

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Helton R4854

fn52NC

Transcribed by John Pace & Michael Lee Mankin

rev'd 7/20/09

[Note: Peter Helton, born 1751/53 in Surry County, N.C. to Thomas Helton and Bettie Helton. Thomas was a full blood Cherokee Indian and married Bettie Helton, taking her last name as his. Peter Helton died in Cass County, Georgia about 1850. It is interesting that he applied twice for a Revolutionary War Pension and was approved by both Judges that heard his case, but was officially rejected for 'lack of proof.' Apparently North Carolina could not find evidence for his Service. Not until 1857 did North Carolina find evidence of his service, in a letter from the State of North Carolina Comptroller's Department, they state he was paid 'for Military Service in the Revolutionary War...']

The first Pension Application is from 'McMinn County, Tennessee Court Minutes 1831-1841,' Page 206, Transcribed by John Pace.

"Friday, 5th September 1834

On this, 5th day of September 1834 personally appeared in open court in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of McMinn in the State of Tennessee, opened and held for said county in the Town of Athens in said County, it being a court of record made so by the Laws of the State of Tennessee, keeping a record of their proceedings and having by Statute the power of fine and imprisonment, Peter Helton resident of said county, aged 78 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the Act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820, to wit. That he the said Peter Helton entered the Army of the United States, as first Lieutenant in the regular service in the State of North Carolina for the term of five years, he entered the service as first Lieutenant in Captain Harrison Murray's Company in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel William Winston, in the fall Session of the year 1780 as well as he recollects but the day is no recollected. He enlisted at Salisbury North Carolina and served in the regiment and line aforesaid for three years, he was discharged at Raleigh, and his discharge was signed by Colonel Winston and Colonel Good, said discharge was burnt when the house of this applicant was burnt in Burke County, North Carolina. He served as first Lieutenant as aforesaid for three years from the time of his enlistment under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] & Colonel Winston. He was in the battle at Eutaw Springs, Ramsours Mills and at Kings Mountain. He was badly wounded at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs in his left leg below the knee, in the left groin and in the right arm. These wounds have so disabled this declarant that he is not able to work or labour for his living, and he is not in such circumstances as to enable him to live without the bounty of his Government, he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any State except the State of North Carolina and that the following are the reasons why he has not applied for a pension earlier--this Declarant did not know until a short time since that any provisions had been made to pay a pension to the Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary army. This declarant states that the first time he knew that he was entitled to a pension according to the provisions of the Several Acts of Congress was very recently when he was so informed by William Lowry, esq. and the honorable Charles F. Keith Circuit judge and both of the county of McMinn.

Sworn to and inscribed in Open Court this 5th day of Sept 1834.

S/ Peter Helton, X his

mark

And it appearing to the Satisfaction of the Court that the said Peter Helton did serve in the Revolutionary War as stated in the preceding declaration against the common enemy for the term stated by him in his said declaration and the same is ordered to be certified accordingly.”

The second application is in his pension file, numbered R4854

Re-transcribed by Michael Lee Mankin.

“Georgia } On this the eleventh day of April in Carroll County the year Eighteen Hundred and forty Nine personally Appeared before the Superior Court of Said County while in Session Peter Helton a resident of the county and State aforesaid who after being duly Sworn in terms of the Law Upon his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress approved July [sic, June] 7th 1832. That He has no written record or memorandum of his age. That He is from the best of his knowledge and belief near one hundred and five years of age. That he enlisted in the Service of the United States under the Command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and Served under his Command and in the Company Commanded by Captain Dooly a part of the time which he served, the balance of the time he served under the command of Francis Marion who also command in the Southern Division under the said General Greene. That he was acquainted with Lieutenant Colonel Howard of Washingtons Regiment, with General Davidson and Morgan and with Colonels Clark Few and Horry, with Captain Snipes and many other officers of the Southern Division. That from his great age and consequent loss of memory he cannot remember the precise time when he entered or was discharged from the service. That he was born in the State of North Carolina in the County of Syra [sic, Surry] where he resided untill he entered the service under the command of General Greene as aforesaid at Hillsborough [sic, Hillsborough] in the State last aforesaid. That he enlisted for the term of five years and served regularly the period of his enlistment during which period he held two commissions. The first was as first Sergeant, the second was as Secon [sic, second] Lieutenant. The date of which is not remembered their being burnt with his house in Srya [sic, Surry] County together with his discharge. That he was engaged in the Battles of Eutaw Springs and King's Mountain. That the line of his service was chiefly confined to North and South Carolina and Virginia. He 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 and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his services.

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Sworn to and subscribed in open court this the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Peter Helton, X his mark

Before me

Edw. Young Hill Judge

Superior Courts Coweta District, Georgia

And I the presiding Judge of Said Court do hereby declare My opinion after investigation of the matter and putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above mentioned Peter Helton was a Revolutionary Soldier. Given under my hand and seal this 12th day of April 1849 Edw. Young Hill (signed) {seal}

Georgia, Carroll County } I John F. Tomlinson Clerk of the Session and Court of said County do hereby certify that the fore going containing the original proceeding of said in the matter of the

application of Peter Helton for a Pension as a Revolutionary Soldier. Given under my hand and private seal this being no Seal of Office This 12th day of April 1849 John F. Tomilson
Clrk {seal}

La Grange, Georgia, 19th Apr 1849

I Hu A. Harolson [Hugh Anderson Harolson] representative in congress from the fourth congressional District of Georgia do certify that I am acquainted with John F. Tomlinson whose official signature & private seal appears subscribed to the foregoing certificate. I know him to be the Clerk of the Superior Court of Carroll County in this State. I am also acquainted with his hand work and have no doubt that the above signature is genuine.

Hu A. Harolson (signed)

Rep 4th Congressional District, Georgia.”