

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joseph Hamilton R4517

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS.

Davidson County }

On this 5th day of October 1836 personally appeared in open Court, of Davidson County before Justices of said Court of Davidson County now sitting, Joseph Hamilton, a resident of Wilson County, in said state of Tennessee, aged seventy-three or four 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 on the 7th of June 1832

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated

In June 1780 he volunteered his services as a soldier under Capt. Bell, in Guilford County, North Carolina the Company was placed in the Regiment of Col Peasley [John Paisley] and all of the Regiments commanded by Gen'l. [William Lee] Davidson, who occupied the station, at that time of Gen'l. [Griffith] Rutherford, who was in the hands of the British, as a Prisoner at war, taken at Gen'l Gates defeat [defeat of Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. Upon the rendezvous at Guildford Court-house, it was the principal design of the Gen'l to awe a set of Tories, who were flying about the Country — Guildford Co. house left, we of the Army went in pursuit of the Tories, up to Spryker's 18 miles from the court-house, where information was had of the Tories trail. the next morning after our arrival, we pursued on to the Richlands of Hugh Warsid[?]: here it was discovered, that tories were marching for the British Encampment, under Cornwallis, at Cambden - and to overtake them was deemed impossible; so all turned for Guildford Court-house again; which reached, all were disbanded, expecting a Company, posted to guard the jail, which contained some prisoners. Sergt. Sam Bell commanded this company applicant being one — when they had guarded these prisoners awhile, this company was turned over to Capt Forbis; other companies were raised, forming the regiment under Colo. Pasley and Gen'l. Davidson commandant. About the first of Sept of that year 1780 all of the Army moved off, towards the British Camp, under Cornwallis, marched up through Sailsbury [sic: Salisbury], in Rowan County - thence to Mecklinberg Cty. [sic: Mecklenburg County], where Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene was met, with the main regular army [Dec 1780]. the conjunction of the two armies was made at the black-jack camp. Each of the contending Armies, made many manoeuvres, exerting their skill for supremacy in tactics, before any assault would be made — finally, and before the Retreat of the American Army ["Race for the Dan," Feb 1781], applicant then but a boy sixteen years of age obtained a furlough on account of sickness from Capt Forbis, and started back for Guildford Co. house. this was about the twenty-fifth of Dec'r 1780 - Christmas time - his whole term of service this tour, beginning in the latter part of June 1780 & ending at or about the twenty fifth day of Dec'r. of that year, will make the term of service, about 6 months.

Applicant served, in the earlier part of 1780 [sic], when the battle at Guildford Court-house was fought [15 Mar 1781] - but the service was short, and bad recollection about it, together with the want of proof, [one or two illegible words] him from entering into the minutiae of his service - claiming compensation alone for the above enumerated six months, which he hopes fully to establish by evidence of an undoubted kind; and which shall accompany or attend this application — the certificate of service for three months under Capt Forbes applicant has, & it shall also be sent. it has been defaced or torn, not eno' tho, it is to be hoped to invalidate it entirely.

Applicant 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
[signed] Joseph Hamilton

[The remaining part of the discharge referred to:]

These are to Certify that the

Private Soldier of Capt. Forbis
[part of word illegible]ained in District of Salsbur
A volenteer Agreeable to Law &
[Illegible word] all To [illegible word] it may
Concern both Civil and
Military

State of Tennessee } SS.
Davidson County }

Personally appeared before me, Joseph Norvell, a Justice of the Peace in & for said
County & State, James Porter, a resident of Smith County, Tennessee, and makes oath, that he is
well acquainted with Joseph Hamilton, an applicant for a pension under the Law of 1832, that he
knew him, when he enlisted in 1780, under Capt. Forbes - with whom he served three months.
Affiant well remembers this latter fact, because he was Sergeant in Capt. Forbes. Co. and has
been rewarded already for his services by a pension granted him by the United States, on the
20th day of January 1832 or more properly, this is the date the certificate bears. [See note below.]

Given under my hand, this 26th day of September 1836. [signed] James Porter

NOTES:

A Sgt. James Porter who served from North Carolina applied for a pension, but details of
the application (S25370) differ from those presented by James Porter above.

A Sarah Davis deposed that she had been a neighbor of Joseph Hamilton during the
Revolutionary War, and that "there was many Brothers of old Hamilton, and some two or three
of them were generally out in the army. My father was a soldier at the same time."