Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Hart R4699 Martha Hart f32SC fo
Transcribed by Will Graves 12/29/10: rev'd 4/1/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Alabama Greene County: SS

On this 6th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Thomas F. Moody Judge of the County Court of Greene County now sitting Henry Hart a resident of the County of Greene and State of Alabama aged sixty nine 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 he entered the service of the United States in the month of May 1778 in the State of South Carolina Orangeburg District (since divided and now Barnwell District) in his 15th year a drafted militia man under Captain George Robinson Michael Odom Lieutenant Lewis Collins Ensign company officers of the militia of that State and marched under the above named officers to Savannah River, then in the same district, where he was stationed on said River in June & July of the year 1778, under the command of Colonel Scirvin [sic, James Screven] and Major Sheppard Field officers of the militia and from thence marched to Jacksonborough in the same district under the aforesaid officers and remained there about a week and marched to a small village in the same District called Pokatalago [sic, Pocotaligo] (his time of service having expired he was discharged and returned home about the last of July he was in the service during this campaign about three months.

This applicant further states that in a few days after he arrived at home he was again called out and drafted and entered the service of the United States [indecipherable word] a soldier of the militia under Captain James Fair [sic, James Farr] Lieutenant Samuel Golmon [Gilmon] (none other recollected) and marched from (then in Orangeburg District aforesaid) to Savannah Georgia, in August of that year 1778, and there joined the Continental soldiers of the under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] Colonel Scirvin and Major Sheppard of their part, he also joined there the French Army under the command of Count d'Estaing, in a few days they were put in action, to wit, the Town of Savannah[1] was then in possession of the British, he with the Army's was placed with the French Army in their entrenchments as they were then throwing up their breastworks to storm the Town, in one night and kept up a regular firing and bombarding all night there was both French and Americans killed & wounded. They the French and Americans continued to keep up the siege for three weeks but this applicant after the first night's action, was always kept at Picket guard and was not in the engagement and states that this battle is well recorded in the history of the revolution, that it was then and there Count

[1] Siege of Savannah September 16-October 9, 1779 http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/

Pulaski was killed and Major Sheppard Lieutenant Jasper together with others of the American side and a great number of Count d'Estaing's soldiers he is not able to state the particulars not being in the immediate engagements the British having deserted the town, he was discharged and returned home in Orangeburg District South Carolina about the middle of September of that year.

This applicant further states that after about two weeks he was again called out – this same Captain James Fair raised a horse company in the aforesaid district and he joined him as a volunteer and was for about two months in scouting parties in the said district annoying the Tories from there he went to and was stationed on Salkketcher Creek in the same district – which entered into the ocean at Beaufort South Carolina, having remained there one month he was marched and stationed at Pike Creek in the same district, (this was all in the winter of 1778 & 9) and remained at Pike Creek one month & day were then discharged and date, Captain Fair and company returned home and Captain Fair resigned.

This applicant further states that in about a fortnight after he returned home, he again was called out and drafted and entered the service again in the Horse Troop under Captain Roberts (none other recollected), from thence we were scouting in the same district, in the spring of that year 1779 for [indecipherable word] of that year in the same District, and on the 7th of August of that year they went lower down in the district and on the same day they overtook two Tories and one of them was killed, they kept the other until the night after being camped, they were fired on by a company of Tories and all killed but 15, his Captain was not killed but acted the coward & they left him being just 30 in number, 15 was left, the applicant with a few others returned home and they were so few in number they were occasionally under Captain Vince, during the fall of 1779, and when without a Captain scouted about the best they could, not being able to collect any more men, they were likewise frequently taken under the command of Captain Joshua Inman from Augusta Georgia as his services required [indecipherable word or words, possibly "of them"], they were able after I while to collect a few more men and chose a Captain of their own making who was not a commissioned officer, name not recollected, and kept up a small scouting party for that year in 1780 and until the British evacuated Charleston, (he believes to be in the fall of 1782[)] and he finally after all operations of Revolution was ceased went home which was, he believes, in November 1782.

The applicant further states that from the time he entered the service to wit, May 1778, he was never at home only twice, a fortnight each time, any more than merely to call a few days, or hours until his final discharge in November 1782, the while the rise of four years.

And this applicant further states in answer to the Interrogatories to be propounded by the Court saith &c

That he was born in Edgecombe County North Carolina in the year 1763, December 22 (according to his parents' information & record of age). That he had a record of his age but it has been totally destroyed but remembers well its contents –

That he entered the service in Orangeburg District South Carolina and has lived in Barnwell District South Carolina from his leave of the service until the year 1820 from that time he moved to Greene County Alabama, where he now resides,

That he has stated in his declaration how he was called into service –

That he never received any written discharge –

That he is known in his present neighborhood by John Yates Esquire Reverend Burwell Holbrook and Jacob Holbrook who can testify as to his character for veracity and a belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

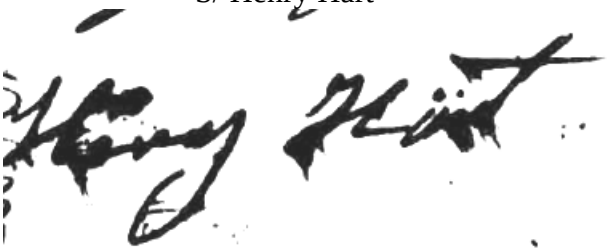
And this affiant further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services (he

knows of any person living whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service –

And that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory, only as he now appleth.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

Attest: S/ J. C. Snedecor, Clk S/ Henry Hart



[Burwell Holbrook, a clergyman, and Jacob Holbrook gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The State of Alabama Greene County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a justice of the peace in & for the County of Greene aforesaid, Henry Hart, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below, and in the following grade, For two years and 11 months I served as a private soldier in the revolution and for such service I claim a pension. S/ Henry Hart

Sworn to & subscribed before me a Justice of the peace

the 19th of July 1833

S/ Wm M. Murphy, JP

[fn p. 11: On May 24, 1852 in Greene County Alabama, Derrel Hart, 57 filed a claim on behalf of himself and his sisters Oliver Abston and Mary Abston the heirs and children of Martha Hart, the widow of Henry Hart, a revolutionary war pensioner; he states that their father, Henry Hart died in Greene County Alabama July 21st 1840 at the age of 77 leaving Martha Hart his widow; that Martha her heart died in Greene County on December 23rd, 1847 at the age of 75 leaving three living children, the above named claimant and his sisters, Olive, aged 55 and Martha, aged [document image runs off the page at this point].]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]