

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Guilford Dudley W8681

fn145NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On the twelfth day of October 1832, personally appeared in open court before Nicholas Perkins, Jabez Owen & Wright Stonage [?] Esq., Justices of the court of Williamson County now sitting, Guilford Dudley, a resident of the town of Franklin in the county of Williamson, and state of Tennessee, aged about Seventy Seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on is oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers. In the summer of 1775, North Carolina having raised some regiments of minutemen, a species of regular troops at that day but enrolled without receiving any bounty, I entered into one raised in Halifax [County, North Carolina], my own district, composed of six large counties, commanded by Col. Nicholas Long of Halifax, my own town company by Capt. Christopher Dudley, Lt. John Geddie, and Ensign x x x [blank in the original]; And, late in Novr or in December of that year, a detachment of that regiment (say 250) was called into actual service to march to the Great Bridge near Norfolk in Virginia, to assist some Virginians posted at its upper end, in opposition to Captain Fordice [sic, Charles Fordyce] of the British grenadiers, posted at its lower end under cover of a fort, which Ld. [Lord] Dunmore, the last regal governor of Virginia, had caused to be erected there, when, after the defeat of Fordyce, who was killed on the bridge or causeway, they entered Norfolk, and was there at the time the town was burnt.

In the month of February following (1776), the whole of that regiment being called into actual service again to suppress a most formidable insurrection of the loyalists (Tories) in the south and west assembled at Cross Creek on Cape Fear River, I also marched with said regiment, and after the defeat of the said loyalists at Moore's Creek Bridge, near Wilmington (sixteen miles), by Colonels Caswell [Richard Caswell] & Lyllington [sic, John Alexander Lillington], detachments from this regiment were sent up the country in pursuit of the fugitives, when Brigadier General McDonald, their commanding officer, and many others of distinction were made prisoners and conducted to Halifax, where they were for a while shut up in the common prison with a strong guard around it, and the minutemen were, for the present, dismissed. This tour, performed in the months of February and March, 1776, continued about forty days as well as I can now recollect.

The details of my other military services during the Revolution will be seen in my answers to the interrogatories propounded by the court aforesaid, which follows here:

Answer to the 1st Interrogatory: I was born on Rappahannock River in Caroline County, Virginia, on 17th April 1756.

Answer 2nd: I have the record of my age in my possession now; first kept by my father in his family Bible for many years & from thence transcribed into my own family Bible by myself, where it remains legible and plain at this day. I have always known the place of my birth and my age also, ever since I was six or eight years old.

Answer 3rd: I was living in Halifax Town in North Carolina to which place my father emigrated from Caroline County, Virginia, in the month of November 1763, and in which place I continued to live until January 1785. I thence moved to Fayetteville in No.

Ca., where I lived two years, and then returned to Roanoke again, where I lived only one year; and on January 1796, removed my family to Prince Edward County, Virginia, where I remained eight years, and returned the second time to Roanoke, where I lived until April 1807; and then finally migrated with my large family to Williamson County, West Tennessee, where I have remained ever since—a period of about twenty five years, and am well known throughout the county, in the town of Franklin (where I now reside) in Nashville, and elsewhere in this State.

Answer 4th: I was called into actual service as a minuteman in February 1776 and marched against the insurgents who had assembled at Cross Creek in great force, having belonged to a regiment of this description of troops from July 1775, commanded by Col. Nicholas Long of Halifax as already related in the first page of this declaration. I was neither drafted, nor was I a substitute, but a volunteer of said regiment and performed all the duties of a private soldier from the repeated calls of my Captain and the Colonel commandant, for nine months; until the minute regiments were dissolved, about the month of May 1776, after the provincial Congress which sat at Halifax that spring, had completed the quota of North Carolina troops (Nine regiments of foot and three companies of light horse). In this service, performed by minutemen, there were no regular officers of the line with us, although North Carolina had raised two regiments the Summer before. The next actual service I engaged in was in June 1780, after the fall of Charleston, in a company of volunteers, raised in Halifax, (mostly by myself), commanded by Lt. Col. Samuel Lockhart, lately an officer of the Continental line of North Carolina, then at home, acting as Captain, Lt. John Geddie, and Ens. Dolphin Davis, having with us Capt. James Bradley, another Continental officer, serving as a private soldier.

Under the direction of Captain Lockhart, the company marched into South Carolina, after taking a most circuitous route for want of proper information, crossing the Yadkin [River] first, above the narrows (a great natural curiosity), and then falling down that river to Coultson [sic, Colson's Mill?]¹ on Peedee [sic, Pedee River] and Rocky River and thence to Anson old courthouse, where the British had a small garrison but which was withdrawn before our arrival. Finding himself too far ahead of all other troops about to enter South Carolina, and out of reach of support from any quarter, Captain Lockhart's situation became very perilous; he therefore determined to recross Peedee, at Mask's or Haley's ferry² and fall down that river on its eastern side to Cheraw Hill, where he hoped to overtake Major General Caswell's division of militia just then penetrating into South Carolina in that direction, but who had crossed the river one day before us.

In the meantime, Lord Rawdon had broken up the post at Cheraw, commanded by Major McArthur, an experience British officer with 350 prime troops, and called them to him, as well as the small garrison at Anson Courthouse; concentrating his whole field force at Big Lynch's Creek, about forty-two miles above Cheraw Hill on the Camden road. Captain Lockhart, with his volunteers in prime order and high spirits, by forced marches in the sultry weather of the last of July over bald sand hills and pine plains overtook Caswell's division of North Carolina militia between Brown's and Big Lynch's creeks, who were immediately sent forward to overtake (without halting) Caswell's light infantry, a few miles in front, then under the direction of Maj. John Armstrong, another

¹ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/colson.htm>

² <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/masksfy.htm>

Continental officer of the North Carolina line, and whom we found posted at the fork of Cheraw & Rocky River roads; and, remaining under his command three or four days until General Gates [Horatio Gates], who march[ed] by the latter road, formed a junction, at that point, with Caswell's division of militia; when the command of all the light troops was given to Lieutenant Colonel Porterfield [Charles Porterfield], a regular officer of the Virginia line, having under him Capt. Thomas Drew with a company of regular troops of the same line.

Answer to Interrogatory 5: Col. Henry Dixon of Caswell County, whom I well knew and who was at home without employment, likewise a regular officer of the North Carolina line, had the command of a regiment of Caswell's militia, and who by his skill in military discipline and tactics had trained his troops to stand and do their duty in battle with great firmness and order.

Col. John Pugh Williams, Col. Benjamin Williams, and Col. Thos. Blount, also Continental officers, but of lower grades, likewise took commands in the militia of North Carolina (the latter acting as adjutant general) and were of the suite of General Caswell. These were all the Continental officers then serving with us that I can now recollect: And it would be an endless business to enumerate all the names of the officers of distinction among the Militia with whom I was acquainted, except I should mention the names of Brigadier Generals Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] & Gregory [Isaac Gregory] of North Carolina, both of whom were wounded in battle, and the former taken prisoner. Nor will I attempt to mention the names of the Continental officers of the Maryland & Delaware lines with whom I served, except Col. Otho Holland Williams of the Maryland line, Adjutant general of Gates's army and a most valuable officer; whom I happened to meet at General Caswell's quarters at Clermont (Rugeley's Mill) when sent there from the advanced corps, upon business the day preceding the fatal disasters of the morning of the 16th August, 1780; at which very time the detachment of Maryland troops under Col. Woolford was turning out to march over the Wateree River to join General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], who was then ready to strike the British convoy coming from Ninety-Six to Camden, and who did actually capture the same with escort the next morning (the 16th) near the latter place, with the assistance of the Maryland troops just mentioned.

I was in the night action of the 15th of August, 1780, on the plains above Camden and fought near the person of Col Porterfield, who was mortally wounded, and carried him off to a place of safety for the present, and, remaining by his side the rest of the night, and after procuring further proper assistance to carry him off further (for I was unable to do it by myself); just at the dawn of day left him with Capt. Thomas Drew, Lt. Vaughan, three surgeons, & eight or ten privates, whom I caused to be searched for that night; and, forming a litter, and placing the Colonel upon it, was in the act of moving away with him to a place of greater safety from the enemy, when the rattling of our cannon, about a mile to the east of where I had lain with him that night, announced the commencement of the battle, to which I hastened with all the speed in my power upon my starved, broken-down horse (for I was a light dragoon), leaving Col Porterfield and the party steering north to some place where we hoped he would be safe until the battle should be over; not dreaming of a defeat. Here I encountered the difficulties and dangers of that disastrous morning, and remained on the ground, rendering my unavailing aid, sometimes nearly surrounded by the enemy, and then chased by his cavalry until our army was entirely defeated; and yet I escaped with all my arms and equipage. The result

is but too well known. Then falling back with the relics of our army, first to Charlotte (N. C.) then to Salisbury and Hillsborough, where I remained ten days, and then finally home.

I have no written discharge to produce from my services heretofore, the proper officers verbally discharging their men when they returned home, and it is well known that every body, after this disastrous battle was over, or during the conflict, discharged himself. I served three months however, during this unprosperous campaign.

Remaining at home, after this expedition, in the prosecution of my private business, until February 1781, and during the arduous and skillful retreat of General Greene across the State of North Carolina into Virginia; when I entered into the service of my country again, and joined a volunteer corps of 250 mounted infantry & Cavalry, raised also in the town and county of Halifax, and placed under the direction of Maj. James Read, a Continental officer, by the legislature then in session in that town, which corps was forthwith marched to join General Greene wherever he might be found; Lord Cornwallis with the British army then lying in Hillsboro'. This corps, (after joining General Greene, whom we found posted above Reedy Fork of Haw River, and a few miles below Guilford Court house, Lord Cornwallis lying upon Little Alamance about twelve miles South east), serving day and night with the American army, most frequently on detachment until about seven days after the Battle of Guilford, that is, on the 22nd of March; General Greene then having his headquarters at Troublesome (Speedwell's) Ironworks, twelve miles from the Court house; when the corps was reorganized, and instead of horse, became foot; at which time I was called from the ranks and appointed Major of the 1st Battalion of North Carolina militia, (all the field officers having at that place retired from the service with consent, and a new set, through the management of General Greene, was commissioned by Governor Nash [Abner Nash], then in Camp, mostly taken from the Halifax volunteers, and put in their place, in such regiments as could be collected there) and was in pursuit of Cornwallis down to Ramsey's Mills³ on Deep River, a distance perhaps, from the Iron-works, of between 90 & 100 miles.

General Greene having, at Ramsey's Mills, discharged all the Virginia and North Carolina militia, except one regiment of the latter, commanded by Col. James Read, who had before commanded the corps of Halifax volunteers; I was promoted to the rank of (senior) Lt. Colonel of one of the battalions of that regiment, about the last of March of 1781.; and General Greene, after mature deliberation, having determined to carry the war back into South Carolina, I marched also into that state, crossing Deep River at Searcey's Ford,⁴ about thirty miles from Ramsey's, thence to Colson's on Big Pedee, where the river is about 500 yards wide, which we forded, Horse, foot, and artillery; and, crossing a very narrow point of land, immediately forded Rocky River (of Pedee), also about 150 yards wide; a rapid stream, with an appropriate name; and thence on to Camden, crossing Big & Little Lynch's creeks at the points where Col Porterfield crossed them the year before, when conducting General Gates' advanced troops to the same scene of action. I should not have been so minute in describing our route, but it seems to be required, in order to show my knowledge of the marches of our armies where I served, and the geography of the country's through which we passed; & I am perfectly willing to be interrogated not

³ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ramseys-mill.htm>

⁴ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/searcysford.htm>

only on all such points, but on every other within my knowledge, that may tend to give satisfaction at the War Department.

In the morning of the 19th of April, 1781, General Greene arrived before Camden, and sat down upon the beautiful eminence of Log-town, which overlooked the enemy's works, three-quarters of mile north of Camden, with his little army in excellent spirits; the great Waxhaw Road passing over its eastern point; Log-town then in flames and the houses crumbling down, the enemy having, upon our approach, withdrawn their pickets, &c, and applied the torch to that small appendage to the village of Camden. Here we lay three days in full view of the town, our militia riflemen often venturing down near the enemy's works to skirmish with the Yagers and other marksmen, who, under cover of a few trunks of pine trees, left here and there, and from behind their abatis, began a desultory game that provoked our men to retaliate.

Camden stands on a peninsula formed by Pine Tree Creek on the east, and the Wateree on the west; the forts stretching across an open, lovely plain, divested of its timber on the north side, and about three quarters of a mile in extent every way; the forts bearing no particular names, but numbered from Pine tree creek in the east, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 to the Wateree in the west, under the protection of the last of which stood the British hospital on the banks of the river—the ferry one mile below the town, and then, covered by a fort also.

In the afternoon of the 20th, the day after General Greene sat down on the eminence of Log-town, a most unpleasant and disgusting circumstance occurred, which seemed for a moment to disturb even the equanimity of the General himself. Lt. Col Webb's battalion of militia, which, with my own, constituted the command of Colonel Read, insisted on their discharge, alleging that their term of service had expired; this was at first refused, and the allegation denied, when they evinced a spirit of mutiny, encouraged & heightened by Cap R___ [blank in the original] of that battalion, who was their chief spokesman. Persuasion, and even entreaty was used by the field officers of the regiment—pointing to the enemy's works staring us in the face, at a short distance, and telling them not to desert their General, but have patience and wait only a few days longer, when their services might be all important to him in the plain before us; but all this only made them more eager and determined upon being discharged; and finding our entreaties unavailing, one of us went to the General and gave him the displeasing information, when he, with great condescension, mounted his horse, and, accompanied by Col. O. H. Williams, rode into our camp on the aforesaid eminence, at a short distance from the regular troops and used all his persuasion and eloquence to detain them but a few days longer, when, as before observed to them, they might be of important service to him. The General was seconded by Col. Williams, who in the most persuasive manner reasoned with them, and urged their delay, but all to no purpose; Capt. R__ [blank in original]. and the others became more clamorous; and General Greene, mortified and disgusted, directed Col. Williams to write their discharge, which done they were instantly off; and Lt. Col. Webb had the mortification to attend them back into No. Carolina.

There was General Greene in a moment, and that one of danger and difficulty too, deprived of 250 of his efficient force — men, who, though but militia, he had considerable hopes from their services, since the change of field officers which took place at the Iron-works, and their subsequent training. My battalion, with Colonel Read

still at its head, were now the only militia in the Southern army; and they were soon to experience the reality of uncommon active service and hard fighting.

The General having determined, for reasons too long to detail here, to shift his position from Log-town on the north, to the lower side of Sand Hill Creek on the east, four miles from Camden, on the Charleston road; and finding his baggage & artillery would be only an encumbrance to him when crossing the deep and muddy swamps he had to wade through, resolved to send them away to Upton's Mill on Big Lynch's Creek, 27 miles from Camden, and near the Cheraw Road, escorted by my battalion, having with us all the quartermasters and commissaries together with our herds of lean cattle and swine—all the provisions the Southern Army had to subsist upon. This movement took place on the 22nd of April. Here (at Upton's Mill) we remained until about 1 or 2 O'clock P.M., the 24th, when, unexpectedly, an express arrived from Genl. Greene ordering the whole, troops, baggage, & artillery, &c., to return with all haste to our former position near Log-town. In half an hour all was in motion again, & marching all that day, and until 3 or 4 O'clock the next morning, without halting, sat down about 5 or 600 yards in the rear of Genl. Greene's Continental troops, then returned from Sand Hill Creek, and posted in one line, upon the lofty summit of Hobkirk's or Hobkirk's Hill, in the rear of Log-town; having the great Waxhaw Road running directly over it—a favorable position, with a handsome rivulet running by its northern base.

On the morning of the 25th of April, 1781, after breakfast, my battalion, with the artillery in front, Col. Harrison of Virginia at its head, slowly moved on to take our post in the line, wherever ordered. Lord Rawdon finding himself more and more straitened for provisions, despairing of the safe return of Colonel Watson to the garrison, and for other cogent reasons, had determined upon giving General Greene battle that morning and accordingly made his sally about 9 O'clock. We were just ascending the hill with the militia and artillery when the firing commenced by our sentries and pickets, which brought on the fierce and sanguinary Battle of Hobkirk's Hill;⁵ when, about halfway up, we were met by Col. O. H. Williams, A.G., from whom we received this very brief order, "March to the right and support Col. Campbell," for there was no time to say more. This movement was made with great celerity, obliquely up the hill with trailed arms and open files, the deep sand sliding from under our feet at every step, but before we had reached a third of the way to our destined post, the artillery, which had so opportunely arrived and taken its station in the road, between the two wings of our army, commenced a spirited and well directed fire, with canister shot upon the British column as it advanced; and in a moment, notwithstanding some disorder and confusion that happened at first, there was an universal blaze of musketry from left to right throughout our whole line, for an hour; every officer exhorting all the bravery and energy of his soul; the General himself, with his cool intrepidity risking his invaluable person in the thickest of the battle; yet, at last, a retreat became necessary, which was effected with very little loss after we fell back to the foot of the hill; although the enemy pursued our right wing for a mile through the woods, keeping up their fire upon us; whilst our flying troops, in their quarter, were repeatedly rallied by the activity of their officers, faced about, and would pour in volley after volley as the enemy rushed upon us, until we finally gave up the contest.

The left wing of our army fell back to Saunder's Creek, 3 1/2 or 4 miles from Camden, whilst the right, not knowing precisely their fate, but judging merely from the

⁵ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hobkirk.htm>

awful silence that had prevailed there for an hour; nor the fate of General Greene personally, whom we knew had greatly exposed himself during the conflict, especially on the left; nor yet what had become of the artillery and baggage; shaped our course through the woods over bog and morass, at a respectful distance from the road until we first crossed Saunder's Creek, then Sutton's, and lastly Gates' battleground on the plains above Sutton's; when it was agreed to oblique to the right; and we soon entered the great road, nearly seven miles above Camden, where we most fortunately met General Greene, who, as well as the left wing, which had halted at Saunder's Creek below, were equally uncertain what had become of us.

With the General at our head, the right wing of our army then fell down and reunited with the left, at Saunder's Creek, about three or 4 O'clock in the afternoon; whilst Rawdon was burying the dead on both sides, on Hobkirk's Hill, and affording what relief he could to the wounded, in the absence of four of his surgeons, brought off by Col. Washington from the enemy's rear, during the engagement.

Thus the battle terminated unfavorably to the American army; though without affording the least advantage to Lord Rawdon and the British garrison. Lt. Col. Koschinsko [sic, Thaddeus Kosciusko], chief engineer to the Southern army, and Major Pierce, aide-de-camp to Genl. Greene, were both separated from the General in the course of this action; probably sent with orders to Haws [sic, Samuel Hawes] & Campbell [Richard Campbell] on the right, about the time that wing gave way, and continued with us during the remainder of the time we were disputing the ground with the enemy in our ultimate retreat, and until we joined the rest of the army at Saunder's Creek.

On the 26th (the day after the battle), Colonel Read of the militia (who was a Continental Major) was sent back into North Carolina to attend to some matters there, when I became commandant of the remaining militia and continued so until expiration of our tour, as may be seen by my discharge from the Southern Army.

On the 26th also, General Greene fell back from Saunder's Creek, and by a rapid march passed by Rugeley's Mill and took post that night about 1 1/2 miles higher up the Waxhaw Road, 13 miles above Camden. Here, on the 27th General Greene directed a court martial to convene near headquarters for the trial of 20 or 25 deserters whom we had taken in battle on Hobkirk's Hill on the 25th. They were all equally guilty as to matter of fact, but some of them were more notorious offenders than the rest. The General therefore, was pleased to order the execution of five of them only; the rest were pardoned and returned to their duty in their respective companies in the Maryland line.

This, and some other transaction which took place in our camp above Rugeley's being finished, and Genl. Sumter not yet joining as was expected when we first sat down before Camden on the 19th, Genl. Greene became restless for want of employment, and from his too remote position from the garrison in Camden. He therefore determined to change his position once more, from the eastern to the western side of the Wateree; and accordingly, on the 28th, broke up from that camp, and passing down by Rugeley's a mile or two, filed off from the Camden road to the right, & soon reached the Wateree, at a very rocky ford, about nine miles above that town; four or five hundred yards wide; which we forded, Horse, foot & artillery, as we had done before at Colson's on Big Pedee; and, keeping out from the river a mile or two until we entered the main road leading down from Rocky Mount, &c, to the ferry below Camden, pitched our tents opposite to that village, in an open plain covered with pine, about two miles from us, and

with the river interposed. This movement was made for the double purpose of more effectually cutting off the supplies coming down on that side or from Ninety-Six, if that should be attempted, as well as to intercept Col Watson on his return to the garrison, should he evade Marion & Lee on Santee, and, then, crossing Congaree at Fort Motte,⁶ or elsewhere, force his way to Camden on the upper road, on the west side of the Wateree. Watson, however, at last evaded Marion & Lee and made good his passage to Camden on the eastern side of the Wateree, altogether unexpectedly. It was not long, however, before Genl Greene got intelligence of this circumstance, and therefore was upon the lookout for a visit from Lord Rawdon, with his increased force; which we were not exactly in a situation to resist with our mortified troops, whose spirits were yet rather depressed by their late repulse before Camden. General Greene, knowing his adversary would strike at him, as soon as Watson reached Camden, hastily broke up from this Camp, about an hour by sun in the evening of the 6th or 7th of May; and, falling back, by a rapid march, gained the heights of Sawney's Creek,⁷ the strongest position I ever saw anywhere in South Carolina, or, perhaps anywhere else; and sat down on its summit; a stupendous hill, faced with rock, having a difficult pass of steep ascent to climb up; his artillery posted in the road, on the eminence, where the gap was somewhat lower than the hill on either side.

In the morning of the 7th or 8th, before day, Rawdon put his army in motion, and, crossing the ferry below town, was at the dawn of day in General Greene's deserted camp, greatly disappointed by not finding his intended victim there; but, still determined upon his destruction, followed him up to the lower side of Sawney's Creek, covered with lofty timber, both of pine and oak; and where his advanced troops met our strong pickets and Col Washington's Cavalry (always their terror) judiciously posted. Instantly a handsome firing took place—Lord Rawdon paused, examined with caution the ground his adversary occupied; -- Washington keeping himself raised up in his stirrups, watching the exact moment when to strike with the saber; his quondam friend Major Coffin, with the British cavalry in view.

In the meantime, on the upper side of the creek, all was in motion; General Greene in person, and the adjutant general, forming our troops on the heights in battle array; my battalion ordered down the hill to cross a narrow, lengthy field in the bottom, not in cultivation that spring, and to post myself in, and around sundry deserted houses near the ford of Sawney's Creek, under the supposition that the enemy would force a passage; and there to maintain my post as long as I could. This order I received from the general himself, on the brow of the hill. But scarcely had I reached the houses before I was recalled. At this moment the General had received information of another crossing place about two miles lower down the creek, quite convenient for the enemy's purpose of getting at him, and attacking him in the rear of his present position on the lofty summits of the hill. This intelligence instantly changed the mind of the general and produced the determination to retrograde again, and once more fall back 3 or 4 miles to a large creek of still, deep water (Colonel's, I believe, it was called), having over it a framed bridge covered with plank. Lord Rawdon, not liking to risk an attack upon his adversary in his strong position on the heights, thought it best to retire into Camden, at the same moment Greene was retrograding, and prepare for its evacuation. On the upper side of this bridge I posted my battalion, having in charge the baggage of the army, our herds of cattle,

⁶ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/motte.htm>

⁷ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/sawneyscr.htm>

swine, &c, whilst the General with his suite halted about a mile below, and took up his headquarters in a comfortable dwelling house on the margin of the road. Here (at the bridge), I remained until the evening of the 10th, when the General rode up to visit my quarters, and did me the honor to invite me to breakfast the next morning at headquarters; an occurrence, or to dine with him in rotation with other officers, not infrequently happened. This invitation it may be easily imagined I readily accepted, and accordingly in the morn of the 11th, at the proper hour, waited on him, when the General, who seemed to have been expecting me, came to the front door of his apartment, & saw me close at hand and ready to dismount at the gate in the upper corner of the yard. At the first glance I thought I perceived in the General's countenance an expression of something of a pleasing and interesting nature, and so there was. With his accustomed politeness he stepped out of the door; his fine manly face wearing the smile of complacency and benevolence so natural to him, and met me at the yard gate, where, hardly taking time to present his hand, his invariable practice whenever an officer visited him, with apparent eagerness asked me if I had heard the news." Struck by the manner of his asking the question, I hastily replied, "No, Sir, what news.[?]" "Rawdon evacuated Camden yesterday afternoon," (and added in a facetious way,) "has left Capt. Jack Smith* [*Capt. Jack Smith had been made a prisoner on the 25th April, on Hobkirk's Hill, and carried into Camden that night, & threatened with death, under the law of retaliation, for the alleged murder of Lt. Col. Stewart of the British guards at the battle of Guilford (utterly false) but Greene interposed by a flag & prevented it.] commandant of the place, in the care of his sick and wounded, as well as ours, and pushed towards Nelson's Ferry⁸ on the Santee." This pleasing intelligence the General had but just received himself, no patrols of our cavalry having been on that side of the river for several days, nor down about the ferry the evening before, nor that morning, where they must have seen the conflagration of houses, etc., which Lord Rawdon, in his clemency, thought proper to destroy by fire. Things being in the situation in our camp at Colonel's Creek before described, and Rawdon returning to Santee with great celerity as if afraid of being overtaken by General Greene, the latter ordered his army to be put in motion and directing me, while at headquarters, to bring down my battalion and the baggage. We broke up from that place and continued our march down the river a couple of miles below the ferry on the west side of Wateree and halted on the upper road leading from Camden to Friday's Ferry⁹ on Congaree, where I was, with my battalion, "discharged from the Southern army, by order of Major Genl Greene," as may be seen by my written discharge signed by O. H. Williams, Adjutant General, now in file with other original papers of mine and left in the hands of the chairman of the Committee on Pensions, in the Senate of the United States.

There were many and uncommon incidents that occurred in this Battle of Hobkirk's or Hobkirk's Hill; such as I never heard of before, and which I witnessed myself and was a sharer in them, wholly dissimilar, however, to anything that happened in Gates's defeat, a few miles farther off on the piney plains above Sutton's Creek, and which I must forbear to detail here because this declaration is already swelled to too great a length perhaps for those whose official business it may become to read it. I therefore forbear at this point; but I must yet go on some further with my declaratory narrative.

⁸ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/nelson.htm>

⁹ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fridaysfy.htm>

In the course of this campaign, from the time of the battle of Guilford, on the 15th of March 1781, I became acquainted with the following Continental officers of the Maryland, Virginia & Delaware lines, and who were in the battle of Hobkirk's Hill, Viz: Col. Otho Holland Williams of the 2nd Maryland, A. G. and Senior Colonel in that line. Lt. Col. Ford, who was mortally wounded, and Major Hardman.

Col. Gunby of the 1st Maryland regiment; Lt. Col. John E. Howard; Capt. Jack Smith (familiarily so called in the Souther Army) Capt. Edward Oldham, and Captain Beatty, the latter of whom was killed dead; much lamented by the army.

Lt. Col. Campbell of the 1st Virginia regiment, very slightly wounded, and who was afterwards killed in the battle of Eutaw Springs. Lt. Col. Hawes of the 2nd Regiment—no Major in that line, nor are the Captains recollected.

Lt. Col. William Washington of the Cavalry, and sundry Captains but no officer of an intermediate grade. Capt. Parsons of the neighborhood of Petersburg, Senior Captains; The two Captains Barretts, one of them dangerously wounded in the battle of Guilford and left there.--Capt. Gun of Richmond, or it vicinity, &c. Lt. Linton of the dismounted dragoons, armed with muskets & bayonets, but had no horses; waiting for some to come up from Virginia. With Lt. Col. Washington and most of his officers I had been intimately acquainted from the latter end of May 1780, after the surrender of Charleston, and the affairs of Monks corner [sic, Moncks Corner]¹⁰ & Lenne's ferry [sic, Leneud's Ferry]¹¹ on Santee; where he repaired to Halifax with his wounded men and exhausted horses, to recruit and be healed; and where was a plentiful magazine of Bacon, Corn &c upon which they bountifully subsisted until late in October following, before they took the field again.

Capt. Kirkwood of the remnant of the Delaware line; a brave and experienced officer, who had fought in every considerable battle from Gates' defeat to that time, with great and unsullied reputation.

Majors Pendleton & Pearce, aids-de-Camp to General Greene. These officers, (I mean the whole of them) I was personally acquainted with, nost of them, intimately so.

Col. Charles Harrison of the Virginia artillery, having two long brass six pounders, all we had after the battle of Guilford.

Lt. Col. Koscuisko, chief engineer of the Southern Army; afterwards the celebrated, but unfortunate Polish general; and about my own age.

I will now go on with the narrative of my further military services.

Having left the Southern army beyond Camden on the road leading from the ferry there to Friday's Ferry on the Congaree, and returning through that town with my battalion, marched them back into North Carolina on the road General Greene marched them out, where I discharged them at the request of my officers, that they might take the nearest routes to their respective homes, determining myself to take the road leading from Pedee to Searcey's Ford on Deep River (where we crossed before) and thence to Chatham Courthouse, being my nearest route home. But when I got upon Little River of Pedee, I found the country in my front all the way to Haw River and Chatham Courthouse (on my right down along Drowning Creek and the Raft Swamp to Wilmington, on my left to Uharie Creek and the Yadkin River) in a state of insurrection, and parties of armed Tories spreading themselves in every direction before me and on either flank. I nevertheless

¹⁰ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/moncks.htm>

¹¹ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/leneuds.htm>

determined to push on with my baggage wagon and its valuable contents to Chatham Courthouse, not only as my best route home, but as my nearest point of safety, with only one companion in arms, a youth of 19 years old and a cadet in Washington's regiment of Cavalry. But before I got to Searcey's Ford I found we were hemmed in on every side; yet I was still determined to go on and cut my way through if possible, for there was no alternative; and retreat in any direction was equally hazardous for want of correct intelligence from some person upon whom I could rely, for they were all Tories and in arms. Crossing the ford, and leaving the wagon to come on with all expedition, I went forward with my young friend, both of us well armed with sabers & holster pistols. I soon fell in with the infamously celebrated Col. David Fanning, a loyalist (Tory), then and long before in the British service, and his party, lately recruited, well armed, and mounted upon the best horses the country afforded, with whom I had two reencounters in the space of little more than an hour, in the last of which I was forced to give up my baggage wagon with many valuable effects, both public and private, and retreated up the country to Randolph old Courthouse, in a direction quite contrary to that I wished to go, and chased for about six miles by the party, when they had to decline the pursuit owing to the fleetness of our horses. Finding myself at the court house upon the old trading road leading from Hillsboro to Salisbury, I turned down it to the east and reached Bell's Mill¹² on Deep River, 3 miles below, where I lodged in secret that night, being surrounded at that time by Tories in arms on every side, having traveled 60 miles that day, 20 of which was with my baggage wagon. Rising at daybreak the next morning, instead of keeping the direct road down to Hillsboro, about 55 miles, I had to turn to my left, among three roads that centered at Bell's Mill, and, directing my course in a north direction, entered the New Garden settlement of Quakers in about sixteen or eighteen miles, considerably above Guilford Courthouse, and at last reached this latter place, where I deemed myself safe from further pursuit and molestation and where I halted to see my acquaintance Captain Barrett, who was left there in March so dangerously wounded and whom I found in a convalescent state, and from thence down to Hillsboro, about 50 or 55 miles, having been turned out of my proper course by Fanning and other royalists about an hundred miles. Here (at Hillsborough) I was met by Brigadier General Butler of that district and solicited to take the command, as Colonel of a regiment of volunteer mounted infantry and cavalry that he was then raising, which office I accepted on the 22nd of May, 1781, and in a few days thereafter took the field in the prosecution of my duty against the infamously celebrated Col. David Fanning already mentioned, who had free ingress and egress into the British garrison at Wilmington with his plunder & prisoners at all times. Having, after various marches and countermarches, obtained the object for which this regiment was sent into the field, to wit, either to defeat Fanning or compel him to disband his forces and quit the country, the latter alternative was his choice when he could no longer avoid coming to action and retired to Wilmington with such of his followers as chose to adhere to his fortunes, whereby peace and safety for a time at least was restored to that part of the country, and the legislature, which had convened early in June at Wake Courthouse (now the city of Raleigh), protected from certain captivity or dispersion, when I received a letter of thanks and discharge from General Butler and returned home after an absence of five months in the unintermitted [sic] & active service of my country. But here I was

¹²<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/bellsmill.htm>

not permitted to remain at rest, being engaged in reconnoitering the enemy (Tarleton & Simcoe) when making their excursions into the parts of Virginia contiguous to North Carolina, from James River, and whose alarms spread over the country.

When the French fleet and army under the command of Count de Grasse and Marquis St. Simon arrived in Virginia & blocked up the Chesapeake, about the last of August, 1781, the news of which event reached Halifax on the 2nd day of September, where the governor and his suite then were on public business, when the opinion of the executive, as well as the general expectation, was that Lord Cornwallis, of whose headquarters and movements we then knew nothing, would endeavor to save himself and his army by retreating through North Carolina to Wilmington or to Charleston. I was applied to by the Governor and requested to take the command of a party of observation, consisting of light dragoons belonging to the new state legion, some recruits of which were assembled there, and proceed immediately into Virginia, search out where his lordship might be, what route he was taking, throw myself in his front, ascertain his force of every description, and lastly to give the executive information by express, from time to time, of these particulars. I accepted the command because the occasion was urgent and important, and in the space of two hours, which I waited to give Governor Burke time to draw up my instructions and write two letters, one to General Muhlenberg and the other to Colonel Parker of Norfolk or Princess Anne County, marched at the head of my party with all the expedition the nature of the service would admit.

On this service I was gone about a fortnight or upwards, my men and horses often suffering for want of food, such being the scarcity in Virginia owing to the previous marching and counter marching of the enemy through that part of the county where my route lay, which, from the circumstances of the times and our ignorance of the movements of the British, was of necessity a devious one. At last I reached Swan's Point¹³ on James River opposite to old Jamestown, near to which I had marched before I got my intelligence of Lord Cornwallis's last movement from Portsmouth to Yorktown. Waiting here for several days without a possibility of crossing the river (3 miles wide) for want of boats, and happening by mere accident to hear of the arrival of General Washington and Count Rochambeau with their respected suites at Williamsburg, where the Marquis Lafayette with his small army lay, whilst Count St. Simon had debarked his troops at old Jamestown and were in full view of Swan's Point, where I was posted, having fulfilled the governor's wishes as far as practicable by frequently conveying to him such intelligence as I could procure of the condition of Lord Cornwallis and the situation of the combined forces, I withdrew from Swan's Point on James River and returned home with my party, adding two months more service to the tours already enumerated from the time I received my discharge from General Butler in July.

I have indeed been, it may be thought, too prolix in drawing up this my declaration, but the occasion seemed to require it, and the rules and regulations adopted by the War Department in regard to applicants for pensions under the late law of Congress I hope will justify it, being, as I am, desirous of giving every evidence of my Revolutionary services and all other satisfaction in my power, but especially to avoid every imputation of suspicion of imposition.

¹³ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/swan-pt.htm>

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatever.

In corroboration of many of the foregoing statements, I beg leave to refer to some original papers, lately in my possession, but as I am informed, was left, at the close of the last session of Congress in the hands of the chairman of the Committee on pensions, or the Senate viz: The commission under which I acted for the several grades of offices I held—my discharge from the Southern army—many letters from Genl. Butler, which made a part of our correspondence while I acted under his immediate orders—Governor Burke's instructions to me when I took the command of the party of observation, already mentioned; together with the Governor's letter to General Muhlenberg which I could not deliver &c. These documents are now in the city of Washington where I just mentioned, if not transferred to the war department, where they will be most needed to establish the fact of my having been a revolutionary soldier &c will show my standing as an officer.

Answer to Interrogatory 6: I never received a written discharge from the Service while I acted as a private soldier.

I received my commission of Major of the 1st Battalion of North Carolina militia at Troublesome Iron Works, 12 miles from Guilford Courthouse, from Abner Nash, governor of No. Ca., on the 22nd of March 1781; the governor then being in camp. My commission as Lt. Col. of the same militia, I received from Genl. Butler, at Ramsey's Mills on Deep River, he being authorized to issue it in the absence of the governor, who was not in Camp there at all dated about the last of March. My commission as Colonel commandant of a regiment of mounted volunteers, I received from Genl. Butler at Hillsborough, but signed by governor Nash also, and dated the 22nd of May 1781.

Answer to interrogatory 7: I am personally known to General Jackson, the president of the United States: To John H. Eaton¹ of the town of Franklin (where I now reside) late Secretary of the war department; Robert P. Currin, Charles G. Olmsted, Doctor Edward Breathit; Thomas Hardiman, Clk of Williamson County court; Robert C. Foster Junior, attorney at law, and many other respectable characters—The Honorable Thomas Stewart, judge of the judicial circuit; Randal McGavock, Clerk of the Supreme Court and many more in this vicinity, all of whom would testify to their belief of my having been a revolutionary soldier from traditionary accounts, and whom I have known for 25 years, but who are too young, and some of them lived in other states, to have had any personal knowledge of my revolutionary services.

Likewise, John McNairy, Esq.,² district judge of the Federal courts of Tennessee; Judge Overton, Colonel Robert Weakley,³ a revolutionary soldier, and formerly a representative in Congress from this Congressional district; Robert C. Foster Senior; David McGavock; the Honorable Felix Grundy,⁴ a senator in Congress from this state; and the Honorable John Bell,⁵ a representative in Congress, from this Congressional district, besides a great many other names I might mention, living in this part of the state: all of whom, were it necessary, would testify as above mentioned. But, as it the old continental officers, my contemporaries, of whom there were 40 or 50 of the No. Ca. line when I came to this country, who were well acquainted with my services and my standing in civil & military life, they are gone, I believe, without a single exception; but I could readily enumerate them.

S/ Guilford Dudley

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Hardiman, Clk

[Jonus H. Otey, a clergyman, and Edward Breathill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[On March 19th 1839, in Williamson County, Tennessee, Anna Bland Dudley, 79, filed for a widow's pension stating, inter alia, that her husband died on February 3, 1833 in Franklin, Tennessee; that she married him in Halifax, NC on 23rd May 1784.]

[page 46 of the Footnote.com version of this file contains an image of the commission signed by Governor Abner Nash of NC appointing Dudley as a Colonel. The commission is dated May 22nd 1781.] [No. 16]

[page 58 of the Footnote.com version contains an image of the commission signed by Governor Abner Nash of NC appointing Dudley a Major. The commission is dated March 22nd 1781, the fifth year of our Independence.][No. 14]

Halifax September 2nd 1781 [No. 11]

Sir

You will be so good as to proceed by such a Route as you shall Deem best suited to the object of your command, towards James River, Nansemond River, or Elizabeth River, in Virginia, according as you may learn the Enemy to intend their Route; and discover as much as you possibly can of their movements, either in advanced Parties of Infantry, of Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, or either, or by their main Body; and be as particular as you can, with respect to their numbers, Armaments, and equipments. Whenever you have ~~learned any thing~~ made any discoveries which you may think of consequence, you will be so good as to dispatch one of your Party with intelligence to me. You will give notice privately of your business to the Commanding Officer of any Party of American Troops which you may fall in with, provided you deem it necessary.

You have a Letter to General Muhlenberg, and another to Colonel Parker, or Officer Commanding in his stead, which you will make use of as you may find occasion.

Should you wish to return before the Enemy approaches, you will please to give me notice, and I will send at officer to relieve you.

I wish you an agreeable Tour &
am Sir Yr. Most hbl. Servt.

S/ Thomas Burke

Col. Dudley

Wake Courthouse 7th July 1781 [No. 8]

Sir: your letter of the 6th and the duplicate thereof are both come to hand. I am truly sorry to find that the officers and Soldiers under [words obliterated by a tear in the paper] command still persist in disobeying orders. The governor has directed me to require of you to arrest all your officers and repare [sic, repair] to this place with them which I hope you will do; The men, as they are no longer usefull [sic] may be left to themselves to return home, without Discharges, except the one obedient Soldier, whom you will be pleased to bring with you. I am with respect your obedient Servant.

S/ John Butler

Deep River June 12th 1781 [No. 12]

Dear Sir

I received yours Yesterday, and observe what you say concerning Fanning's collecting his force. I think it surprising that those people remained so infatuated as to Continued to The 10 with this Country without a prospect of Support. I suspect, however you will shortly give a good account of them, the only danger will be your not finding them, or if Fanning attempts anything it will be by surprise which I have no Doubt you will Carefully Guard against.

Captain Rossor now [?][has men as Luttrell tells me he [several lines of the letter are lost by the tears in the paper or the folds obliterating the text] time I have [illegible word] Major Birdsong to send on what men can be equipt [sic, equipped]. I think when the Wake Troop Joins you will be greatly Superior to any thing the Enemy can Raise. I have not heard of Capt. Hunter, if I know of his passing shall observe your directions.

I have Inclosed a List of the 12 months delinquents &c. in this County, perhaps you may fall in with some of them, or when the hurry is over you can spare Capt. Rossor with a detachment to take them up & Convey them to Major Dixon, I have a few men out after some of them now, who will have Orders to Join you on their Return; it is, however absolutely essential that these fellows should be now in the field. I hope to hear from you frequently.

I am Dr. Col. Your m. Humbl. Sert.

S/ Ramsey

Those men are to Remain with you in Rossor's Troop

I have orders from the Govr. To furnish the Commissioner of this County with a Suff. Number of men to assist him in Collecting & Conveying Beeves for the use of the Army, so that if Fanning Continues the Whigs must be all employed in this Part of the Country.

Mount Pleasant 3rd June 1781 [No. 2]

Sir

I received your favor of this morning & am glad to hear that the Caswell Company of horse are come tho they have been very slow.

I wish you to march to Chatham Immediately; and as to waiting for the Company Ordered to be raised there I doubt will be need loss [??], if they are not already raised, for the Col. Had orders before the Col. of Caswell and if they are not ready at your arrival it will appear that nothing is to be Expected form that County. However, your movements after you reach Chatham, will depend on Surcomstances [sic, Circumstances] at present unknown to me & you; if Fanning should be in or near the County and his numbers not supr. [superior] to yours, you will attack him; if he should be gone to some considerable distance and there is a probability of Increasing your body by halting in Chatham a few Days, I would advise you to wait, but in all these things you are to Exercise your own Judgment; you are not to Expect any reinforcement from Granville nor Randolph until you reach that County; I beg you to make the defeating of Fanning your first & principal object tho you should be obliged to follow him to a great Distance should that be the case you will be Joined by the Whigs in the County's through which you march and the further he goes his numbers will Decrease, when that pursuit is over be pleased to return to Randolph County & give the Enemies to Government there a sufficient Scourge. I have

wrote to Col. Collier to strengthen you on your arrival; be pleased to assist him in mustering & turning out his Quota of twelve months men your tour may be finished in that County unless some capital object should call you some other way; as to compelling the abettors of Fanning to make good the damages he has done you & Col. Reed I think it is Reasonable and leave you at liberty therein*; but hope in the meantime that you will use every means in your power to prevent your men from plundering: [illegible word] I would advise you never to forage with a friend; the people in Randolph are so very Rebellious that light strokes will avail nothing. I am your obedient servant.

S/ John Butler

[* this mark is on the letter, but there does not appear to be any insert to which it refers.]

[page 70 of Footnote.com is a very faint original of the commission appointing Dudley a Lieutenant Colonel dated March 30th 1781 and signed by John Butler, B. Genl. and was issued by Butler "in Camp at Ramsey's Mill." [No. 15]

Halifax Sept. 2nd 1781 [No. 10]

Sir,

The Bearer Col. Guilford Dudley, an Officer in whom I have much confidence is dispatched for the purpose of procuring Intelligence of the Enemy's March and movements. I request you to give him every assistance you can for the better effecting his object. I also request you to give me by every other means the earliest notice of any circumstances from whence may be derived any conclusive opinion of the Route of the Enemy and the points on our Rivers at which they may attempt to pass; I hope to be prepared to give them some opposition although our want of Arms will not permit it to be as effectual as I would wish.

I am Sir

Your very obed. Servt.

S/ Thomas Burke

Wake Courthouse 25th June 1781 [No. 4]

Sir: Your letters of the 13th & 21st are both come Safe to hand, & I have now to inform you that a few days ago a party of the Cumberland & Bladen people consisting of about 100 fell in with MacNiell [sic, Hector McNeil?] and his party of Tories, Mostly Mollatoes [sic, mulattoes], within 10 or 12 miles of Cross Creek, an engagement ensued and our people were put to the rout, their members being inferior to MacNiell's party, what loss we have sustained is not yet known here but is supposed to be considerable; this incident makes it necessary that you should march with your whole force directly to Cross Creek, and Join such as may be in arms in that Quarter and yet against MacNiell. Col. Alston will Join you on your Rout [sic, route] down. This movement & the reasons ought to be kept as secret as possible. I am well aware of the great necessity you are under of returning home, but I fear that if you should, all would be confusion and disorder as was the case before you Joined the Regiment, I must therefore my dear Sir endeavor to prevail on you to continue with the Regt. During the setting of the Genl' Assembly which I suppose will not be longer than two or three weeks from this time. You will be pleased to detach a Lieut. & 12 or 15 men to the north side of Cape Fear River into the neighborhood of Colonel James Kenon in Dupeland [sic, Duplin?] County,

or to Such other place as Major Molten of the said County may advise, to whom you are to refer the Lieut. You Send; this officer, when posted, is to keep a watch over the movements of the Enemy at Wilmington, and in case the Enemy should move this way, notice thereof is to be sent immediately to me at this place, and also to you wherever you may be, and you are desired in that case to move this way also, so as fall in the Enemies front, but do not advise you to come to an engagement unless you have the fairest prospects of Success., if any thing comes to your knowledge which you think the Genl. Assembly ought to know, be pleased to give me the earliest notice. I am Sir your obedient Servant--

S/ John Butler

Col. Dudley

PS Send one of your men with a return of your men, arms & Rounds of ammunition.

S/ John Butler

Wake Courthouse 10th July 1781 [No. 9]

Dear Sir

Since the officers & soldiers of your Regt. Has absolutely refused to march out of this District and are returned home, your continuance as an officer cannot [word too faint to make out] further service; accept of my thanks for the services you have done in this part of the Country; if you wish to take command of the State Troops intended to be raised, [illegible word] in the [illegible words] foot, I will give you my vote and interest. I am your obedient Servant.

S/ John Butler

Col. Dudley

Chatham 4 [tear in paper: the cover sheet indicates that this letter was dated 4th June 1781 from Col. Luttrell] [No. 13]

Dear Sir,

Inclosed is a list of the Tories who were some small time past plundering and killing the whigs in different parts of the Country. I greatly wish they should fall into Your hands, that You would give no quarter but immediately put them to death &c. I promised myself great pleasure from the thought only of Chastising the Damned Villains and fully intended riding with You a Month at least, but my family (who I have not seen these 4 Months past) oblige me to after and see about them, and the Assembly also interfering, entirely prevents, and puts it out of my power at present of being with You.-- however, pray make use of the most [illegible word] Measures against them and burn and destroy every house [illegible words] the Scoundrels who have been plundering [illegible words] ing, if You can have but good reasons, only of their having been guilty of such Villainous practices—I say destroy their Houses & Distress them all in Your power, and I will support Your conduct at the General Assembly—One Lathrum together with a Number of others (on the list enclosed) stole from me [illegible words] pray Good Sir, if You get hold of any of [them] and will [illegible word] it, You will greatly Oblige Dr. Sir.

Your Mo. Obt. Servt.

S/ J. Luttrell

PS: Write me by every Opportunity

[On the reverse of the above letter is written:

“Memo June 8th 1781. John Welch was made a prisoner by Fanning on Monday last [illegible word] a week, & carried by his party to Cain Creek, & on Wednesday the 6th was paroled.

“Becks, near Cox's mill, Fannings headquarters.”]

From Genl. Butler 26th June 1781 to Colonel Guilford Dudley [No. 5]

Dear Sir

Inclosed you have the Governor's orders to me relative to marching the Regt. Of horse under your Command; which orders I beg you will endeavor to Excede [sic] so far as they go; and if you find it practicable to act offencively [sic] against the Tories I hope you will do it; I am your Humble Servant

S/ John Butler, B. G.

Col. Dudley

Note: The above letter, without a date, must have been written abt. The 26th June 1781 from Wake Ct. House [This note appears on the original in a handwriting different than the letter itself.]

From Govr. Burke July 2nd 1781 [No. 7]

The Hon'ble Brigadier General Butler Wake Court House

State of North Carolina July 2nd 1781

Sir

I have considered your report relative to the Horse under the Command of Col. Dudley and am clearly of Opinion that your Intimation to the Colonels of the Battalions, that the Service for which the Troops were wanted Immediately, and in which they would probably be employed during their whole Tour, do by no means amount to an Engagement with them, so repugnant to all military Service, as that, in no Event, they should march out of the District. As I am determined to insist upon the most exact obedience to orders, as well as the most manly and liberal conduct toward the Soldiers, nothing shall prevail with me to overlook an offence of either nature, and I shall insist that the orders given to Col. Dudley for marching against the disaffected who were in arms in the neighborhood of Cross Creek, be carryed [sic] into execution until I see fit to Countermand them. You will therefore be pleased to order Col. Dudley to march with the Horse under his Command by the road on the South side of Cape Fear River to Cross Creek, and take post in the neighborhood thereof in such manner as best to avoid Surprise and annoy the Enemy when he shall have Sufficently learned their Strength and disposition. Col. Dudley will be so good as to Send daily reports of his proceedings and of the Enemy's motions in Such manner as you will particularly direct him.

I am with respect Sir

Yr very obl. Sert.

S/ Thomas Burke

Genl Butler

PS I will not presume that these orders will be disobeyed, but if they should, Col. Dudley will immediately put in Confinement any person who may begin or [illegible word], looks

like “cattle”, could it be an attempt to spell “coddle”?] the Mutiny, and if it be General he will report them immediately to you. I will find means to punish.

June 27th 1781 from Genl Butler to Col. Guilford Dudley [No. 6]
Wake Courthouse 27th June 1781

Sir

I received your favors of yesterday and am very Sorry to find that the Gentlemen volunteers of Hills District have refused to march to the neighborhood of Cross Creek for no other reason, but because they are afraid of falling in with the Enemy there; I beg leave to inform you Sir that I made no Such bargain with the men, neither is my orders to the Colonels Tantamount to it; however, I have rec'd orders for his Excellency Thos. Burke Esqr. Who is appointed Governor; to request of you to march your Regiments to the South side of Cape Fear River, near to Cumberland County line, and remain there till further orders: as Soon as you have taken post let me hear from you. I am Sir, with unfeigned respect your Obedient Humble Servant,

S/ John Butler, B. G.

Col. Dudley

From Genl. Butler June 10th 1781 Col. G. Dudley, In Camp [No. 3]
Sir

I am well informed that Aquilla Jones Junior of Sandy Creek Settlement has returned home form the British and brought with him a young negro, I believe a girl. The negro is no Doubt the property of a better man than Jones; you would do well to compell Jones to Deliver the negro to you and that you dispose of it in such manner that the owner may have her [illegible word or words—text faint].

I am your Obedient Servant

S/ John Butler

N. B. Jones gave a Guinea [sic] for the negro.

List of Original Papers &c. Novr. 1830 [p. 102]

List of Original Papers placed in the care of Col. John Bell, to be carried to the City of Washington, Novr. 1830

No.

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | Discharge from the Southern Army, | May 11 th 1781 |
| 2. | Letter from Genl. John Butler | June 3 rd 1781 |
| 3. | do | June 10 th 1781 |
| 4. | do | June 25 th 1781 |
| 5. | do | June 26 th 1781 |
| 6. | do | June 27 th 1781 |
| 7. | Govr. Burke to Genl. Butler Opinion &orders | July 2 nd 1781 |
| 8. | Genl. Butler Letter to Col. Dudley | July 7 th 1781 |
| 9. | do | July 10 th 1781 |
| 10. | Govr. Burke to Genl. Muhlenberg, Virg. | Sept. 2 nd 1781 |
| 11. | Govr. Burke's instructions to Col. Dudley | Sept. 2 nd 1781 |
| 12. | Col. Ambrose Ramsey to Col. Dudley | June 12 th 1781 |
| 13. | Lt. Col. John Luttrell to do | June 4 th 1781 |

14. Dudley's commission as Major of 1st Battalion of NC Militia March 22nd 1781
15. Lt. Col.'s Commission March 30th 1781
16. Colonel's commission of a regiment of Light horse May 22nd 1781
Col. Bell will greatly oblige G. Dudley if he will preserve the above papers, and return them at a convenient season, after the next Session of Congress.

Comptroller's Office, July 21st , 1844

I William F. Collins Comptroller of Public Accounts do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office at Guilford Dudley had a Specie Certificate issued in his favor for three Hundred & Eighteen pounds Eight shillings & six pence £318.8.6 Certificate issued June 1784. Also one other Certificate was issued in his favor Two Hundred & Ten Pounds Fifteen Shillings (£210.15) issued the same date, see Book No. 5, folio 6 all of which purports to have been for his Military Services in the War of the Revolution.

Given under my hand and seal of office.

S/ Wm. F. Collins, Compt.

Discharge from the Southern Army 11th May 1781 [No. 1]

The North Carolina Militia commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Dudley having served a Tour of Duty agreeable to an Act of the Legislature is hereby Discharged from the Southern Army. -- Given in camp near Camden this 11th may 1781 --

By order of Major General Greene

S/ O. H. Williams, D. A. Gl. [deputy adjutant general]

Majors Commission 1st Battalion of No. Carolina Militia 22nd March 1781 [No. 14]

Family Record

Guilford Dudley son of Christopher & Elizabeth Dudley was born in Caroline County, Virginia, April 17th 1756

Anna Bland Eaton, wife of Guilford Dudley and daughter of Thomas & Anna Eaton of Bute, now Warren county, North Carolina, was born in Prince George County, Virginia, December 21st 1763

Frances Elizabeth Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley, was born at Woodberry, the seat of Col. Benjamin Williams in Johnston County, No. Carolina, February 25th 1785

Frances Bland Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley was born at Tweed Side near Fayetteville, No. Carolina, June 30th 1786

Julia Anna Eaton Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley was born in Fayetteville, No. Carolina, October 16th 1788.

Theodoric Bland Dudley, Son of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley was born at Mill Seat, near Fayetteville, No. Carolina, May 5th 1790.

Thomas Eaton Dudley, son of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley, was born in Fayetteville, No. Carolina, August 9th, 1792.

Elizabeth Helen Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley was born in Fayetteville, No. Carolina, March 18th 1794

Sarah ~~Williamson~~ * Bland Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley was born on Appomattox River Prince Edward County Virginia, September 8th 1796.

*So christened by her own desire

Guilford Dudley, son of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia January 22nd 1799.

Judith Randolph Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, July 24th, 1800.

Caroline Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, April 28th 1802.

Marriages

Guilford Dudley, son of Christopher & Elizabeth Dudley, was married to Anna Bland Eaton, daughter of Thomas & Anna Eaton, at Halifax, No. Carolina, May 23rd, 1784.

Julia Anna Eaton Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna B. Dudley, was married to Doctor Elliott Hickman of Franklin Tennessee Sept. 11th 1810.

Frances Bland Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna B. Dudley, was married to Doctor Saml. Crockett of Franklin Tennessee, January 26th 1815.

Judith Randolph Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley, was married to Nicholas J. Long, of Maury County, Tennessee, on Thursday the 23rd May 1822.

Virginia Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley, was married to Thomas Woodson Cash Esqr., Att. At law, of Franklin, Tennessee, on Sunday[?] morning at 9 O'clock, August 29th, 1830.

Mary Matilda Pugh Dudley, daughter of Guilford & Anna Bland Dudley, was married to James C. Hill, Esqr., [illegible word] of Franklin, Tennessee, on thursday evening, the 16th Sept. 1830.

¹ John Henry Eaton ([June 18, 1790](#) – [November 17, 1856](#)) was an [American politician](#) from [Tennessee](#). He was born near [Scotland Neck, Halifax County, North Carolina](#). He was a [Democratic lawyer](#). He served in the [U.S. Army](#) during the [War of 1812](#). He was a member of [Tennessee House of Representatives](#) from [1815](#) to [1816](#) and a [U.S. Senator](#) from [Tennessee](#) from [1818](#) to [1821](#) and again from [1821](#) to [1829](#). His apparent age of 28 at the time of his inauguration is notable; it contradicted the US Constitution's requirement that all Senators be over the age of 30. At the time, many people did not know their actual birth records; although it is not certain what occurred in this case. In any event, if challenged, he could have referred to previous under-aged Senators [Armistead Mason](#) or [Henry Clay](#). He was a close personal friend of [Andrew Jackson](#); after Jackson became [President](#) he, along with [Postmaster General, Amos Kendall](#), were the only members of the official [Cabinet](#) who were also a member of Jackson's informal circle of advisors often satirically called by Jackson detractors the "[Kitchen Cabinet](#)". (Apparently this group did, in fact, frequently meet in the [White House](#) kitchen.) He resigned his Senate seat in 1829 in order to take up appointment as Jackson's [Secretary of War](#), a post in which he served from 1829 to [1831](#), when he resigned from the Cabinet over a [scandal](#) concerning his second wife, Peggy, that was known as the [Petticoat Affair](#). He was later [Governor of Florida Territory](#) from [1834](#) to [1836](#) and [United States Minister to Spain](#) from 1836 to [1840](#). Eaton, a [Freemason](#), died in [Washington, D.C.](#) on November 17, 1856. He was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

² John McNairy, Andrew Jackson's early friend and mentor, was one of Tennessee's first federal judges. Various reports to have been born in Pennsylvania or North Carolina, McNairy was the son of Francis and Mary Boyd McNairy. The young McNairy read law under Spruce Macay (as did Jackson) and was admitted to practice law in Rowan County, North Carolina, in 1784. In December 1787 the twenty-five-year-old McNairy was elected by the North Carolina General Assembly as the judge for the new district Superior Court of Davidson County in the state's westernmost territory. He immigrated to Nashville in the autumn of 1788. En route to his new home, McNairy was admitted to the bar in the Washington County court in Jonesborough. He presided at his initial term of court in early November 1788, and one of his first acts was to appoint his young friend, Andrew Jackson, as prosecuting attorney for the district. In June 1790 President George Washington appointed McNairy, a protégé of territorial Governor William Blount, as one of three judges for the federal Territory South of the River Ohio. In 1796 Judge McNairy was one of five delegates from Davidson County to the state constitutional convention that met in Knoxville, where he served on the convention's drafting committee. When Tennessee acquired statehood later that year, McNairy was elected as one of three judges to serve on the Superior Court of Tennessee, the state's court of last resort and forerunner of the Tennessee Supreme Court. In February 1797 President Washington appointed McNairy as judge of the United States District Court for the District of Tennessee, a position he held through various congressionally mandated jurisdictional changes. Beginning in 1807 and continuing for the remainder of his tenure on the bench, Judge McNairy also sat as a member of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Seventh Circuit in cases arising in Tennessee. He shared his circuit court duties with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justices Thomas Todd (1807-26), Robert Trimble (1826-28), and John McLean (1830-33). McNairy retired from the bench in 1834 after a judicial career of more than forty-six years. He was known for decisions that upheld the spirit rather than the letter of the law. McNairy's substantial landholdings (nearly 11,000 acres in Davidson and Sumner counties in 1794) included the 477-acre farm Bellview, where he and his wife, Mary Bell Robertson, lived. In addition to his judicial duties, McNairy served as a trustee of the Davidson Academy, the consolidated Davidson Academy-Federal Seminary, and Cumberland College. He was chairman of the host committee for President James Monroe's visit to Nashville in 1819 and served on a similar committee for the Marquis de Lafayette's 1825 visit to the city. McNairy briefly served as president of the Bank of Tennessee that was created in the aftermath of Panic of 1819. Although he occasionally--and strenuously--quarreled with Jackson, McNairy endorsed his initial, unsuccessful presidential bid in 1824 and served on a committee of Nashvillians who supported Jackson's second, successful race for the presidency in 1828. McNairy died scarcely three years into his retirement. He is buried in Nashville's City Cemetery.

³ WEAKLEY, Robert, a Representative from Tennessee; born in Halifax County, Va., July 20, 1764; attended Princeton (N.J.) schools; joined the Revolutionary Army at the age of sixteen and served until the close of the Revolutionary War; moved in 1785 to that part of North Carolina which later became Tennessee and engaged in agricultural pursuits; member of the North Carolina convention that ratified the Constitution of the United States in 1789; member of the first State house of representatives in 1796; elected as a Republican to the Eleventh Congress (March 4, 1809-March 3, 1811); appointed United States commissioner to treat with the Chickasaw Indians in 1819; member of the State senate in 1823 and 1824, serving as president in 1823; member of the State constitutional convention in 1834; died near Nashville, Tenn., February 4, 1845; interment in the family vault at "Lockland," on his estate in the suburbs of Nashville.

⁴ GRUNDY, Felix, a Representative and a Senator from Tennessee; born in Berkeley County, Va., on September 11, 1777; moved with his parents to Brownsville, Pa., and in 1780 to Kentucky; instructed at home and at the Bardstown Academy, Bardstown, Ky.; studied law; admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Bardstown, Ky., in 1797; member of the Kentucky constitutional convention in 1799; member, State house of representatives 1800-1805; chosen judge of the supreme court of Kentucky in 1806, and, in 1807, made chief justice, which office he soon resigned; moved to Nashville, Tenn., in 1807 and resumed the practice of law; elected as a Democratic Republican to the Twelfth and Thirteenth Congresses and served from March 4, 1811, until his resignation in 1814; member, Tennessee House of Representatives

1819-1825; in 1820 helped effect an amicable adjustment of the State line between Tennessee and Kentucky; elected as a Jacksonian in 1829 to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy in the term ending March 4, 1833, caused by the resignation of John H. Eaton; reelected in 1832 as a Democrat and served from October 19, 1829, to July 4, 1838, when he resigned to accept a Cabinet position; chairman, Committee on Post Office and Post Roads (Twenty-first through Twenty-fourth Congresses), Committee on Judiciary (Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Congresses); appointed Attorney General of the United States by President Martin Van Buren in July 1838; resigned in December 1839, having been elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate on November 19, 1839, to fill the vacancy in the term commencing March 4, 1839, caused by the resignation of Ephraim Foster; the question of his eligibility to election as Senator while holding the office of Attorney General of the United States having been raised, he resigned from the Senate on December 14, 1839, and was reelected the same day, serving from December 14, 1839, until his death in Nashville, Tenn., December 19, 1840; chairman, Committee on Revolutionary Claims (Twenty-sixth Congress); interment in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

⁵ BELL, John, a Representative and a Senator from Tennessee; born near Nashville, Tenn., February 15, 1797; graduated from the University of Nashville in 1814; studied law; admitted to the bar in 1816 and commenced practice in Franklin, Tenn.; member, State senate 1817; declined to be a candidate for reelection and moved to Nashville; elected to the Twentieth, and to the six succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1827-March 3, 1841); Speaker of the House of Representatives (Twenty-third Congress); chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs (Twenty-first through Twenty-sixth Congresses, except for Twenty-third), Committee on Judiciary (Twenty-second and Twenty-third Congresses); appointed by President William Henry Harrison as Secretary of War March 5, 1841, and served until September 12, 1841, when he resigned; member, State house of representatives in 1847; elected as a Whig to the United States Senate in 1847; reelected in 1853, and served from November 22, 1847, to March 3, 1859; unsuccessful candidate in 1860 for President of the United States on the Constitutional Union ticket; investor in ironworks at Cumberland Furnace in Chattanooga, Tenn.; died at his home on the banks of the Cumberland River, near Cumberland Furnace, September 10, 1869; interment in Mount Olivet Cemetery, near Nashville, Tenn.