

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Hilyard S108020

f29SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 3]

State of South Carolina Edgefield District

On this 11th day of April 1833 personally [appeared] in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions now sitting in and for the District in State aforesaid Peter Hilyard a resident in this said District in State aged Seventy Seven 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 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in January 1779 as a private in a Company of volunteer militia commanded by Capt. John Ryan which Company was also commanded at sundry times by Capt. Sinkfield [sic, Sinquefield, probably Francis or Samuel] and Richard Jones forming part of a Battalion Regiment & Brigade under the respective command of Col. Leroy Hammond, Major John Purvis and Brig. General Andrew Williamson & was stationed on the South Carolina side opposite Augusta that he was present at the taking of Fort Grierson & Fort Brown [Siege of Augusta, May 22-June 6, 1781] & stood Sentry at the gate when Major or Col. Brown [Thomas "Burntfoot" Brown] was brought out a prisoner at the time of said Campaign was at least seven months during which period he was in constant and active service that he subsequently served in Capt. Sinquefield's Company of South Carolina volunteer militia at the siege of Ninety Six (Cambridge) [Siege of Ninety Six, May 22-June 19, 1781] under command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], that he was present and assisted in Cunningham's Defeat, that he also served under General Marion [Francis Marion] and Major Samuel Hammond but it is impossible for him to recollect the duration of the different terms of service but solemnly swears that he was at least two years employed during the revolutionary war in the service. Said Peter Hilyard further declares that he never did receive a discharge nor did he know that any formal or written discharges from the service were ever given to the State Militia after the occasion of their Services had terminated, that he was well acquainted with General A. Pickens [Andrew Pickens], General Williamson, Col. & Major Hammond, General Marion & Major Purvis and that about the time of the capture of Cornwallis he was stationed under the command of Col. Leroy Hammond in the neighborhood of Columbia, that he served during the whole time as a private, that he is well known to the Rev. Thomas Norris & Capt. John E F Ryan, that he was born in Granville County State of North Carolina in the year 1755 or 1756, that he has been a resident of this District for near seventy years, that he has no written record of his age, but lived here at the time of the revolutionary war and ever since. This applicant has no documentary evidence on which to rely for the truth of this declaration. He relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and

declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ J. Richardson, C. C. P.

S/ Peter Hilyard, X his mark

[John Norris, a clergyman, and John E. F. Ryan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace Peter Hilyard who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades:

For the year 1779 he served in Capt. John Ryan's Company belonging to Col. Leroy Hammond's Regiment of South Carolina State troops for seven months as a private that he was frequently used as an express to convey intelligence to and from commanding officers that he also conveyed during that period baggage and ammunition from Charleston to the Siege of Savannah.

For the year 1781 he served again in Capt. Ryan's Company as a private at the siege of Forts Grierson and Brown and Augusta and after the British had surrendered said forts he marched with the American troops commanded by General Pickens to the siege of Ninety Six, his Capt. being made prisoner he was placed under command of Capt. Richard Jones or Sinquefield during said year the Deponent was at least 9 months in active service in the field.

That during the above mentioned two periods this deponent was not employed in any civil pursuit, and for such service he claims a pension.

Sworn to this 12th day of July 1833 before me.

S/ Peter Hilyard, X his mark

S/ Robt. Watts, JP

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South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace, Peter Hilyard who after being duly sworn makes the following affidavit.

That he this Deponent was a volunteer in a Company commanded by the late Captain John Ryan attached to Colonel Leroy Hammond's Regiment of South Carolina Militia called in Service by the said State against the British, Tories and Indians and served in the field as a private from January 1779 until September of the said year partly in this State partly in Georgia, that during said period he was in a skirmish at Briar Creek [March 3, 1779], and another near the Oconee [River], that he was also frequently used by his commanding officers as an Express to convey intelligence and Baggage to the siege of Savannah, that during said time he was not employed in any Civil pursuit and for such service he claims a pension.

That he said Deponent served again in said Company and Regiment as a private in the field from the month of April 1781 to the month of January 1782, and was in several engagements near Augusta in the State of Georgia and at the siege of that place, and after taking Forts Grierson & Brown he marched with said Regiment to the Siege of Ninety Six where General Greene commanded, after the siege was raised he was by his Col. attached to scouting

parties against the British & Tories, that he served fully nine months in the said Tours and was not during that time employed in any Civil pursuit and for such service he claims a pension.

Lastly, this Deponent solemnly declareth that from the beginning of the revolutionary war to the close of it he was almost constantly in service against the British, Tories & Indians, as a private, but owing to his age and loss of memory with the exception of the above two tours he cannot particularize his services, he was in the Florida Expedition under Col. Williamson, the Snow Campaign and served also under General Pickens, Major Samuel Hammond, Captains Sinquefield and Jones.

Sworn to this 19th day of November 1833 before me.

S/ Robt. Watts, JP

S/ Peter Hilyard, X his mark

[p 17: In a letter dated December 27, 1833 addressed to a "Mr. Duffie" Christian Breithaupt states that he, Breithaupt, has in his possession an old Muster Roll on which Peter Hilyard is marked as having served 184 days from 30th June 1781 to December 31, 1781. Breithaupt states that the roll is headed "A roll containing the names of the officers & Soldiers who have done duty under command of Colonel Leroy Hammond, with their pay due for the same from the State of South Carolina &c."]¹

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50.44 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months and 4 days in the South Carolina militia.]

¹ I could not find any such muster roll among those posted on Fold3.com