

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Hairston R4442

fn17SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/26/10

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State of South Carolina Laurens District

On this 27th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court, [before] His Honor Josiah J Evans one of the Judges of the him Court of common Pleas now sitting James Hairston a resident of Laurens District and State aforesaid aged nearly sixty-eight years, being born in Ninety Six District South Carolina as well as he remembers from having seen the family record about the 2nd of March 1766; and being first duly sworn according to law doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in the fall of 1781 as part of a detachment to guide wagons sent to haul corn to Colonel Andrew Pickens' Block House under the command of Captain John Calhoun. This term of service continued for ten days – Near the end of the year 1781 he served 12 days as near as he remembers under Lieutenant Arthur Gray. He is confident this last term of service could not have been less than 12 days and he was engaged at this time also in protecting and number of wagons in hauling corn to the aforesaid Block House.

In the commencement of the year 1782 he served a tour under the command of Captain John Wilson. This term of service embraced a period of two months during which he was stationed at the aforesaid Block House situated at Colonel Reid's Mills on Long Cane Creek to prevent the Tories and British from destroying the Mills which were of much importance to the Country. About the first of March 1782 or perhaps near the last of the month he was detached with a company of men under the command of Captain John Wilson against the Indians and Tories, the former in company with the latter, having committed some depredations in the Whig settlements. This expedition against the Indians and Tories continued eight or nine days –.

Near the last of April or first of May 1782 he was engaged under the command of Captain Theophilus Norwood (Captain Wilson resigned) for seven or eight days in an almost unremitted pursuit of William Cunningham who had committed about this time some outrages amongst the inhabitants of Ninety Six District.

In July 1782 he served a term of three months under the command of Captain John Ervin Colonel Pickens in command. During this period of his service he was engaged in pursuing the British who were retreating from the interior of South Carolina towards Charleston. He is perfectly confident that he served at least six months –

He left the service in October 1782.

The whole of his service was within the limits of the State of South Carolina except one expedition against the Indians aforementioned under the command of Captain John Wilson.

He did not serve in company with any Continental Regiments or Companies.

He does not know of any documentary evidence that would be of any service to him.

He knows of no person except Samuel Matthews who can testify as to his services, and make affidavit that he served a tour of three months with applicant in 1782 under the command of Captain John Ervin. William Buchanan makes affidavit that he well knew applicant during the revolutionary war, and that he was a revolutionary Soldier. Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Mathews both resided in Abbeville District. Mr. Buchanan has known applicant upwards of fifty years and considers him a man of truth.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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.

Since the Revolutionary war he has lived the greater portion of the time in Abbeville District near the place where he was born and raised. He now lives in Laurens District where he has been resident between five and six years. In his neighborhood at present he will mention Joshua Saxon and William D. Byrd to whom he is well-known and who can testify as to his character for veracity.

He never received any regular discharge from the service at least no written one nor did he hold any commission. When discharged from service he was under the command of Captain John Ervin.

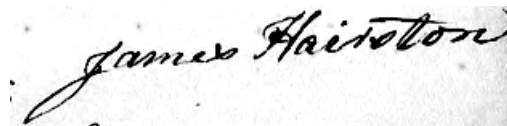
From the short time which he has been resident in his present neighborhood he knows of no person who can certify as to his being reputed a soldier of the revolution – all the testimony he submits as to the repute and belief is the Affidavits of Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Matthews or at least in supply of it, in the neighborhood where he formerly resided in Abbeville District there all persons who can certify as to the traditionary knowledge of his service but he supposes the affidavit of Mr. Matthews and Mr. Buchanan sufficient.

The family record is in his possession but belief on which his age was recorded has been accidentally torn out.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Garlington, Clerk

S/ James Hairston

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Hairston". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Joshua Saxon and W. D. Byrd gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

N. B.

In regard to Mr. Hairston's application I beg leave to say that I have seen Mr. Buchanan and Mister Matthews' affidavits as to their knowledge and belief of Mr. Hairston's services in the revolution and as to general repute on that subject. These affidavits were before the court and I deem it proper to mention it as they were not present to certify in strict compliance with the act.

It will be perceived that the certificate of a clergyman is wanting – this deficiency arises from Mr. Hairston's short term of residence in his present neighborhood. – There is a highly respectable clergyman residing in his vicinity, who would have certified as to Mr. Hairston's character for truth and general good standing but would have been unable to state anything in particular as to his revolutionary services – nor is he sure that he could have remedied this deficiency in Abbeville where he formerly lived, but it is hoped this will not be deemed a

material various from the terms prescribed.

In one part of his application one sentence commences as follows "in July 1782 he served a term of three months &c. It should have read as to date this term – of service from July.<sup>1</sup>

S/ R. H. Speers  
for petitioner  
Laurens C H S C

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<sup>1</sup> No end quotation marks appear.