

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Humphrey R5374

f25NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/20/11: rev'd 10/2/21

[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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina Onslow County: SS

On this 6th day of May A.D. 1833 personally appeared before the worshipful the Justices of Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Onslow County now sitting Joseph Humphrey a resident of Onslow County North Carolina aged 83 years last January, 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 in the latter part of February or first part of March 1773 having enlisted in the County of Onslow, under Colonel Henry Rhodes, [Lt.] Colonel Joseph Scott Cray & Captain Ephraim Battle, & marched thence into New Hanover County to Rocky Point on the Cape Fear River at Big Bridge – here we lay encamped until we were joined by General Lillington [John Alexander Lillington]; the British having made their appearance on the opposite side of the River, General Lillington ordered a company to march down the River & crossed the same whilst another division should cross the Bridge & they attacked the British in front & us the Rear<sup>1</sup> – the British had two large cannon planted facing the bridge, the Lieutenant whom General Lillington ordered to advance across the bridge refused to do so, and the British sentinels having notified them of the advance of the Americans across the River, and great confusion having been produced in consequence of a want of cooperation by the other party refusing to cross the bridge, the British brought on a general engagement, and soon routed the Americans – we retired into the woods and the British made their way to Wilmington. During the engagement this affiant was left in charge of the magazine belonging to the American troops. The Americans again assembled at Rocky Point, where we lay encamped until we were discharged having served in this tour three months for which time we were enlisted. I received a discharge but have lost it. The Onslow militia having been divided into four drafts & this affiant belonging to the first draft, after the other three had served tours of three months each, the first draft or division to which this affiant belonged (being nine months after his discharge as aforesaid) was again ordered out under Colonel Henry Rhodes, Colonel Cray & Captain Ephraim Battle, we marched to Wilmington where we remained a short time & thence to Brunswick here we learned that the Tories were very bad & troublesome in the Waccamaw settlement; we marched to that settlement to the

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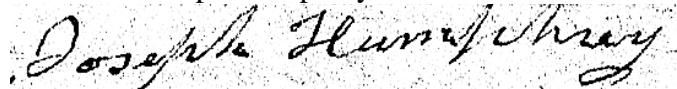
<sup>1</sup> Battle of Heron's Battle, January 30, 1781:

[https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_herons\\_bridge.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html)

House of one Simpson a noted Tory and found him from home – that night we were unexpectedly attacked by the Tories, and Captain Battle, had seven buckshot fired into him, we retreated and made our way onto Wilmington, where Captain Battle was put under a doctor where we remained the balance of my time of service being in all three months & was then discharged by Captain Battle he having recruited [recovered] very much. – I had no written discharge that I recollect of. – I was again ordered out under the same officers, and marched to Moore's Hill in Onslow, being nine months after my discharge as last mentioned. Here we kept sentry for the Tories for some time & then marched to Wilmington, here we remained for the purpose of keeping the Tories down, three months & were then discharged – a short time after this Independence was declared. – I do not know whether I received a written discharge. – This affiant is very old and infirm and cannot on account of his infirmities recollect all the minutia of service; After Independence was declared this affiant was repeatedly called out to put down the Tories & restore quiet to the neighborhood in consequence of the marauding character of the Tories. – This affiant has no documentary evidence to support his claim for a pension – and has no positive testimony except his own, as all who served with him are dead and gone, and have only left behind them the tradition of their service. – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension roll or agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Joseph Humphrey



Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Halifax County North Carolina January 16 1750 –

Have you any record of your age & if so where is it? –

Ans. Yes at home in my Bible. –

Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live?

Ans. In Onslow County, I have lived there ever since and continued to live there. –

How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute – & if so for whom?

Ans. I was drafted.

State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect & the General Circumstances of your Service.

Ans. Colonel Rhodes, Colonel Cray & Captain Battle & General Lillington – I marched several times to Wilmington, once to Rocky Point where we had an engagement with the British – fought the Tories at Waccamaw, & was often called out to put down the Tories.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given & what has become of it?

Ans. Yes once from Captain E. Battle but I lost it. –

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution. –

Ans. James Mills, John Basden, Lewis Sandlin and James Brown. –

Sworn to in open Court.

S/ Joseph Humphrey

[James Mills gave a supporting affidavit in which he states that he has often heard his father William Mills who served in the Revolutionary War and who died in 1828 speak of Joseph Humphrey the applicant as having served with him in the Revolutionary war and has heard them recount the affair at the Big Bridge on Cape Fear River; that he has heard the application read; that the applicant was one of the best wrestlers in the Army at the time.]

[William Mills & Daniel Bradburn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

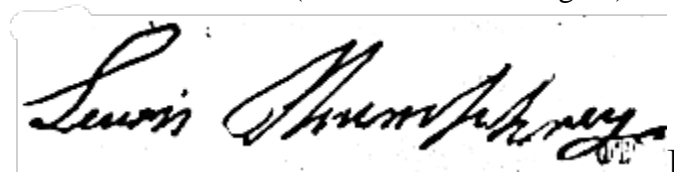
[Hezekiah Williams & Jesse Sandlin also gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 18]

Personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Onslow Samuel Evans<sup>2</sup> aged 71 years who being first duly sworn deposed & saith that he is well acquainted with Joseph Humphrey the applicant in the case, that he served with said Joseph Humphrey at Big Bridge (called Bluford's also) [Buford's Bridge]<sup>3</sup> at Cape Fear River. That when his company under Captain Matthew Allbritton arrived at Big Bridge he found Joseph Humphrey there in Captain Battle's Company, and that on that tour he served three months; said Humphrey was a good soldier & this affiant has heard & did here at that time, that he served several times afterwards, but this affiant does not know it of his own knowledge, as after the service at Big Bridge he this affiant joined a horse company. This affiant cannot say at what time it was that they were at Big Bridge.

S/ Samuel Evans, X his mark

[p 3: Power of attorney dated November 29, 1852 executed in Onslow County North Carolina by Lewis Humphrey, aged 71, son of Joseph Humphrey a Revolutionary war soldier who died June 18<sup>th</sup> 1837 whose wife (and mother of the signer) Mary Ann died in 1807.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lewis Humphrey". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first letter "L" is large and loops around. The name "Humphrey" follows in a similar cursive style. There is a small mark at the end of the signature, possibly a flourish or a mark indicating the end of the signature.

[pp 12-13: Lewis Humphrey wrote letters in 1857 to the pension office inquiring as to the application of his father for a pension.]

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<sup>2</sup> [Samuel Evans S6827](#)

<sup>3</sup> JD Lewis notes: The bridge was a recently constructed "swing bridge" that was built by a man named Mr. Buford in the early 1770s. But, by the late 1770s, it had been purchased by a Mr. Heron and everyone in the vicinity knew it as Heron's Bridge - primarily because he strengthened it considerably and made it much more reliable. But, the "old timers" still called it Buford's Bridge.