

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Huntsman R5420

Betsy Huntsman

f24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/24/14

[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 Tennessee Hawkins County: SS

On this 31st day of March A.D. 1856 personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Betsy Huntsman a resident of Hawkins County in the State of Tennessee aged 82 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of July 29th 1848. That she is the widow of John Huntsman who was a Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain James or Richard Gaines in the __ Regiment commanded by Colonel __ commanding either the Virginia State troops or Continental line in said State or other service in said war. She states from what she has heard her said husband say in his lifetime that he entered the service at Charlotte Court House State of Virginia and was drafted or enlisted for the term of 18 months & 12 months and actually served in said war during its existence that is previously to the year 1783 a period or periods in the whole for two years, and that he was honorably discharged, that during his said Service he was at Stony Point Battle [July 16, 1779] – and marched through Virginia to divers Stations and was at various places during the war. He knew General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg] and maybe served under him that his discharge is or was perhaps left in Virginia but she states that she has none of her husband's papers at this day and believes her husband was so discharged. May have been a militia man. That she has no documentary evidence in support of these facts. But states that her husband actually died of disease contracted in the war as she believes and that she has heard her husband say that one William Ward was in the service with him. She further states that she and her friends have talked to one William Roach who said he lived in Virginia near to the said John Huntsman, and that he the said Roach knew that the said John was a revolutionary Soldier and deposed to the fact, which deposition is lost, and the said Roach dead.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Huntsman in the County of Hawkins State of Tennessee on the 23rd day of May A.D. 1798. That she was married to him before the first day of January 1800 by one John Mitchell a justice of the peace that the said Mitchell is dead – that her name before her said marriage was Betsy Kenner – that she knows of not a living person in this Country that was at her marriage who was at her said marriage but that they are all dead. She states that after her said marriage her and her said husband continued to reside in the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee lived and cohabitated as man and wife were so reputed and respected by all their acquaintances continuously to the day of her husband's death which took place in the County of Knox State of Tennessee on or about the __ day of October 1809 and that she has no record of the same. But she arrives at the, now forty-six years

of age, and that since the death of her said husband the said John Huntsman: She has never again been married but has continued and is now a widow. She further states that owing to her age and consequent failure of memory she is unable to more correctly state the facts she is advised is material but that so far as stated are true to the best of her knowledge and recollection. She further states that she lives 9 miles from Rogersville that such is her bodily infirmity that she is unable to attend court at Rogersville.

That she has no written documentary or record testimony to submit in support of any fact here stated than what is here with presented. But she swears in positive terms that she has heard her husband say he was in the service in the Revolutionary War 2 years and she believes it and that she was married to him as stated and is now positively and certainly his widow to wit the widow of Captain Gaines' Company as aforesaid. She further states that she never has before made application for pension and the reasons are that she wants many years ago employed a man to get her a pension as she supposes under Act 29 July 1848 some proof was taken but as she believes the application was never made or the proof submitted to the pension office, and thus depending on the first Gentlemen so employed she has not until now applied – at all if said application was ever presented to the pension office – She has no knowledge of it, but thinks no such application is on file. The name of this man was McHannally. She here appoints Absalom S. Burem of Mill Bond Tenn. her soul attorney to prosecute her claim.

S/ Betsy Huntsman, X her mark

[Willie B. Kenner, 57, and Thomas Gibson, 55, gave a supporting testimony.]

[p 7: copy of a marriage bond issued in Hawkins County Tennessee to John Huntsman and John Harrison on May 23, 1798 conditioned upon the marriage of John Huntsman to Betsy Kenner.]

[p 14: On May 5, 1856 in Hawkins County Tennessee, John T. Hill gave testimony that Betsy Huntsman widow of John Huntsman told the affiant many years ago that William Ward was in service with her husband in the revolution; that affiant has seen an affidavit given by William Roach (which affidavit is now lost) in which Roach stated that he was in service with John Huntsman.]