

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Hughes R5355

f33VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/13/14

[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.]

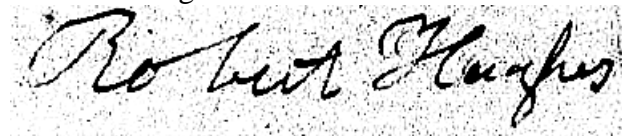
[p 26]

State of Virginia Fayette County: SS

On this 12th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Fayette State of Virginia Robert Hughes a resident of the said County of Fayette 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 1777 in the month of July in the County of Prince William State of Virginia declarant states that he was drafted in the Virginia militia from Prince William County and was placed under the command of Captain Hugh Brent other officers[] names not recollected the Commandant of the Regiment name was Jesse Ewell – Colonel Major[']s name was James Ewell – declarant states that he was then marched from Prince William County Virginia through the state of Maryland to a place called Chestnut Hills in the State of Pennsylvania near Germantown declarant states that he remained at Chestnut Hill until sometime in the month of October at which time he was discharged by his said Captain Hugh Brent having served three months and twelve days as a private soldier declarant states that he then returned home and remained in the County of Prince William Virginia until the year 1778 at which time he moved to the County of Botetourt State of Virginia and in the month of April 1780 about the 7 day as well as declarant recollects he was drafted for a tower [tour] of 6 months and was placed under the command of a Captain Culberton [Culbertson] other officers names not recollected declarant states that he was then marched from Botetourt County Virginia to Stanton Virginia from thence to Richmond Virginia declarant states that he remained in and about Richmond marching to and fro through the country sometimes stationed at Richmond and some time at Cabin Point declarant states that he was engaged as above until the time for which he was Drafted had expired at which time he was discharged by his said Captain Culberton having served six months as a private soldier. Declarant states that he then returned home to Botetourt Virginia. Declarant states that in the year 1781 in the month of March in the County of Botetourt Virginia he entered under Captain Uriah Springer Lieutenant Harrison & other subaltern officers not recollected to go against the Indians and declarant states that he was marched to Fort Pitt State of Pennsylvania the place where Pittsburgh now stands. Declarant states that he was marched by way of Romney Virginia and through the County of Monongalia State of Virginia then down the Monongahela River to Pittsburgh declarant states that he then joined Colonel John Gibson Regiment of the Virginia Troops declarant states that

Colonel Gibson commanded the 7^(the declarant thinks) Regiment of the Virginia line declarant states that in consequence of his being a good marksman with a Rifle he was chosen by Colonel John Gibson as an Indian Spy declarant being a good woodsman declarant states that whilst he was on a Spying Expedition in company with Joseph Row on the North side of the Ohio River about six miles below Fort McIntosh at the mouth of the Big Beaver became on the trail of some Indians which we followed to the Ohio River and ascertained that they had crossed the River in Park canoes. We immediately turned our way for the Fort and gave the alarm Lieutenant Harrison detached fifteen of his men declarant states that he was one of those who accompanied Lieutenant Harrison we then marched to the place where we thought most likely the Indians would cross when we reached the river we discovered the Indians crossing the Ohio River in canoes at the word given we fired and the result of our continued fire was that we took 27 scalps. Affiant believes only one Indian escaped to tell the news. Sometime after this while Lieutenant Harrison and nine of his men amongst whom declarant was one we came on the trail of a body of Indians seventeen in number on the Allegheny River above Fort Pitt. Lieutenant Harrison directed us to march in a particular direct and for the purpose of suppressing the Indians and gave orders that if we were discovered by the Indians to fire immediately and as we approach them we were discovered. They raised the war hoop and we fired and five of the Indians fell dead and the sixth was badly wounded he crawled under a bank and from him we learned that they were of the Mingo tribe we got 3 guns and blankets. We killed the wounded Indian and returned to Fort Pitt. Declarant states he continued in the service under the command of Colonel John Gibson from sometime in the month of March 1781 until April 1782 at which time he concluded to quit the service and returned home to his father's in the County of Greenbrier, his father having moved in his absence from Botetourt County Virginia. Declarant states he did not receive a discharge after having served thirteen months as an Indian spy – as a private Soldier making in all 22 months declarant states that he has no documentary Evidence of his service he hereby relinquishes every Claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State. Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Robert Hughes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Hughes". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

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

1. I was born in the County of Prince William State of Virginia in the year 1760.
2. I have no record of my Age I have the recollection of my Parents who told me the year I was born in
3. When first called into the service I was living in Prince William County State of Virginia and when called into service on my 2nd and 3rd towers I was living in the County of Botetourt State of Virginia since the revolutionary war I have lived in the County of Greenbrier, Monroe, Kenhaway [Kanawha] in Fayette State of Virginia and now live in the last named County State of Virginia.
4. My first and 2nd tower I was drafted the first tower for 3 months the 2nd for 6 my 3rd tower I enlisted as an Indian spy
5. During my first tower I sold Colonel Yule Major James Ewell Captain Hugh Brent. During my 2nd he saw Colonel Davis and Baron Steuben. During my 3rd I saw Colonel John Gibson in Fort Pitt Colonel Gibson commanded he thinks the 7th Virginia Regiment –

6. I was discharged by the officers under whom I served in my discharges were signed by them but they are all lost, ^{except the 3rd tour he did not receive any}

7. I am known to John Hill and William Riggs who can testify to my character my age and as to their belief of my having been a soldier of the Revolution

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid

S/ Robert Hughes

[John Hill and William Riggs standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Virginia Fayette County: SS

On this 30th day of October 1846 personally appeared before me John Hill, a Justice of the Peace for said County in the State of Virginia, Robert Hughes, a resident of Fayette County, State of Virginia, aged Eighty Six years in August 1846, 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. In 1777 he served a tour of three months commencing in August or September and ending in November or December he believes they marched through Germantown and remained during the time he was out in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. The company to which he belonged was commanded by Captain Hugh Brunt of Prince William County, there were four companies drafted from Prince William in this year, the commanding officers were Brunt, Hedges, Peyton and Brit. The declarant lived in Prince William and was drafted when called into service first time: he served this his first campaign for three months, and was marched home and discharged without a written discharge, he recollects that Colonel Jesse Ewell and James Ewill [sic, perhaps James Ewell] were officers when he was out in his first campaign. He was drafted for another tour of six months and according to the best of his recollection this Tour was performed in 1780 or 81, commencing in the fall and ending in the spring. He marched to the City of Richmond under the command of Captain Culbertson, and after arriving there, was placed under the command of one Buchanan, and by Buchanan he was placed under one Hill a Captain of Artillery and served the remainder of the six months under his command: that in company with the other Soldiers he was marched home and discharged without a written discharge, the declarant lived in the County of Botetourt, when he was drafted the second time, to which County his parents had moved. The declarant was out a third tour, this time he was a substitute for Johnathan Tayler [Jonathan Taylor?], he marched from the Sweet Springs in Botetourt County Virginia to Pittsburgh, he started on this tour in the year 1781 or 82 but does not recollect which, and was in service about eleven months, some of the officers who commanded at Pittsburgh were Colonel Gibson, Captain Rigs, Captain Springer: he left the service in the service in the following manner, The Army having a little or no provision, he with some others were permitted by the officers to go on a foraging expedition, falling in with the owner of a trading boat in which boat that he sailed down the River Ohio and having gone a long distance from the Army, they were about landing in order to kill some game, the declarant and three others viz. Joseph Row, Henry Winkleblank,¹ and William Baley² had got into a separate boat to go to an Island to kill some game, the owner and his company went to the bank for firewood, the owner of the boat and his company were taken prisoners by the Indians, the declarant and his companions escaped with great difficulty, and made their way home and

¹ Probably the same man as [Henry Winckleblack \(Squire\) S6389](#)

² POSSIBLY the same man as [William Bailey W5778](#)

never being called on did not return to the Army, The declarant made an application when General Jackson [Andrew Jackson] was President of the United States but not having heard from his agent, he is induced to make this the second application in order to obtain relief from his Country, which he stands in need of. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to an annuity or pensions except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Robert Hughes, X his mark

The following all the interrogatories propounded to Robert Hughes an applicant for a pension by the subscriber a Justice of the Peace.

Interrogatory 1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born on the 18th day of August in the year 1760 in the County of Prince William Virginia.

Interrogatory 2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. 2. I did have a record of my age but it was burnt in my daughter's house.

Interrogatory 3. Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. 3. I lived in Prince William County when called into Service, since the war I have lived in the Counties of Greenbrier, Monroe and Fayette and now live in Fayette County, all in the State of Virginia.

Interrogatory 4. How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans. 4. I was drafted the first and 2nd times, the last time I was a substitute for Johnathan Taylor.

Interrogatory 5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. 5. I knew Captain Culberson, General Steuben and Colonel Davis, for the remainder of the answers, I refer to my declaration.

Interrogatory 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. 6. I never received a discharge.

Interrogatory 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. 7. William Hill, William Sims, Thomas Hughes, Elizabeth Garret, and John Stansford

S/ Robert Hughes, X his mark

[p 9: On November 9, 1846 in Kanawha County Virginia Elizabeth Jarrett, 82, gave testimony that she is the sister of Robert Hughes, an applicant for a pension; that she lived in Prince William County Virginia when her brother was called into service; that he was very young when he went into service, she believes about 17 years old. She restates the services as described by the veteran in his declaration. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]