

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Hunt R5394

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee Sumner County

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 1851 personally appeared James Hunt a resident of the County of Sumner and State of Tennessee aged as the bible record will show about eighty six years of age. (This as recorded was transcribed from an old testament which has since been destroyed about the year 1812 Said record with the date of his marriage in 1786 is hereto annexed and prays to be taken as part of this testimony) before me Robert Dorris one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid and a Justice of a court of record (being unable to walk or appear in court from a dislocation of the hip and also from old age and bodily infirmity) 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit

His first tour of service was as a drafted militia man under Captain Thomas Elibie[?] as well as he recollects all young men from 15 years of age to fifty were required by State of South Carolina to be mustered into service and as he was well grown he entered and was enrolled for three months under the above named Captain in the Summer of Seventeen hundred and Eighty His father lived about eighteen miles from Camden on a large creek called hanging rock and owing to exposure out in marching he was taken sick and permitted to return on furlow to his father at the time when General [Horatio] Gates marched against Cornwallis and on the evening before the battle of Camden Gates or as he believes the evening previous stayed all night on his father's plantation destroying all the corn and wheat and oats [See note below.] There was from the appearance five hundred baggage wagons Gates left early in the morning marched toward Camden and the next night or morning was fought the great battle [16 Aug 1780] but Gates retreated by a different road four miles off and did not return the way they went There were scattering troops however passed relating the news of the defeat. So soon as he was able to leave and bear arms he joined his company this was in the latter part of August or September 1780 as well as he recolects and was marched or stationed between Cornwallis and Charlestown to intercept the supplies coming up was part of the time near within ten miles of Charlestown under command of Colonel [Lemuel] Benton and sometimes in sight of the City He served this tour three months and was honourably discharged which discharge has been long since destroyed with other old papers before he left that country not knowing they would ever be of any service. When Cornwallis passed up the country in the direction of North Carolina in the fall or winter following times were so dangerous That it was safer to be in service than at home. He volunteered again under the same Captain for three months and joined Colonel [Francis] Marion as he was then called was marched to the high hills of Santee to guard some provision and ammunition wagons to General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] but returned again to General Marion and marched to George Town passing Monks corner [sic: Moncks Corner] where they remained sometime They were continually on the march at different places sometimes on Pee Dee sometimes on Cataba [sic: Catawba River] had several skirmishes with the tories took a tory Captain by the name of John Kier and dispersed most of his men and took the rest. He served this tour three months and was discharged by Colonel Benton which discharge has been lost and destroyed with the first one above mentioned. After the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] Declarant volunteered again for three months under Captain Cladius Pugee [sic: Claudius Pegues] and was stationed on the Santee sometimes with General Marion but under Colonel Benton They took another tory Captain by the name of Kimbull and took and dispersed his men during this tour he saw hard service sometimes eating nothing but poor beef without salt or bread he served three months and was honourably discharged which discharge was destroyed with the other above stated when he returned home he found his father's house rifled of every thing by the tories even to the clothing. So soon as he returned home he volunteered again for three months under Captain Elebee and Lieutenant Michael this was in the Summer of 1781 was marched in the direction of Utaw Springs after the battle at that

place [sic: Battle of Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] Saw the Tories there tying[?] this tour was also as well as he recolects under Colonel Benton was marched back into North Carolina or near the line was stationed on the black river and a part of the time on Cataba with Marion would go out trips after the Tories and at other times be with Marion he served this tour two months and got an honourable discharge which discharge was destroyed with the rest above mentioned

He volunteered again for two months under Captain Elebee and served with Marion was stationed on the Santee and Cataba sometimes with [Gen. Thomas] Sumter sometimes with other field officers not now recolected Colonel Brundan [possibly Thomas Brandon] was one this was in the later part of 1781 he was discharged for a tour of two months which was destroyed as above stated. He was out in winter of 1781 and served one month and was again discharged He also served other small tours of service sometimes on twenty days and sometimes longer and shorter after the Tories and with Marion but cannot particularize them in fact until long after peace was made he held himself continually ready to be out as there was more safety to be out than at home. He thus served to the best of his recollection fourteen months for which he claims a pension he has no Documentary evidence in support of his claim and he further Declares that his name is not on the roll of the Agency of any State or Territory and he hereby relinquishes every claim to a Pension except the present. He further declares that he knows of no person now living who could testify to his services. And he hereby further Declares that the reason he did not make application sooner for a Pension was his ignorance of the law and that several persons told him shortly after 1832 That unless he was out six months in one tour of service under one engagement he could not be entitled he always lived in a remote part of his county where he could see but few people and knew not his rights until within the past year and then only by hearsay. He further Declares that on account of the loss of memory and old age and infirmity he cannot state the one half of the particulars of his service He has also his hip out of place so that he cannot go to court to make this Declaration, he annexed the part of his bible record showing his birth together with the marriage of Jonathan Davis with one of his Daughters also his own marriage and death of his wife. Declarant can and will prove his character as a Revolutionary soldier and such other proof as will be as he is in hopes satisfactory.

#### Interrogatories

Where and what year were you born - Answer I was born in Granville county North Carolina 7<sup>th</sup> day of february 1765 as my record hereto annexed shows.

2<sup>d</sup>. have you any record of your age and where is it

Answer I have stated that to my answer in the first question.

3 Where were you living at the time you were called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer When called into service I lived near Camden South Carolina as stated in my declaration my father moved from North Carolina shortly before the war after the Revolutionary war I lived in North Caroli in 1805 I moved to Tennessee where I now live

4 How were you called into service were drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute

Answer I was drafted the first tour of three months all the rest of the tours I was a volunteer as stated in my Declaration

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 recolect and the general circumstances of your service

Answer

I have stated in my Declaration as fully as can recolect unless I were to name a further history of the war which I only could state upon the news of that Period.

6<sup>th</sup> did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Answer I have fully answered that in my declaration to which I refer as my answer

Sworn to and Subscribed before me the day and year first above written being the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 1851

Robert Dorris JP

Justice of the Peace for Sumner County

James hisXmark Hunt

NOTES:

Foraging parties may have stayed at Hunt's father's home, but Gates himself arrived at Rugeley's Mill 12 miles N of Camden on 13 Aug and remained there until he marched toward Camden at about 10 PM on 15 Aug.

*FAMILY RECORD*

MARRIAGES

James Hunt & Sally Hunt his Wife was Married Febury 22<sup>d</sup> 1786

Sally Hunt the Wife of James Hunt Senior DeCezed this Life January the 18 1837

~~Jonathan Davis Wed to Caty in the year one tho 181~~[page torn]

Jonathan Davis and Caty his wife was Maried January the 9<sup>th</sup>[?] 1812

James Hunt was bo[page torn] Febury 7<sup>th</sup> 1765

BIRTHS

Thomas W Hunt Was born November 22 1787

Elizabeth Hunt [page torn] born April 25 1789

John Hunt was Born November 4 1790

Susa Hunt was Born December 25<sup>th</sup> 1803

George G Hunt was born May 10<sup>th</sup> 1806

Nancy Hunt was Born April 26<sup>th</sup> 1808

Jane N. Hunt was Born April 29<sup>th</sup> 1810

[page torn]than Davis [rest missing]