

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ham R4501

Phebe Ham

f32SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/5/07 rev'd 12/9/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee McNairy County: SS

On this the 24 day of June in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of our Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for said County now sitting John Ham a resident of McNairy County in the State of Tennessee Aged Sixty Eight years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in Order to Obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 –

That in the year 1779 the day nor month not recollected he entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer Soldier under Captain James Blasingaim [James Blasingham] and Colonel Abel Culp [Abel Kolb] at the Cheraw District South Carolina. So soon as I was mustered into Service I marched to a place called Kimbroe's Mill [? Kimborough's Mill?] where a number of British Prisoners were placed under our Care from there we marched with the Prisoners to a place called Long Bluff on Big Pedee River. We here guarded the Prisoners for 5 or 6 weeks, and it appearing there was no further use for my Services at this time I was discharged. By reason of Old age and consequent loss of Memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his Services at this time, but he is positive he served not less than Two Months, in this Tour, when he was dismissed, he did not receive a written discharge do not know why nor does he believe any of the Company received a written Discharge. –

In the spring of the year 1780 I again entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer Soldier under Captain Alexander McIntosh and Colonel Culp at Cheraw District in South Carolina. So soon as I was mustered into Service we took up our line of March and went directly to Santee River here we Joined Major Lamb Benton's [Lemuel Benton's] Battalion who was at a place called Murray's Ferry, from here I was sent by Major Benton together with some others, with a Drove of Hogs to a Captain Towns plantation about 5 or 6 miles from the Ferry after being there a short time I was dismissed having served in this Tour not less than two months, the precise length he cannot say but knows it was not less than Two months. I did not receive a written discharge and cannot tell why I did not nor does he think any of the men received one, –

About this time news reached the neighborhood which was in the year 1780 that the British had taken Charleston [May 20, 1780], which Circumstance raised the energies of the Tories and they commenced raising in every direction. And there was a great call by the Whigs for men to keep the Tories down, so I hastened to a place called Kimbroe's Mill and in the year 1780 the day nor month I cannot recollect I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer Soldier under Captain James Blasingaim. So soon as I Joined his Company, (as yet we had no other Officer) we was put under strict Discipline and continued at the Mill for the purpose of Guarding it from the British who was then lying and had possession of Long Bluff Town, and also to keep the Tories from joining the British at that place. We were not stationed

here long before Major Benton came to us.) So he took command of the men here – as Major he brought the news that it would not be safe for us to remain here any longer so every soldier was dismissed with directions to look out for a hiding place. The next day a Great Many Tories came to the Mill. Major Benton came riding by while they were there, and the Tories fired on him, but without effect. Then Major Benton returned to the Swamps where Captain Blasingaim was, and they upon Consultation agreed to Surrender together with the Men to Major Hogg the British Officer. After our Surrender Major Hogg had the Officer of the Tories brought to him whereupon a quarrel ensued between them and Major Hogg beat him with his sword this circumstance rather damped the Tories so they lay quiet in that quarter until they heard of the Defeat of General Gates [Horatio Gates, Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. So soon as they heard of that Circumstance the Tories commenced raising again and from that time until 1781 when General Green [Nathanael Greene] was marching through the West and until after he fought the battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] we were in small Groups sometimes more and sometimes less scouting after the Tories, part of my time I was with Colonel Culp & Captain Blasingaim. And part of my time with Colonel Thomas Wade and Captain O'Neal. About this time the Tories killed Colonel Culp and Major Benton was appointed Colonel in his place, we were now in the Cheraw District, where I was discharged having served from about the time of the fall of Charleston until after the battle of Guilford Courthouse but from Old age and the Consequent loss of memory he cannot say how long he served precisely – but he is positive that he served not less than Ten months – and I was discharged I received a written discharge but not knowing or believing it would ever be of any Service to me I used it in such a way that it is now lost or destroyed.

I again entered the Service of the United States in Cheraw District State of South Carolina as a volunteer Soldier in the year 1781 the day nor month not recollected. We marched to the Eutaw Springs under Captain Daniel Sparks, Major Tristram Thomas and Lieutenant George Strodder, before we reached the Eutaw Springs Gates [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army had left there, then we marched to a place called Bacon's Bridge on Ashley River, here we Joined General Marion [Francis Marion], the British at this time had possession of Charleston) Marion sent out horsemen after the Tories of which I was one. We caught a great many and carried them to Long Bluff Town, and there Guarded them for some time until a court-martial could be made to try them. After their trial was over part of them was sent to our Army I was one that went as a Guard. I served in this way some time out with Marion and sometimes out in small Groups after the Tories until sometime in the year 1782. The precise length of time which I served in this Campaign I am unable to say owing to the great length of time Old age and Consequent loss of Memory, but thinks he served eight or nine months, but I am positive that I did not serve less than six months – I received a written discharge for my services but it is now lost or destroyed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Question, Where and in what year were you Born

Answer, I was born in Cheraw District State of South Carolina in the year of our Lord 1765.

Question – Have you any record of your Age and if so where is it Answer – I have my age recorded in a Bible which I have now in my possession in McNairy County

Question, Where were you living when called into Service, Where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer. I was living in Cheraw District State of South Carolina when I entered the Service of the United States, after the Revolutionary war I lived in Cheraw District South Carolina until the year 1783, I then moved to Union District in said State, from there I moved to the State of Kentucky in the year 1803, from Kentucky I moved to Giles County State of Tennessee in the year 1809. In the year 1818 I moved from Giles County to Lauderdale County Alabama, from

there I moved to McNairy County Tennessee where I now live.

Question, How were you called into service, were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom.

Answer, I was a volunteer each and every trip I went out,

Question. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served, such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the General Circumstances of your Services

Answer, I knew General Marion and served under him for a long time, my Services was performed in what was called scouting parties – so I am unable to state any of the Regular Officers' names, the balance of the Question I have fully answered in the body of my Declaration Question. Did you ever receive a Discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it,

Answer – The two first Tours mentioned in my Declaration I received no Discharge the reason why I did not I cannot tell, do not believe any of the soldiers did, for my other Tours I received a written Discharges signed by my Captains – which is now lost or destroyed

Question. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Answer, I have been acquainted with James Campbell Esquire and Parson Francis Beard for a number of years both of whom lives in McNairy County – they can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief and the neighborhood's belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

I have no Documentary evidence and that he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services by –

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Wm S. Wisdom, Clk

S/ John Ham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Ham". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

[p 22: Francis Beard, a clergyman, and James Campbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8: On January 6, 1843 in McNairy County Tennessee, Pheba Hamm [sic], aged about 7? [last digit unclear] years, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Hamm, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him sometime between the years 1780 and 1790, the exact time not recollected; that her husband died October 30, 1834; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 11: family record]

1st Daughter

John and Pheby Ham's Daughter Molcy Ham was born January the 1st in the yeare of our Lord 1786

James Ham was born March the 30th in the yeare of our Lord 1787

Jacob Ham was born February the 28th in the yeare of our Lord 1789

Blasingame Ham was born September 6th in the yeare of our Lord 1790

Nancy Ham was born June 29 in the yeare of our Lord 1792

18th Manuscript
John and Phoeby Hams
Daughter Molcy Ham
was born January the 1st in
the yeare of our Lord 1786

James Ham was born
March the 30th in the yeare
of our Lord - - - - 1787

Jacob Ham was born
February the 2nd in the
yeare of our Lord - 1789

Blasingame Ham was born
September 6th in the yeare
of our Lord - - - - 1790

Haney Ham was born January 9
in the yeare of our Lord 1792

[p 12]

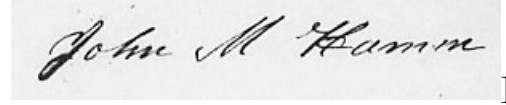
John Hams Bible and he was Born December 4th in the year of our Lord 1764

John Hams Bible
and he was Born
December 4th in the
year of our Lord 1764

¹ In addition to the children listed in the above family records, a summary of the contents of the file indicate that the veteran and his wife had the following additional children: William Cloydious born June 17, 1794; Frankey born March 3, 1796; Thomas Pinckney born July 1, 1798; Elizabeth born August 13, 1800; Buckley born June 11, 1802; John Mickel born July 13, 1804; and Salley born June 13, 1808, died July 4, 1811. The source of that information does not appear among the documents in this file.

[p 19: Thomas Hamm gave testimony on December 12, 1842 in Lauderdale County Alabama that he was present at the marriage of John and Pheby Hamm in Union County South Carolina between the year 1780 and 1790. He signed his affidavit with his mark. His relationship, if any, to the veteran or his widow is not stated.]

[p 21: On June 26, 1843 in McNairy County Tennessee, John M Hamm gave testimony that the Bible record was taken out of a small Bible belonging to his late father John Ham [sic]; that the handwriting is that of his father John Ham.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M Hamm". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "J".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 20 months in the South Carolina militia.]

Another version

Pension Application of John Ham, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 1168, Application #R4501

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

June 24, 1833, John Ham, a resident of McNairy County, Tennessee, aged 68 years:

“That in the year 1779...he entered the service...as a volunteer soldier under Captain James Blassingaim and Colonel Abel Kolb at the Cheraw District, SC. So soon as I was mustered into service, I marched to a place called Kimbro’s [Kimbrough?] Mill where a number of British prisoners was placed under our care. From there we marched with the prisoners to a place called Long Bluff on Big Peedee River. We here guarded the prisoners for five or six weeks and it appearing there was no further use for my services at this time, I was discharged...he was positive it was not less than two months...”

“In the spring of the year 1780, I again entered the service...as a volunteer soldier under Captain Alexander McIntosh and Colonel Kolb at Cheraw District in SC. So soon as I was mustered into service, we took up our line of march and went directly to Santee River. Here we joined Major Lemuel Benton’s battalion, who was at a place called Murray’s Ferry. From here I was sent by Major Benton together with some others with a drove of hogs to a Captain Town’s plantation, about five or six miles from the Ferry. After being there a short time, I was dismissed, having served in this tour not less than two months...”

“About this time news reached the neighborhood which was in the year 1780, that the British had taken Charleston, which circumstances raised the energy of the Tories in every direction, and there was a great call by the Whigs for men to keep the Tories down, so I hastened to a place called Kimbro’s Mill, and in the year 1780...I again entered into the service...as a volunteer soldier under Captain James Blassingaim. So soon as I joined his company (as yet we had no other officers) we were put under strict discipline and continued at the mill for the purpose of guarding it from the British, who was then lying and had possession of Long Bluff Town, and also to keep the Tories from joining the British at that place.”

“We were not stationed at that place long before Major Benton came to us, so he took command of the men here, as major. He brought the news that it would not be safe for us to

remain here any longer, so every soldier was dismissed with directions to look out for a hiding place. The next day, a great many Tories came to the mill. Major Benton came riding by while they were there and the Tories fired on him, but without effect. Then Major Benton returned to the swamps where Captain Blassingaim was, and they, upon consultation, agreed to surrender together with the men to Major Hogg, the British officer. After our surrender, Major Hogg had the officer of the Tories brought to him, whereupon a guard moved between them and Major Hogg beat him with his sword. This circumstance rather ?dampened? the Tories so they lay quiet in that quarter until they heard of the defeat of General Gates.”

“So soon as they heard of that circumstance, the Tories commenced raising again, and from that time until 1781, when General Greene was marching through the West, and until after he fought the Battle at Guilford Courthouse, we were in small groups, sometimes more and sometimes less, scouting after the Tories. Part of my time I was with Colonel Kolb and Captain Blassingaim, and part of my time with Colonel Thomas Wade and Captain O’Neal. About this time, the Tories killed Colonel Kolb and Major Benton was appointed colonel in his place. We were now in the Cheraw District when I was discharged, having served from about the time of the fall of Charleston until after the Battle at Guilford Courthouse...not less than ten months...”

“I again entered the service...in Cheraw District, SC as a volunteer soldier in the year 1781...We marched to the Eutaw Springs under Captain Daniel Sparks, Major **Tristram Thomas** and Lieutenant George Strodder. Before we reached the Eutaw Springs, Gates’ army had left there. Then we marched to a place called Bacon’s Bridge on Ashley River. Here we joined General Marion. The British at this time had possession of Charleston. Marion sent out horsemen after the Tories, of which I was one [*horseman*]. We caught a great many and carried them to Long Bluff Town and there guarded them for some time until a court martial could be made to try them. After their trial was over, part of them was sent to our army. I was one that went as a guard I served in this way, sometimes out with Marion and sometimes out in small groups after the Tories until sometime in the year 1782...He thinks he served 8 or 9 months, but positive he served at least six months...”