

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Hill R5008

f13VA¹

Transcribed by Will Graves and C. Leon Harris

3/30/14

[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 Pocahontas County: SS

On this 18th day of February 1834 personally appeared before me Thomas Hill a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Richard Hill a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged 70 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That on the 8th day of April 1781 in the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia he volunteered to serve against the Indians in Captain George Clendenin's [George Clendennin or Clendenning] company and was stationed in the Garrison situated on Swago Creek at branch of Greenbrier River – then in the County of Augusta Virginia now in Pocahontas – that he served in this station six months.

That the Nature of his services was to guard the Garrison, to Range and Spy after the Indians, to watch the low places in the Gaps of the mountains between that place and the head of Elk River. He sometimes went in company with Jacob Kinnison, Henry Casebolt, Thos. Drinings, William Ewin and Charles Buck.

That during this time of service he recollects of being in company with Nathaniel Robins when they heard the report of two guns not a far distant – supposing it was Indians himself and his companion went on to the place where they heard the report and when they arrived at the house of Thomas Drinings and learned that the Indians had been there and made prisoners and conveyed away the Wife & two children of Drinings, the Wife and one child of George Smith and Drunings and Smith shot at – but made their escape, he and his companion conveyed the Intelligence to the Garrison and himself in company with Jacob Kinnison, Nathaniel Kinnison, William Ewin and others to the number of 17 men left the Garrison in pursuit of the Indians with a hope to rescue the prisoners – but after an unsuccessful travel through the wilderness for several days was compelled to abort the pursuit and returned to the Garrison.

That again on the 15th of April 1782 he volunteered to serve under Captain Clendenin and was stationed in a Garrison on Greenbrier River in the County of Augusta situated three or four miles from the Garrison that he had served in the year previous where Robert Guy Esquire now lives. That the nature of his service this year was the same as the year previous.

That while stationed in the last named Garrison a party of about twenty Indians had concealed themselves near the station in order to ascertain its strength or to take the men by

¹ Fold3.com has indexed this application under the "Blank" listings.

surprise when they might chance to leave the Garrison – where they had remained for several days as it afterwards appeared – that he in company with Henry Baker early one morning left the Garrison for the purpose of going to the river to wash which was close by – and an Indian had concealed himself behind a stump in the fence corner near where they had to pass over – that the Indian suffered him to pass by as he was several yards in front of Baker – that just as Baker arrived to the fence – the Indian fired on him and the ball passed through his breast – at which moment the Indian sprung from his concealment and raised the War hoop and that he the applicant had to run meeting of the Indian to make his way to the Station and that when he regained the place of passing over the fence where Baker had fell the Indian with an uplifted Tomahawk was within a few feet of him – but he made his way into the Garrison with safety the Indian immediately concealed himself under the river bank and from his report about Twenty Indians appeared in various directions – that Baker who fell lay too near the Garrison for them to venture to scalp and to protect themselves from a shot from the Garrison – they remained under cover of the bank and tied a cord to a pale and drew him under the bank and scalped him – made no serious attack on the Garrison, lurked about some time, shot a cow in the field near the Garrison and took some of her meat – took some horses and disappeared, they dispatched a messenger to bring a reinforcement in case they would renew their attack and late in the evening Captain Clendenin arrived with sixteen or seventeen men.

That the next day he in company with William Ewing went to apprise the settlers higher up the Greenbrier River of their danger. That Captain Clendenin on the returned with his men two of them John and James Bridger left the company to pass a nearer route, was fired on by the Indians and both fell – in perilous scenes like these he served in this last named year for six months.

That he volunteered and served from the 15th of April until the middle of October in the year of 1783 under the above named Captain – and was stationed this year and a Garrison situated on Stamping Creek a branch of Greenbrier River in the little Levils [?] then in the County of Augusta now Pocahontas County Virginia where John McNeal now lives.

That the nature of this year's services was the same as prescribed in the two years previous: namely to guard the Garrison, to spy and to traverse the mountains along the head of Elk and Gauley Rivers. That he served either in Garrison or out on spying frontiers for six months in each year above detailed namely 1781 – 1782 and '83 – That he followed no civil pursuit. That he can prove his services by Jacob Kinnison, Henry Casebolt and James Lewis

Interrogatories Answered

1st In North Carolina in the year 1764

2. No record

3. In the County of Augusta now Pocahontas Virginia where I have lived ever since and yet live.

4. Following tiered

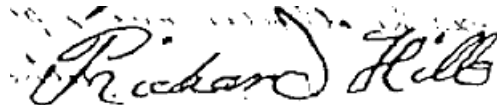
5. Colonel Samuel Lewis

6. Never received a written discharge

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

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Richard Hill

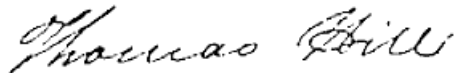
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Hill". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Richard Hill".

And I Thomas Hill do hereby declare my opinion that the above applicant was an Indian Soldier

in the Revolutionary war and served as he states and that through bodily infirmity is not able to attend court with convenience.

Given under my hand this 19th day of February 1834

S/ Thomas Hill



[John S Blain, a clergyman, and Robert Burnside gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Virginia Pocahontas County

On this 19th day of February 1834 personally appeared before me Thomas Hill a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Jacob Kinnison² a resident of said County aged seventy-seven years and after being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath state that he is well acquainted with Richard Hill – and recollects of his service against the Indians in the year 1781 – 82 and 83 in the County of Augusta Virginia in that part which is now Pocahontas that he belonged to Captain Clendenin's Company – and to his knowledge he performed a great deal of service against the Indians – and believe that he was a brave Indian warrior.

Given under my hand the day and year aforesaid

S/ Thomas Hill

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[The following was provided by C. Leon Harris whose excellent treatise on the investigations of W. G. Singleton are set forth in his appendix to the application of [David W. Sleeth S6111](#).]

Richard Hill Applicant

I the undersigned Richard Hill at the request of W G Singleton agent of the War Department give the following narrative of my Revolutionary services [illegible word] and my age to wit – I was born in July 1763 in Carolina – I came to Virginia and settled in that Portion of [several illegible words] later Pocahontas county in the month of March next succeeding the capture of Lord Cornwallis & his army at Yorktown Virg'a. by the american army under Genl. Washington. – Whilst living in Carolina & before my removal to Virginia as before related I was out as volunteer for some two or three days only – in the next succeeding year and after my settlement in [illegible word] as before stated (in 1782) – I was at “Bucks Station” in Pocahontas county – there was no officer at the Station – Capt. Clendening had command of all the Stations west of the augusty line – Bucks Station [several illegible words] some eight or ten [several illegible words] guard the Station, and Scout after the Indians [several illegible words] forted from early in April until November [illegible word] We found our rations – arms and amunition & received no pay. nor were we promised any. – we generally went out in parties of two or three at a time – we were out (perhaps) [illegible word] weeks in a month [illegible word] of the time or were raising corn &c – in the next succeeding summer (1783) I forted at Days Fort in said county – my employment there was pretty much the same in all particulars – as it was at “Bucks Station” the previous summer – In the summer of 1784 I was at McNeeleys Station – employment same. David W. Sleeth wrote my declaration. Feby 2, 1835

² [Jacob Kinnison S16905](#)

[illegible]
W. G Singleton

Richard Hill
A Copy W. G. Singleton

I [C. Leon Harris] could not find Bucks Station or McNeeley's Station, but there was a Day's Fort.

"KECKLEY: A small fort erected about 1772 at present Mill Point, Little Levels District, Pocahontas County. Subsequently sometimes designated as Fort Day, and Price's Old Fort, and Keekley." [See John Day S3252]

Additional note by C. Leon Harris:

An account of the killing of Henry Baker that appears to confirm part of Hill's service was given by Alexander S. Withers in his *Chronicles of Border Warfare* (1831; reprinted in 2007 by Heritage Books, Westminster MD, pp 210-211):

"The party [of Indians] then sent into Greenbrier consisted of twenty-two warriors, and committed their first act of atrocity near the house of Lawrence Drinnan, a few miles above the Little Levels. Henry Baker and Richard Hill, who were then staying there, going early in the morning to the river to wash, were shot at by them: Baker was killed, but Hill escaped back to the house. When the Indians fired at Baker, he was near a fence between the river and Drinnan's, and within gun shot of the latter place. Fearing to cross the fence for the purpose of scalping him, they prized it up and with a pole fastening a noose around his neck, drew him down the river bank and scalped and left him there."

[p 13]

1852 Printed List of Rejected & Suspended Pensions shows following cause of rejection:

"Services at a neighborhood Fort not enlisted, drafted, officered or paid."