

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William P. Hamlett S13305

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/6/13 rev'd 2/5/14

[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.]

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Virginia: At a Court held for Charlotte County the 5th day of December 1831

On this 5th day of December 1831 personally appeared before the County Court of Charlotte being a Court of record William P Hamlett resident in Charlotte County aged seventy-two years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820. That he the said William P Hamlett enlisted as a soldier for the term of during the Revolutionary war sometime in the month of July or August 1780 (that which month or day of said months he cannot now recollect) at Genito Bridge in the County of Powhatan Virginia into the Company commanded by Captain Peter Randolph in the first Regiment commanded by Colonel Everett Meade in the line of the State of Virginia on the Virginia Continental establishment: That he continued to serve in the said Corps for upwards of twelve months or until the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at little York Town [October 19, 1781] that he never obtained any regular written discharge: owing to this circumstance, himself together with several others of his Companions to wit, Lovey Shelton, Leonard Shelton & some others had obtained furloughs or permits to go home to see their families in the County of Pittsylvania and was on their return to join the Army at little York when they were met on their return in the lower end of Prince Edward County by an express sent out from York by the Commander in Chief and discharged by saying to us that he was sent out to us & all others for that purpose and to tell us that we might return home as the British Troops under Command of Lord Cornwallis had surrendered, that General Washington was daily and hourly discharging his men & that the Army with some exception would soon be disbanded, as such that our services was no longer required. That he did not think any other discharge was necessary or ever would be as he was explicitly informed by the said express that himself & all others were forth with discharged from the said service as the surrender of Cornwallis was considered the end of the war: – That he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension whatever except the present: that his name is not on the pension Roll of any state and that the following all the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension to wit: That he did not know until a few years ago that Congress had made such provision for her officers & soldiers of the revolution and further that until lately he had most of his children with him that by their and his industry and his wife they were enabled to make out to live without the assistance of his Country that they have all left him except his youngest son George, and an unfortunate son named John who is an entire idiot, who troublesome and expensive, that since his Children has left him, he has been compelled to go in

debt in order to support himself, his unfortunate son John who is about 30 years old and his wife named Catharine aged about seventy years who is not able to give him much assistance & will shortly be an expense that in consequence of his being compelled to go in debt to support himself & family the merchants Messrs. Watkins, Green & Co., & William Smith to whom he is indebted has compelled him to convey unto them every atom of property which he has in the world to secure the payment & if they were so disposed they could in ten days that best him of his home which is a small parcel of 92 acres of land which is poor & nearly all cut down and worn out & some Stock as per schedule hereto annexed, that his son George & his wife lives with him & but for George & his wife's exertions himself & wife & his unfortunate son John must suffer for the necessities of life, that he is old & infirm & not able to labor; his occupation is farming & plantering – and in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me (except the conveyance that is before mentioned to Messrs. Watkins & Green & co- & William Smith which it is believed if said Deed was forced & closed would not be sufficient to discharge the debt there and due to them) any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. There has been no material change in my property since the 18th March 1818 more than using the Stock in a common way for the support of my family or the purchase of a horse lately which is in the schedule.

Description of property	names of persons to whom disposed	Time of sale	Amount of money or description of property received in return
92 acres of Land, one black horse, 6 head of cattle, 23 head of sheep, 10 head of hogs	William B Green & Co. and William Smith by Deed of trust		Merchandise & other property for family support as per deed of trust above mentioned
			William P Hamlett

And the said William P Hamlett also introduced in Court an affidavit of William Truit¹ which follows in these words – Charlotte County to wit: This day William Truit came before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Charlotte and made oath that William P Hamlett enlisted as a regular soldier in the Virginia state line and continued in service from the time he enlisted until the close of the revolutionary war in a Company commanded by Captain Peter Randolph whose Company belonged to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Everett Meade. Given under my hand this 12th day of September 1831

S/ Jos: M. Daniel, JP

Whereupon it appears to the satisfaction of the Court that the said William P Hamlett did serve in the revolutionary war as stated in the preceding declaration against the Common enemy for the term of 9 months under one engagement on the Continental establishment – and the Court doth certify that the total amount in value of property exhibited in the schedule is \$251.

[Note there follows a transcript of the deed of trust which I have not bothered to transcribe

¹ [William Truit S6266](#)

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State of Virginia At a Court held for Charlotte County this 6th day of August in the year 1832.

Personally appeared in Open Court William P Hamlett resident in said County aged about Seventy-three 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 June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1780 in the month of July or August (which month or day of said month he cannot now recollect) at Genito Bridge in the County of Powhatan Virginia into the Company commanded by Captain Peter Randolph in the first Regiment commanded by Colonel Everett Mead in the line distinguished & known at that time as the State line of Virginia on Continental Establishment. That he engaged in said service as a soldier for the period of during the war of the Revolution and continued in said service until he was discharged which was when the British troops under the Command of the Earl Cornwallis surrendered at little York [October 19, 1781] as set forth in a former declaration of the 5th of December 1831. That he deems it unnecessary to herein reiterate the details therein contained as that declaration & other documentary testimony thereto attached will accompany this & he refers the Honorable Secretary of War to that declaration. That it is recorded in the Clerk's Office of this County & he now refers this most worshipful Court to the same for a more detailed account of his services in the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment. That his claims for his services & for his pension under the Act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 before referred to he is informed is rejected by the Honorable Department of War upon the grounds that he did not belong to the Continental line of Virginia, as such he begs leave to state respectfully to state to the Honorable Department what was his explicit understanding at the time he entered the service for his Country in the Virginia State line upon Continental Establishment (to wit) Captain Randolph & others informed him when he enlisted that his Company belonged to the State line of Virginia upon the Continental Establishment: That they were Regulars for the Continent of America & were down to serve anywhere their services were required & that they were entitled to the same Bounty in Lands, money & rations that other regulars were entitled to that were enlisted in other States of the Continent. He did not understand that he was enlisted for the exclusive service of Virginia: It is true that Virginia promised him a Bounty in Land as well as the United States and it is also true that she has lately complied for her part by granting him his Land. There were other troops belonging to the Virginia Continental establishment besides the State Line there was the troops called and known by the name of the Virginia State Legion & for instance there was Colonel Lee's Regiment distinguished Colonel Lee's Legion of honor; they he is informed belong to the same establishment & were entitled to the same Bounty & pay of the other Virginia Continental Regulars and were subject to the services; that they merely bore these different names for distinction; Consequently he earnestly hopes & trust that the Honorable Department of War will put a different construction upon his case & will grant him his claims to his Bounty in Land & money thus promised him when he entered the service of his country which has been so long due him together with his pension.

The declarant further states that previous to these services in the Regular Army of the Revolutionary War, that he was drafted in the County of Pittsylvania into the Virginia Militia into the Company commanded by Captain Gabriel Shelton for the term of three months in the Revolutionary War & was marched to Guilford Court House in the State of North Carolina that

their & in the neighborhood thereof he served his term out which expired three days previous to the defeat of the Southern Army under the command of General Horatio Gates [August 15-16, 1780 in the Battle of Camden], he cannot recollect whether he obtained a written discharge if he did he has lost it. In a very short time after he returned home he was again Drafted into the Militia service for the term of three months more under the Command of the same Captain Shelton & was marched down into the lower parts of Virginia to divers places upon the Pamunkey & James Rivers below Richmond watching the movements of the enemy, the most conspicuous now in his memory is Point of Fork upon James River, Ruffin's ferry on Pamunkey & Morbin Hills [Malvern Hills] upon James River where he was discharged from this last tour in the Militia service, he never was in any Battle during his service in the Militia or Continental Regular Army. That on his way home from the latter place (Morbin Hills) on arriving at Genite Bridge in the County of Powhatan he entered into the service of the Virginia State line on Continental establishment as set forth in his declaration before referred to; He is also informed as a further reason why the Honorable Department of War has not granted his claim for his Revolutionary services is that his nor his Officers names cannot be found upon the Army Rolls which he thinks is not consistent with reason & justice for if his Officers neglected their duty in making their proper returns it should not be a bar against his right to his claim for his services rendered his Country as he has established his services by the affidavits of William Truit who served in the same Corps with himself as will appear by reference to his former declaration before mentioned. He has no record of his age; he lived in Pittsylvania County when called into the service, and he has lived there & in Charlotte County ever since the Revolution, his field Officers in the Militia were General Stephens [Edward Stevens] & Colonel Wilson he does not remember their Christian names nor does he remember the number of the Regiment he was attached to in the two militia tours was but General Stephens was commanding General in both; he does not remember to have seen any of the regular Officers whilst in the Militia service except the Baron Steuben, whom he saw in the last tour he served in the lower part of Virginia. He has no other evidence to offer. He thinks it will be seen from the foregoing statements in this & his former declaration that he served about one year & 8 months in the Revolutionary War. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

S/ William Hamlett

[p 35: On May 6, 1833, Elisha Collins, an ordained minister of the gospel of the Baptist persuasion gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

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I James Hamlet of Campbell County & State of Virginia do hereby certify that my brother William Hamlet was called into the military service of the United States at the time when the British Army under Cornwallis marched to Guilford in the State of North Carolina and in a short time after he returned he served another tour at Point of Fork upon James River when he enlisted into the Continental line of the State of Virginia to serve during the Revolutionary War, which soon after terminated.

Given under my hand this 12th day of April 1833

S/ James Hamlet

James Hamlet

[p 38]

This day William Trewit [sic, William Truit] of the age of 71 years personally appeared before me Thomas Fox a Justice of the peace for the County of Campbell and State of Virginia and was by me sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God after which he deposes and saith that sometime in the year 1781 he was present on the bank of the Appomattox River near Geneto Bridge on the Powhatan side of said River he saw William Hamlet Enlisted under Captain Peter Randolph of the Virginia State line the said Hamlet was at that time a resident of the County of Pittsylvania he further saith that he and the said Hamlet was in the same Captain Randolph's Company together until the surrender of Cornwallis when they were both discharged he don't recollect the precise length of the above tower [tour] of service but he the said deponent served upwards of eleven [?]² Months in the company aforesaid and he thinks William Hamlet enlisted about one month after he the said deponent did and he further saith that the said William Hamlet came to his mother's who was then a widow and a resident of the County of Amelia and said he was then from a tower of Service in the Militia and said he had been discharged at the Mobin Hills on James River he don't know how long the aforesaid Tower of service was and further this deponent saith not.

S/ William Trewit, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia service.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 7-page file

I James Hamlet of Campbell County do hereby certify that my brother William Hamlet was called into the military service of the United States at the time when the British Army under Cornwallis marched to Guilford, and in a short time after he returned he served another tour at the Pointy Fork on James River where he enlisted to serve during the war, which soon after terminated.

S/ James Hamlet

James Hamlet

[Attested in Campbell County March 2, 1831]

Charlotte County to wit

This day William Truit came before me a justice of the peace for the County of Charlotte and made oath that William P Hamlett enlisted a regular soldier in the Virginia State line, and

James

continued in service from the time he enlisted until the close of the revolutionary war, in a company commanded by Captain Peter Randolph, whose company belonged to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Everett Meade –

Given under my hand this 12th day of September 1831

S/ Jas M. Daniel, JP

[Transcriber's Note: This file contains a 2 page document signed by the veteran but a substantial portion of the first page of it is illegible as posted online. If anyone has a transcript of the entire document, we would welcome the opportunity to post it here.]