

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Hudgins (Hutchings) R7515                      Ruth Murphy    NC  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 June 2015.

The State of Georgia    }  
Habersham County      } SS

On this 24th day of June 1845 Personally appeared Before me Thomas Mcree one of the justices of the Inferior Court in and for said county Rutha Murphy a resident of the county of Habersham in the State of Georgia, aged Eighty Seven (87) years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the Benefits of the provision made by the acts of Congress passed July 7th 1838 and the 23rd of August 1842, granting Pensions to widows of persons, who served during the revolutionary war. That she is the widow of John Hudgins of Chatham County State of North Carolina, who was a Captain and served as such in the Militia for the time of Seven years in the revolutionary war on the part of the United States (commencing in the year 1776, and ending in the year 1783) and was in and under the following line of higher officers now recollected. To Wit. Col Literal [sic: John Luttrell] and Maj Broox [Brooks?]. performed his services in the States of North & South Carolina and was in the Battle at Brewer's Mills in North Carolina where Col Literal was killed [sic: Battle of Lindley's Mill, 13 Sep 1781]. also in the Battle at Camden, South Carolina, August 15th 1780 [sic: 16 Aug 1780], in the Battle at the King's Mountain in October [7<sup>th</sup>] in the same year, and in the Battle at Guilford Court House (North Carolina) March 15th 1781. She also declares that she was married to the said John Hudgins on the fifteenth (15th) day of February one Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy five (1775) By the Rev Elnathan Davis (Baptist minister of the Gospel) That her husband the aforesaid John Hudgins died of the Small Pox in the month of February One Thousand Seven hundred and ninety one (1791) She further declares that after the death of her husband aforesaid She was married to James Murphy in the year One Thousand Eight hundred and Twelve (1812). That he died in the year one Thousand Eight hundred and thirty one (1831) and that she is still a widow. Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year above written    Rutha herXmark Murphy

State of Georgia    }  
Gordon County      } S.S.}

On this 27<sup>th</sup> Day of September one Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty three Personally appeared before the Judges of the Inferior Court in and for the County aforesaid James Hudgins a Resident of said County aged sixty Eight years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the amount of Pension which accrued and fell due to his mother Ruth Murphy Dec'd formerly widow of his Father John Hudgins Dec'd under the provisions of the Act of Congress passed 4<sup>th</sup> July 1836.

He Declares that he is one of the sons and Heirs at Law of him the said John Hudgins and wife Ruth as aforesaid and that he the said John Hudgins was an officer in the War of the Revolution and served as follows. he entered the service some time in the year seventeen Hundred and seventy six (1776) in the County of Chatham N. Carolina as Captain of a Company of Militia who his Field Officers was at the Time of his entering the service he cannot state though he recollects to have heard his mother say that he served under Col Ambrose Ramsey and Major Mial Scurlock. how long he served under those officers he cannot state. but after being in the service some time he was appointed Brigade Quarter Master and served in that capacity until the close of the War. He further Declares that his Mother the said Ruth was married to his Father the said John Hudgins in Chatham County North Carolina on the 15 day of February seventeen Hundred and seventy five and that he the said John Died some time in March seventeen Hundred and ninety one leaving surviving him the said Ruth his Widow, who afterwards married James Murphy in the Year one Thousand Eight hundred and three (1803) and that he the said Murphy Died some time in the month of November One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty one leaving the said Ruth again a widow in which state she remained the Ballance of her life. That she died in

Habersham County in this state on the seventeenth day of November in the Year one Thousand Eight Hundred and forty seven leaving surviving her Thursay who Intermarried with Levi Murphy Delilah who Intermarried with Robert Trotter Benjamin Hudgins and James Hudgins the only surviving children and heirs at Law of her the said Ruth Murphy all of whom continue to survive.

[signed] James Hudgins

State of Alabama }

St Clair County } On this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of September One Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty Six personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid William Pollard a Citizen of this County aged Eighty Eight years and a respectable & Truthful witness and after being duly sworn states upon his Oath that he was personally and Intimately Acquainted with Captain John Hudgins of Chatham County North Carolina in time of the Revolutionary war. that he affiant lived a Part of the time dureing said war in the said County of Chatham and a Part of the time in Orange County No. Carolina, and that the said John Hudgins married the Daughter of Elnathan Davis whom he also knew very well. he affiant was too small to enter the service though he knows the said John Hudgins was an Officer in the said war. that there was a Place in Orange County where the army kept rather as head Quarters, it was called the Baracks. that while that was head Quarters he affiant was often there, and that the said John Hudgins was there he thinks nearly all of the time the Army kept their head Quarters there, and that he was as affiant then understood it Brigade Quarter Master. he knows he had something to do in furnishing & leting out the supplies of the Army, affiant does not know exactly how long the Barracks were kept as head Quarters for the Army but it must have ben according to his reccollection some one or two years. dureing all of which time he frequented that place and reccollects all the time to have occasionally and most generally to have seen the said John Hudgins there, and in the discharge of such service as above mentioned

[signed] Wm Pollard

This Indenture made this Tenth day of May in the year of our Lord 1785 Between Roger Griffith Sheriff of Chatham County in the State of North Carolina of the one part and John Hudgins of the County & State aforesaid of the other part. Whereas by virtue of an act of Assembly passed at Halifax the eighteenth day of January in the year 1780 directing & empowering the Commanding Officer of each respective County in the state aforesaid to dispose of so much of each delinquents property within his County as shall be sufficient to hire a substitute to serve in the Army for a limited time therein mentioned in the room and stead of such delinquent. Mial Scurlock then Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding officer of the said County of Chatham did order and direct John Birdsong then Sheriff of said County in the following words (To wit) State of North Carolina Chatham County. To the Sheriff of the County aforesaid. You are hereby required to expose to sale as much of the property of the following persons as will amount to the sum of five Thousand Pounds each agreeable to an act of Assembly of this State against delinquents who have been legally draughted and failed to march or perform their tour of duty agreeable to law. And this shall be your warrant for the same.

given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 1780. Mial Scurlock Coln. (Viz) Ignatious West &c. and the said John Birdsong then Sheriff by virtue of the aforesaid order did proceed to make sale after legal notice given of a certain Tract of land of the proper lands and tenements of the said Ignatious West, situate lying and being in the county aforesaid and bounded as herein after described and the said John Hudgins appearing at the day of sale did bid for the aforesaid Tract of land the sum of Five Thousand Pounds then current money which being the greatest sum bid the said land was struck of to the said John Hudgins as the highest bidder but for want of time & other unforeseen accidents the said John Birdsongs office of Sheriff of the County aforesaid having expired before he could make a deed for the same to the said John Hudgins and the said Rodger Griffith party to these presents having succeeded the said John Birdsong in office... [the remainder completes the transfer of 300 acres on the south side of Dry Creek to John Hudgins]

NOTES:

On 6 Sep 1845 Rutha Murphy explained that John Hudgins's name "was written (Hutchings) by the old people in the days of her husband's lifetime but pronounced as if written (Hudgins)."

In the file is a document stating that at the time of his death John Hudgins had seven children under age 16: Mary, Terresa, Philip, William, James, Delila, and Benjamin J. Hudgins.

Jonathan Davis, brother of Rutha Murphy, stated that he had been present at her marriage to John Hudgins and lived in their home during the war "for the sake of keeping her company." John Nicholson (S31882) also certified the service and marriage of John Hudgins.

Ruth Murphy's claim was rejected for lack of proof of John Hudgins's service as a Captain. In spite of the additional evidence provided by her heirs, the then Commissioner of Pensions decided not to reverse the decision of his predecessor.

Not all of the 108 pages in the file are transcribed here.