William and Mary Fisher of little Crakehall, Georhan  
January 27

I certify the above to be a true extract from the Parish Register of Baptisms at Bedale in the County of York, the same having been examined and compared here with by me this 28th Day of August 1829

S/ Thomas Monson, Rector of Bedale

[fn p. 17]

State of South Carolina Richland District

John Mayrant a Lieutenant on board the *South Carolina* frigate in the service of this State in the Revolutionary war, personally appeared before me William Cottell one of the Justices assigned to keep the peace in the District of [Richland], who being duly sworn saith upon his oath that George Fisher of Barnwell District in the State aforesaid, entered on board of said frigate at Amsterdam about the month of May or June in the year 1780, and that he the said George served faithfully on board of the said frigate in the capacity of Captain's Steward till he arrived in Philadelphia in June 1782, when he was discharged in an honorable manner.

Sworn to before me this 9th day of December 1823.

S/ John Mayrant

S/ Wm Cattell, Q U

State of South Carolina City of Charleston

Mr. Richard Wall of the City, formerly an officer of the "*South Carolina*" Frigate in the service of this State in the Revolutionary War, commanded by Commodore A. Gillon personally appeared before me John Geddes Intendant of the above City of Charleston who after being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God maketh oath and saith -- That George Fisher, Esquire of Barnwell District, now a justice of the quorum of that District and State aforesaid, came on board of the aforesaid frigate near Amsterdam in Holland about the month of May or June in the year 1780 & and that he the said George acted in the capacity of Captain's Steward on board said frigate from the time above mentioned till the frigate arrived in Philadelphia in June 1782. That the said George possessed the confidence of the officers, and was there honorably discharged in Philadelphia.

Sworn to before me this 30th of July 1824.

S/ Rich:<sup>d</sup> Wall

S/ John Geddes, Intendant

[fn p. 23]

South Carolina Barnwill District: Clerks office Fall Term 1824

South Carolina Barnwell District

The Petition of George Fisher of the above State and District humbly sheweth That your Petitioner entered into the Service of the State of South Carolina at Amsterdam in the year 1780 on board of "*South Carolina* Frigate" and acted in the capacity of Captains Steward on board the said Frigate till her arrival in Philadelphia in 1780 [sic] and that he has Constantly resided in the United States but mostly in South Carolina ever since and for the last 18 years he has lived in Barnwell District in the State aforesaid That your Petitioner will Support the Constitution of the United States and that he doth absolutely & entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince Potentate State or Sovereignty whatever & particularly to his Britannic Majesty whose subject he formerly was Your Petitioner therefore prays that he may be admitted to become a Citizen of the United States and of the State of South Carolina.

S/ George Fisher

Be it so

S/ J. S. Richardson, Associate Judge

November the 1st 1824

I George Fisher do solemnly swear that I resided in America in the year 1782 & have resided in the United States & in the State of South Carolina mostly ever since & particularly for 18 years, last past and I will be the most of my power & ability support the Constitution of the State and the Constitution of the United States and that I do hereby solemnly freely & voluntarily renounce

& for ever abjure all allegiance to any foreign King, Prince, Potentate or Power & particularly all allegiance to the King of Great Britain whose subject I formerly was so help me God.

S/ George Fisher

Sworn to in open Court before me 1 November 1824

S/ Orsamus D. Allen, Clerk