

Edward Conner's Statement of Service in the American Revolution

Deposition of Edward Conner

The State of South Carolina Horry District

This eight day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, appears in open court, before me William D. Martin, one of the air it Judges of the said state and Presiding Judge in the Court of Common Pleas for Horry District at Horry Court House this day, Edward Conner who being duly sworn according to Law maketh oath to the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed in the seventh day of June 1832 viz:

That he was born on 31st day of December 1757 in Duplin County and State of North Carolina. That when 10 years of age he removed with his rather and family to Kingston County, (same, Horry District) South Carolina, where he has resided and where he now resides.

That in the Autumn of the year 1776 and as he believes in the month of September, he enlisted into the Continental service in the New Hanover County and State of North Carolina as a private solder under the Command of Capt. Wm. Davis. The regiment was (he thinks the first regiment) commanded by Col. Ash. That he enlisted and served for six months. That soon after his enlistment, his Regiment was ordered to Rendezvous at Rock Fish, Cumberland County North Carolina to watch the motion of Tories. They (the Tories) retreated down the river Cape Fear. They (the officers accordingly) descended the river in boats and under the command of Genl. Moore, the regiment passed below the Tories, landed on the North of the river, marched up and joined a detachment, and the whole party were under the command of Genl. Caswell and attacked the Tories at Moores Creek just about daylight and defeated the Tories. In this action Genls. Campbell and McLeod who commanded the Tories were killed.

His term of enlistment soon after this expired. He was discharged and returned to his father in South Carolina. He remained at home but a short time when Sir Peter Parkers fleet having arrived on the coast, a draft was ordered to march to Charleston. He volunteered as a private under the command of Lients. John Session this Capt. Hawkins, having been already in service Joseph Sessions was Ensign. His company marched to Haddrill's point were they arrived just at the time the British commenced firing on Fort Moultrie. At Haddrill's Point he joined the main body and under the command of Col. Daniel Horry who marched on the bridge land to Sullivan's Island when they arrived just about the conclusion of the engagement. He remained in the service at this time one month when he was discharged and returned home. He

remained at home but a short time~and finding the Militia service disagreeable, he enlisted into the Regular Service by Capt. Hawkins (Hankins?) who was recruiting as agent for Capt. Weekly of the fourth Artillery Regiment, as a private.

The Battalion of that Regiment were commanded by Major. (later Judge) Grimkie and Lient. Col. Bateman and the Regiment was commanded Col. Owen Roberts. He enlisted for three years. He joined the Regiment at Cat island near George Town.

From thence he was marched to Fort Johnson where he was stationed and some time in way Charleston working in the Laboratory . From Charleston he was marched to Purrysburgh. That while the American forces consisting of about 200 men were stationed at Purrysburgh, the British Army crossed over, and the American forces retreated up the river to Black Swamp. The British Army at that time encamped opposite to them in the State of Georgia. The army remained at Black Swamp about two weeks. The British Army marched then up the river with a view of crossing the River into Carolina.

The American forces advanced up the river having been greatly increased by the Militia who joined them on the march. The American Army crossed at the same place and continued in pursuit in the direction for Charleston. Near Dorchester they were joined by Genl. Lincoln at which time the American forces were still greatly increased. At Bacon's bridge they were bushwhacked by a party of 500 Tories under the command of McGirt; during the fight Count Pulaskie arrived with his Cavalry and charged and routed the Tories.

The morning after the engagement at Bacon's bridge, they continued in pursuit of the enemy, we pursued them as far as the lines, but Genl. Moultrie being then in possession of the City of Charleston, the British recrossed the Ashley River, and encamped at Stone and while there our Army under the command of Lincoln marched to attack them, that in this engagement which lasted about 2 hours the Americans were defeated and retreated, Col. Roberts who commanded this Regiment was killed. That shortly after this battle and having enlisted in his stead Nicholas Prince and Mark Marlowe he returned home having served two years in the regular service.

He remained home for nearly six months when he was elected Captain having before been elected Lieut. in the Militia of the State of South Carolina in Kingston County. That soon after he was appointed Captain he marched with a detachment of [end]

AFFIDAVIT

Nicholas Prince a clergyman appeared before me, Wm. D. Martin one of the Circuit Judges as afore and being duly sworn according to Law declares and says that he has been acquainted with Capt. Conner who hath subscribed the foregoing certificate, from his boyhood, that from his boyhood to the present time that have lived neighbors that during the Revolutionary War he was informed and has always believed that he enlisted in the continental service as he has stated in the foregoing declaration. That he did not

see captain Conner actually enlist in the Regular Service but he lived with the father of Capt. Conner at the time he was said to have enlisted and he knows that shortly after he was absent and said to have gone into the Army of which he has never doubted. He states his belief to be that Capt. Conner enlisted as a private soldier in the Spring of the year 1777. That some time afterwards the said Conner returned home on Furlough when on the third day of August 1777 this deponent was enlisted by the said Conner as a private soldier in the fourth Artillery Regiment under the command of Col. Roberts and at the same time he also enlisted [?---] into the same Regiment and under the immediate command of Capt. Weekley. That they shortly afterwards went to Camp and joined the Regiment at Cat island That after that Capt. Conner remained in the service with this deponent in the service until after the battle of Stono when he returned home Deponent was captured at the Fall of Charleston and afterwards made his escape and returned to his former residence when he arrived Mr. Conner was in command as Captain until the end of the war and was almost the whole of the time afterwards in actual service as Captain. Deponent further states that the said Conner was a [end]

South Carolina
Horry District

Before me personally appeared, Capt. Edward Conner, who being duly sworn according to law depose & sayeth that he was personally acquainted with John Cox resident of All Saints Parish of the district & State aforesaid at & during the time of the American Revolution, that the said John Cox was, during that period, a true Whig and a faithful soldier in the Revolutionary Army.

[signed] Edward Conner

Sworn to before me this 15th day of Sept., 1828

Benj. Holt

South Carolina
Horry District

I do hereby certify that the within deponent Capt. Edward Conner is a man of strict integrity & that his oath may be fully relied on. Given under my hand this 18th day of July, 1829.

[Source: Comptroller General AA 1554 Roll 27: I67~ISB, South Carolina Department of Archives at History, Columbia, South Carolina]