

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Hannah (Hanna) R4573

f29VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/10/14

[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 Virginia Nicholas County: SS

On this 20 day of October 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of Nicholas David Hannah a resident of the said County of Nicholas and State of Virginia aged 73 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1776 in the month of September in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia he was drafted for a tower [tour] of three months as a private soldier and was placed under the Command of Colonel Andrew Donley [Andrew Donnally] other officers names not recollected and was marched to Donley's Fort [Fort Donnally built by Andrew Donnally near the present town of Frankford 10 miles north of Lewisburg on Greenbrier River] on Cinquing Creek [Sinking Creek?] in the County and State last aforesaid and remained there engaged in guarding said Fort and the inhabitants of Greenbrier County who had collected for safety the Indians had made such havoc amongst the settlements that the people were obliged to remain in forts during the spring summer and fall seasons declarant remained in said Fort engaged as aforesaid until the time for which he was drafted had expired and was discharged by Colonel Andrew Donley having served three months as a private soldier. Again in the year 1777 in the month of April in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia Declarant volunteered his services in defense of the settlements then forming in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia and was placed under the command of Major Hamilton¹ and was marched to Muddy Creek and stationed at Kenny's Station [probably the Keeney Fort]² in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia declarant states that he remained at Kenny's station aforesaid in guarding the inhabitants which were collected there for safety until sometime in the month of November 1777 at which time he was discharged by Major Hamilton having served this tower seven months as a private soldier. [Paper damaged and word or words missing] in the year 1777 declarant was drafted for a tower of three months as orderly Sergeant declarant thinks it was in the month of May of the year last aforesaid in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia declarant was then placed under the Command of Major Hamilton the inhabitants had collected at Major Hamilton's for security declarant was here stationed for their defense and was engaged in defending them from the merciless attacks of the Indians until the time for which he was

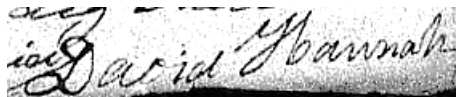
¹ Probably either Samuel or William Hamilton. If William Hamilton, see [William Hamilton R4513](#)

² C. Leon Harris made this suggestion and points out that this fort was referred to by [William Smith W6094](#) and may have been the same as Matthew Arbuckle's Fort.

drafted had expired during which time declarant acted and performed all the duty of an orderly Sergeant declarant was then discharged by Major Hamilton having served this tower three months as an orderly Sergeant. Again in the month of March 1781 in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia Declarant was drafted for a tower of six months as an orderly Sergeant and placed under the Command of Major Grimes of the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia and was stationed at Major Grimes' near to the place where Lewisburg now stands declarant states that he was engaged in defense of the inhabitants who had collected at Major Grimes' in the defense of the inhabitants as aforesaid until the time for which he was drafted had expired at which time he was discharged by Major Grimes having served this tower as an orderly Sergeant six months. This ended the service of the declarant as he states having served nineteen months in the defense of his country ten months as a private soldier and nine as orderly Sergeant. Declarant states that he has no documentary evidence of his services neither does he know of any one by whom he can prove them.

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

S/ David Hannah

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

To the several interrogatories prescribed by the war Department declarant answers as follows

1. That he was Borned in the County of Berkly [Berkeley] State of Virginia in the year 1760.
2. When called into service I was living in the County of Greenbrier State of Virginia and have lived there ever since until about 9 years since at which time I moved to the County of Nicholas State of Virginia where I now reside.
3. I have no record of my age I have the recollection of my parents who told me the year I was borned in.
4. When I entered the service of the United States the first, 3rd and 4th towers I was drafted, the 2nd I volunteered
5. From the sircumscribed range of my service I saw and became acquainted with but very few officers and regiments I saw and became acquainted with Colonel Andrew Donnelly, Major Hamilton and Major Grimes Captains Arbuell [Arbuckle?] and Archibald Stuart.
6. All my discharges are lost or mislaid they were signed by the officers under whom I served to wit Colonel Donley, Major Hamilton and Grimes
7. I am known to John Cutliss and John Dufield who can testify to my character my age and their belief of my having been a soldier of the Revolution.

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

S/ David Hannah

[John Cutliss and John Dufield gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8]

Greenbrier County Virginia

This is to certify that John Patterson³ personally appeared before me on this day a Justice of the peace for said County & made oath that they [sic] have been acquainted for a number of years with David Hannah in said County a resident supposed now of Nicholas County I have seen him at Captain William Hamilton's on Muddi creek [sic] in the Fort together with myself

³ [John Patterson R8003](#)

the said John Patterson says his understanding was that he the said D. Hanna was serving a tower of duty under the command of Captain Hamilton & Lieutenant Samuel McCury. I do certify that I believe him to be a man of honesty and truth. John Patterson is a credible person and all to be believed on oath. Given under my hand this 8th day of August 1834

S/ Saml Dickson

N.B. I do certify that his services was during the Revolutionary war

S/ John Patterson

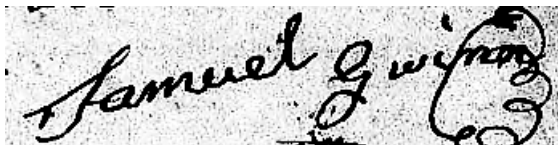
S/ Saml. Dickson, Esquire

[p 17]

Greenbrier County August the 4th 1834

I do certify that I believe that David Hannah stood his tower against the Indians in Greenbrier County the time of the revolutionary war and served a 3 months tower at the house of Captain James Graham opposite the Fort on Greenbrier River and also served 3 months as a substitute & acted as a spy under the said Captain Graham as far down the River as the mouth of the said River where it empties into New River and that the said Hannah was an orderly Sergeant under the said Captain Graham and that he received a legal discharge from the said Captain Graham which it seems is lost or mislaid & from my acquaintance with Mr. Hannah & from many circumstances related to me that happened in those troublesome times with the Indians I do certify that I think he is a man that can be relied on for truth & honesty. As witness my hand & seal this date as above.

S/ Samuel Gwinn⁴

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

[attested August 9, 1834 by David Hannah as JP, said David Hannah's signature looking like that of the veteran.]

[p 27: in the handwriting of G. W. Singleton—see below for significance]

"4573

David Hanna—

Applicant

not Entitled"

[Note: C. Leon Harris suggests that this note on the cover sheet of Singleton's report to the Commissioner of Pension probably resulted in the Commissioner's staff reading no further.]

[p 28]

David Hannah – Applicant –

I the undersigned David Hannah having been called by W. G. Singleton agent of the Com. of Pensions for a narrative of my Revolutionary Services & statement of my age, give the following to wit – I was born on the 6th day of February 1760 – am a native of Maryland – in 1769 went with my father to Greenbrier County, and lived in that County during the war – in the year 1775 in the Summer and in my 15th year of age I was at Donley's Fort for 3 months under Captain Donley – it was his own Fort and on his own land –

⁴ [Samuel Gwinn S17992](#)

In the summer of 1777 I served at Keenies Fort in Greenbrier County for 3 months – there were several families residing in the Fort who had corn patches adjacent and cultivated them. – I was not employed in cultivating corn, but guarding at the Fort to protect the same from invasions of the Indians – I think there was some six or seven of us thus employed. – I was drafted for the service – but received no pay nor was I furnished with arms – had to find my own, there were no officers at the Fort.

In the summer of 1779, I was drafted again for a three months tour and I served at Captain Hamilton's Fort on Muddy Creek, the people at this Station were employed pretty much as they were when I served the last preceding tour at Keenies Fort – Captain Hamilton & his family lived in the Fort all the time of my 3 months tour, it was his Fort and on his land, myself and some five or six others were guarding at the Fort for the tour – received no pay for this service – Hamilton's Fort was in Greenbrier.

In the year 1780 or 1781 was again drafted for 3 months, and served at the house of Captain Grimes – in Greenbrier there was a Fort on the River opposite the House of Captain Grimes – I was stationed at Grimes' House, and was under his command, after my tour of 3 months expired, I substituted for an additional 3 months – and served at same place, this last service was continuous – Robt. Louthur [Dr. Robert H. Lowther] wrote my Declaration – I swore to it before James Duffle in the country, a neighbor of mine – at the time I was perfectly able and still him to go to the County Seat – I gave Louthur the same narrative in substance that I now give, if my Declaration claims for services not here declared to I have been imposed upon [????]⁵—Louthur was to return in 3 weeks for affidavits proving my services but I have seen nothing more of him – I can prove a three months tour by John Pattison [sic] of Greenbrier County – there is no one living by whom I can prove the balance, In witness of all above [?] I hereto subscribed my name – Jany 15, 1835

Witnes

S/ Preston Johnson

S/ David Hanna

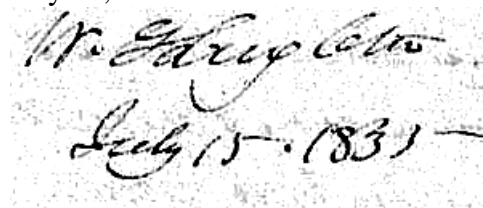
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S/ W.

Memo – if the case here stated in titles Hannah to a Pension he should in my opinion have it – because I believe he has told the truth – his character is fair among his neighbors.

S/ W. G. Singleton⁶

July 15, 1835



[p 13]

Virginia Lewis County January the 13th 1836

I was Born in the State of Maryland about three miles from the upper Cross roads on the 6th day of February in the year 1760 and my father moved up to Virginia when I was about three

⁵ *defacto I have been captured after.*

⁶ For an excellent analysis of Singleton's work, see C. Leon Harris' transcription of [David W. Sleeth S6111](#)

or four years old and there he lived in the year '69 when he moved to Greenbrier and brought me with him and that was the place of my residence to the year 1816 when I moved to Nicholas County. In the year 1775 I was drafted for three months to Captain Donnallys Fort. Mr. Lowther that drew my Declaration told me it came under the term of the revolutionary war and I knew no better. I was Ignorant of the fact and knew no better to [until?] Mr. William Singleton told me my Declaration did not agree with what I gave into him and I gave it into him as I give in my Declaration and as I give it to you now. In the year 1777 I was drafted for three months to Keenney fort [sic] where I served out my time and in the year 1779 I was drafted for three months to Captain Hamilton's Fort and served out my time and in the year 1780 or '81 I was drafted for three months to Captain Graham's house and before I came away there came other men that was drafted to fill our place and I substituted for three months more making six months service at Captain Graham's it was the out side house at that time and very much exposed to Savage Barbarity – further I would observe that I am willing to be Examined by any number of men who may in the County of Lewis from one, two, three or ten to appoint for that purpose any men you choose to the Board of War.

S/ David Hanna Senior

[p 19: Letter dated January 13, 1836 in the handwriting of the veteran addressed to the William McComas⁷ in which the veteran states the identical facts set forth above.]

[p 7: In a letter sent from Greenbrier County Virginia and dated June 7, 1853, sent by David Hanna, he states that the veteran David Hannah of Nicholas County Virginia filed a declaration for a pension in 1832 or 3 and died before he heard the results of his application; his widow (not named) is still living and wishes to know if his pension application was rejected or suspended for want of proof and, if suspended for want of proof, what proof she might be able to provide in order to obtain her pension; she says that her husband's application was supported by Samuel Gwinn and John Patterson; the correspondent identifies himself as a nephew of the old soldier.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Hanna". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first name "David" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Hanna". The signature is enclosed in a small square bracket on the right side.

⁷ McCOMAS, William, a Representative from Virginia; born near Pearisburg, Giles County, Va., in 1795; attended private schools and Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va.; engaged in agricultural pursuits and in the practice of law; also was a Methodist minister; member of the state senate 1830-1833; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-third Congress and reelected as an Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-fourth Congress (March 4, 1833-March 3, 1837); resumed his former activities; unsuccessful candidate for election in 1848 to the Thirty-first Congress; delegate to the state secession convention in 1861 and voted against the ordinance; judge of the United States district court during the Civil War; died on his farm near Barboursville, Va. (now West Virginia), June 3, 1865; interment in the family cemetery. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=M000352>