

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Hightower S10834

f38SC/VA

Transcribed and annotated 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' 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 8th 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.]

State of Alabama Marengo County

On this 26 day of September 1840 personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County & state aforesaid, Joshua Hightower a resident of said County of Marengo & state aforesaid aged one hundred one 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: This affiant was born in Richmond County in the State of Virginia in the year 1739. Some time after hostilities had commenced between the American Colonies and the mother Country, and some two or more years before the Declaration of Independence, this affiant cannot state distinctly the precise dates, he entered the service as a volunteer in Brunswick County in the State of Virginia in a company commanded by Captain Glenn but this affiant cannot recollect his Christian name. The company of Captain Glenn in which this affiant served was placed under the command of General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg] – William Fleming was the Colonel of the Regiment in which this affiant served and a man named Binis Jones [?] was a Major Lewis Holloway this affiant thinks was a Lieutenant in the company – the force placed under General Muhlenberg was marched to a place called Long Bridge or the long Bridge in the edge of North Carolina where a British Colonel named Fordice [sic, Fordyce] had built a Fort and was occupying the same with his command. This affiant was present and aided in the attack upon the Fort and in the taking of the same. The Fort consisted in breast works thrown up and was occupied by the British forces but a few weeks. In the attack upon this Fort or breast works a considerable number of the British were killed and among the number killed was the commanding officer of the British whose name this affiant thinks was Fordice. This Fort or breast works was on a River called at the time Elizabeth or Elizabeth which empties into the James River not far from Portsmouth in Virginia. This affiant recollects the River was navigable for small boats as high as the long Bridge the place at which the first battle in which he participated was fought.¹ This affiant was engaged in this service about four weeks. He cannot at this distance of time recollect he states the time precisely. Within three or four weeks after this service was closed this affiant again entered the service as a volunteer in a company commanded by Captain Howell Eldridge was

¹ Battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775 (near Chesapeake, Va., Lord Dunmore: 600-man force of British, Tories and Negroes; Col. William Woodford, 2nd VA Regt.)

<https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/751209-great-bridge.html>

under the same Colonel William Fleming and also under the same General Muhlenberg. This affiant volunteered upon this occasion for nine months and was stationed at a place called Babbs old fields near which a man named Mead & another had mills & there was a small town at the place which had been destroyed by the British – but this affiant cannot recollect its name. This affiant served the nine months for which he volunteered and was sent out frequently on scouting parties to different places during the time. At the expiration of their term of nine months General Muhlenberg requested the volunteers under his command to remain in service twenty eight days longer until the arrival of General Washington who was expected from the North with the regular Army. The volunteers & this affiant among the number acceded [?] to this request and remained in service the twenty eight days. General Washington failing to arrive with his Army, Colonel William Fleming requested the volunteers to remain in service still longer and they continued about twenty days longer and were then discharged – but this affiant has no recollection that he received a written discharge. Within a very few days after being discharge from this tour of service the British took & burned Petersburg in Virginia. General Steuben understood by this affiant to have been a Frenchman was in command of some forces at Chesterfield Court House in Virginia and this affiant again volunteered under Captain Buckner Stith and joined the forces commanded by General Steuben and was marched with the forces under his command to a place called the Piny Fork [Piney Fork?] on James River at which place General Steuben had a small skirmish with the British and then marched his men [?] into Prince William County where this affiant was again discharged and went home after having served not more than twelve days. After remaining at home about three months this affiant again entered the service as a volunteer under one Captain Frederick Lucas and was carried to the Head Quarters of General Lafayette who was called by the troops General Demarcus or Marquis. This affiant was under the command of General Lafayette at James Town and was in a fight at James Town with the British. This affiant served this tour about five months – and after the close of it volunteered under one Captain Snipes [Henry Snipes] and went into North Carolina under Colonel Peter Horry for a term of nine months and served out the time after his term of service was over this Affiant again volunteered and went to James Town while at James Town under the command of Colonel Richard Elliott, Colonel Dicks arrived at the place & directed Colonel Elliott to discharge all his men except one company – this one company was retained in the service was commanded by Captain Buckner Stith immediately marched his company to York Town and joined the Regiment of Colonel Dick. In going from James Town to York Town Captain Stith's Company drove several hundred head of cattle. After our arrival at York Town we remained during the siege engaged in digging underground most of the time for about twenty days before Lord Cornwallis surrendered his Army to General Washington. After the surrender we remained at York Town four or five days and then marched with the British prisoners to the bank of the Shenandoah River near Winchester as a part of the guard. At this place this affiant was discharged. In going from York Town to the Shenandoah River this affiant was under the command of his Captain Buckner Stith, Thomas Jones was Colonel and General Meriwether had command of the American troops sent to guard the prisoners –

He hereby 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 before me the 26th September 1840

S/ John Schirm, JP

S/ Joshua Hightower



[John Collier, a clergyman, and Benjamin G Shields gave the standard supporting affidavit.]
Interrogatories propounded by the undersigned Justice of the peace to the said Joshua Hightower
1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In Richmond County in Virginia in the year 1739

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer – I have no record of my age – but state the time from information of my parents derived when I was young but remember the year [several indecipherable words]

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

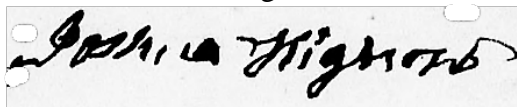
Answer – In Brunswick County in Virginia having removed from Richmond to Brunswick when about eight or 10 years old. From Brunswick County I removed to Wilkes County in Georgia at the close of the war but don't recollect the year – lived in Wilkes County till the year 1819 and in that year removed to Alabama and have lived in Marengo County Alabama since 1819 to the present time –

How were you called into service?

Answer – I volunteered upon every occasion when I served –
State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served.

I have already stated the names of such as I served under and have already explained the circumstances attending my service as fully as my memory will now enable me. If the rolls of Colonel Dicks Regiment are in existence or the rolls of any of the companies in which I served can be found I have no doubt my name will appear – I do not know whether any of the rolls are in existence or not. I filed a declaration of my services as a revolutionary soldier shortly after the law 1832 passed, and had it forwarded to the War Department by mail – but have never heard from it since – I engaged the services of a lawyer to present my claim in proper legal form several years ago & he has been often urged to attend to my business but he postponed it from time to time and finally died without doing anything with my business. I state this to explain the delay which has occurred in pressing my claims.

S/ Joshua Hightower

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Hightower". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

S/ John Schirm, JP

The said Joshua Hightower being duly sworn says that he is unable by reason of extreme old age and consequent bodily infirmity to attend court to make this declaration and therefore has made the same before a justice of the peace

S/ Joshua Hightower

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for six months service as a private in the Virginia and South Carolina militia.]