

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Hamilton R4513

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
Greenbrier County } S.S.

On this day 29th of June in the year 1847 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Greenbrier County now sitting Andrew Hamilton Executor of the Estate of Captain William Hamilton, deceased resident of said County of Greenbrier State of Virginia, who being first duly sworn, according to law doth on his oath mak the following declaration (in behalf of himself and the other children of William Hamilton and his wife Isabel Hamilton deceased of aid County of Greenbrier, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836.) That his father the said William Hamilton was a Captain in the Indian spies of the revolutionary service and died in the year 1825 on the 9th day of December and that his widow the said Isabel Hamilton survived him a number of years and died on the 15th day of March in the year 1846. That the following are all the children of the said William Hamilton and Isabel his wife to wit. Sarah, Andrew & Jacob - all are now living in this County - Mary (wife of Rennik) decd. John also dead. The last two died in the state of Ohio both leaving heirs, the number and names not known. Martha and Elizabeth both married Skiles and are dead leaving heirs, number and names not known these two died in the state of Kentucky - also a son now dead by the name of William - he died in Greenbrier County state of Virginia, leaving three children.

The said William Hamilton was a captain of the Indian spies during the revolution and served as follows to wit, A commander of a company stationed on Muddy Creek, and his principle field of labor was on the frontier of western Virginia protecting the fronteer, from the ravages of the Indians.

That they belive their father was married to the said Isabel about the year 1773 and that the marriage took place in the County Augusta, state of Virginia, that their mothers maiden name was Isabel Clemens that the said Isabel never married after the death of her husband the said William Hamilton and that she died in the County of Greenbrier on the 16th [written over 15th or vice versa] day March 1846 without ever having drawn the arrearage of pension due to her, on account of the services of her husband as aforesaid and the preceding declaration is made by her children for the purpose of drawing what was due at the time of her death. And the declamants do hereby relinquish every claim to an annuity or pension, except the present, and declare that their names are not on the pension roll of the agency of any state, nor was the name of either their father or mother on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to subscribed & acknowledged in open Court the day & year above written

[signed] Andrew Hamilton Executor of Wm Hamilton

Virginia Greenbrier County to wit.

Joseph McClung of lawful age being duly sworn, deposeth and says

Question, were you well acquainted with Captain William Hamilton.

Answer, I have been acquainted with Captain William Hamilton ever since the year 1780 to the day of his death, but at my first knowledge of Capt William Hamilton I was young but can remember him as far back as I can remember any thing - Since that time he has been better known as Major Hamilton of Muddy Creek.

Question Was William Hamilton known as Captain of the troop stationed in this part of the state of Virginia, for the protection of the frontiers against the ravages of the Indians, and was he paid by the Government to do so.

Answer I do not know, Captain Hamilton as Captain of the troops, but I am well satisfied that he was commander of his fort, on Muddy Creek in this County. And I have heard that he, had anything by Goverment to enroll, men, and that they were to be paid by the Goverment

Question, Did Captain Hamilton act as Captain of the spies, and was his company considered as

spies.

Answer I always understood, that part of his company acted as spies

Question How long did Captain William Hamilton act as Captain of the spies

Answer I am not now able to say exactly but it was for several years

Question Was not Captain Hamilton the commander of the forces in this part of the state of Virginia, and did he not direct all the movements of the Company -

Answer It is so understood, and from what I have been able to learn from my father [Lt. Samuel McClung] and others he was looked to as the leader and the commander at that time, and during the time they were in the fort on Muddy Creek.

Question Was your farther and family in the fort, with Captain's William Hamilton

Answer I well remember that my farther and all the family were in the fort, with him for some length of time, - part of six or eight years, I think - But I know it was for a part of a number of years and I believe he was commander all the time

Question Was your farther wounded by the Indians

Answer He was

Question Did Captain Hamilton come to the relief of your father and family

Answer He came with a small force of men to my fathers house, but before he got there the family had left for the fort, the family taken a bye path and the Company a more direct way, they missed each other, and I well remember having heard my father and Captain William Hamilton both say that when the company came to my fathers house they found the house deserted, and having understood that the Indians had done depredations at a house lower down the creek, captain Hamilton and his Company proceeded there to see what mischief was done. there they found a man shot, tomahawked and scalped, by the name of Mundy (but still alive, which was brought into the fort, some after my father's family and I came into the fort which circumstance I distinctly recollect Mundy died and soon after he was brought in.

Question When did Captain William Hamilton die.

Answer, I was with Captain William Hamilton during his last illness, and was with him when he died, and to the best of my knowledge he died the [blank] day of December 1825.

Question What you have stated, is it from your own personal knowledge, or is it from the representations of others

Answer Part, from my own knowledge, but principally from Major William Hamilton and my father

Question - Was Captain William Hamilton a man who could be relied on, under any and all circumstances, and what is his general character, as a man of truth and varacity

Answer There is no man in whom I had grater confidence in, that Captain William Hamilton. I would rely on anything he said, as being strictly true; and as to his general character, in my opinion, no man stood higher than he did

Question Was Isabel Hamilton the wife of Captain William Hamilton

Answer His wife was named Isabel

Question Is Andrew Hamilton the son of Isabel and Captain's William Hamilton

Answer Yes - they have a son by that name and he is now living in this neighborhood and is the same that is now petitioning for a pension

Question, When did Mrs Isabel Hamilton die?

Answer I understand that she died in March 1846

Question How far do you live from Jacob Hamilton when the old lady Mrs Isabel Hamilton died

Answer Between a mile and a mile and a half

Question How old are you

Answer I was seventy years old the 12 day of last July, by a statement of my father and mother

I hereby certify that as far as I have stated the facts contained in the foregoing deposition is true & so far as from hearsay I firmly believe them to be true. Given under my hand this 31 day of my 1847

[signed] Jos McClung

Subscribed to & swore to before me a Justice of the piece this 31st day of May 1847

Wm. Feamster JP

NOTE:

According to J. T. McAllister's *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*, a William Hamilton was a captain in the militia of Greenbrier County in 1780-81, and possibly earlier. For other references to Capt. Hamilton see the pension application of Jonathan Windsor (R11703), which also refers to the wounding of Samuel McClung and the killing of James Monday in Apr 1780.

Fort Hamilton was probably also known as Fort Keeney (Jacob Chapman S19237).

On 9 May 1847 John Conner, 73, deposed that he had known William Hamilton as a neighbor since age 12 and had often heard Hamilton say "that he was commander of a small company which went as spies, as far as Gauley River, where one of the party got drownd and the rest returned... and from what I have heard him say and others, he was the director of the company placed here for the [illegible word] of frontier protection, I think it was perhaps in the year 1774 they commenced forting, and Captain Hamilton was the commander & after that he became a Mager & was called so to his death." On 27 May 1847 John McClung, 78, deposed that he had been in the fort on Muddy Creek with Captain William Hamilton in the fall of 1782 and spring of 1783. On 19 May 1853 Elizabeth Patterson, 83, deposed that she knew William and Isabella Hamilton in 1777 when her father and mother, surnamed Caraway[?], took her to Fort Hamilton. On the same day Leah Lewis, 85, deposed that with her father, John Viny, she had been forted with William Hamilton.

On 18 May 1853 one George Edgar deposed that Polly Hamilton, the first or second child of William and Isabella Hamilton, married Robert Renick on 23 Dec 1790.