

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Abram Hill S15890

fn51NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

revd 5/4/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Missouri, County of Ray: Circuit Court October Term 1834

On this 14th day of October 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the judge of the Circuit Court of Ray County in the State aforesaid now sitting Abram Hill aged 75 years the 24th day of July last, 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. When I was two years old my parents moved from Loudoun County in the State of Virginia where I lived till the commencement of the Revolutionary War, at which time I was about 16 years old. At that time all between 16 to 50 years old were enrolled for service. After this my father moved into North Carolina on Nolichucky River which is now Tennessee State. At which time the Cherokee Indians were frequently amongst us and very friendly but their friendship did not last long, and we were a small settlement just beginning to settle on that River. The Indians with runaways and Tories to back them soon drove us into our little forts, and soon there came a rumor from them which told that they were embodying to come and destroy our old settlements, at which news Colonel John Sevier with all the men he could get and myself among the rest went on to meet them, we met them about 50 or 60 miles from the settlement on a Creek called Boyd's Creek. We killed 16 of them I myself killed one. Colonel Sevier and Colonel Carter had sent on to Colonel William Campbell in Virginia for assistance and we retreated a few miles back into an Island in French Broad River and remained there a few days till Colonel Campbell came on with about 500 men. Then we went on and burned 15 or 16 Towns – we killed several men and brought in 32 prisoners, with the loss on our part of some few men. This I think was about the year 1777, my Captain was Robert King. The field officers were Tipton [sic, Tipton] and Walton Majors. I think the place where I lived on the Nolichucky was in what was then called Washington County. I think I went as before stated, as a volunteer. Shortly after my return from the above tour Colonel Sevier told me if I would enlist a company of Rangers he would get me a Captain's commission, & accordingly I enlisted about 30 young men and Col. Severe got me the commission, which commission I held and served under about four years. My little company called the Rangers were both night and day almost, in pursuit of the enemy and guarding our little garrisons. I served two other tours to the Indian towns while I had my commission which I think was about the year 1778 or 1779 under Colonel John Sevier Walton was our Major, the last tour I think Major Tipton was not with us. Our pilots at one time were Noah Heathhorn at another time Noonday, a half Indian, and

at the other time John Watts, other names I do not remember, but I served five tours to the Indian towns, three in the time of the Revolutionary War and two afterwards. I killed one other Indian the second tour served he was called the big fish [sic, Big Fish]. We at length treated with the Cherokees which I think was about the year 1780. The treaty was held in the Long Island of Holston River. Then I gave up my commission and for a short time lived quietly at home. Although we were called to go against the British (whether by draft or whether he volunteered I do not remember but I believe we were drafted) but there were about 500 of us. We went into South Carolina as infantry. I think commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], who near the high hills of Santee, ordered us under General Marion. As mounted infantry we served under him Marion four months. We generally lay in the big Swamp of Santee. The British laid at Moncks Corner about 20 miles on this side of Charleston. We gave their light horse many a handsome chase. I entered this last tour in the company of Infantry I think in the year __ [blank in original] in the fall of that year, my Captain in this last tour was James Wilson. My residence then was the same place Washington County, then North Carolina & my term of service four months. In going from where I then lived to the big Swamp of Santee we went through Camden in South Carolina. The times herein before mentioned are stated with as much precision as I am now able to recollect. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Questions by the Court 1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the State of New Jersey July the 24th 1759.

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

Answer. I have it in a leaf that I took from my father's Bible. It is here in my possession (the record was produced and affirms the time of his birth as above stated)

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in Washington County (then) North Carolina when called into service. I lived since the revolutionary war at the same place Washington County North Carolina, afterwards Tennessee State and in Jefferson County in the same State & Cocke County till the year 1819 when I came to Missouri State and have lived in the County of Ray in said State till a short time past. I now live in Carroll County Missouri. I kept a ferry across French Broad at the mouth of the Nolichucky and ferried across both rivers for upwards of 30 years during which time I lived some times on one side in Jefferson County and sometimes on the other in Cocke County. I commenced to keeping that ferry soon after the war of the Revolution about the year 1783 or 4.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer. I think I was a volunteer the first time I went into service against the Indians as before stated. I understood that every able-bodied man in the County was required to go. I went willingly and without further to do about it but whether it was properly a draft or whether a volunteer company in a military point of view I cannot say – when I went as Captain of the company of Rangers as before stated I was a volunteer, and when I went with the company of Infantry under Marion as before stated I was I think drafted. I never served as a Substitute.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I do not recollect the names of any officers or regiments referred to, that was with our troops, I believe there were none with us. The general circumstances of my service are as by me first above stated.

6th Did you ever receive a commission; and if so by whom was it signed; and what has become of it?

Answer: I received a Captain's commission, but cannot recollect the name of the Governor by whom it was Signed, but it was signed by the then Governor of North Carolina, I have lost or mislaid it.

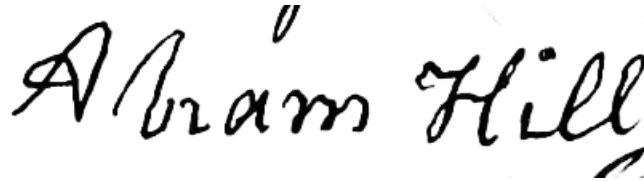
7th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I received two discharges, when out against the Indians as above stated I received a discharge given by Captain King & when out against the British I received a discharge given by Captain Wilson-- they are both lost or mislaid.

8th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution

Answer: I am known by Hugh R. Smith, a clergyman, and Jeremiah Crowley.

S/ Abram Hill

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abram Hill". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

[Hugh R. Smith, a clergyman, and Jeremiah Crowley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 14]

[The following is my attempt to give a literal, line-by-line transcription of what I believe to be an account written by the applicant himself in support of his application for a pension. Below the literal transcription, I give my attempt to decipher the same with some editorial changes in an attempt to make sense of it, but others may be able to offer a better 'translation.']

State of Misoury County of Ray

To the Honorable Gentlemen of the war offis

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com to your knoledg.

S/ Abram Hill

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 18th day of August A. D. 1840

S/ Henry Jacobs, JP

[My edited version of the above]

State of Missouri, County of Ray

To the Honorable Gentlemen of the War office.

Not having presence of mind when my deposition was written, I wish to mention some more particulars of my service. That service was altogether in the mounted infantry and at my own expense for both my horse and myself except what time I was under General Marion -- most part of that time we were on the expense of the poor Tories. My first performed mounted service when I lived in East Tennessee in Washington County. I lived in the Loes [?] Settlement on the very frontier. The Indians frequently were troublesome. This area was my home about seven years during the time of the revolutionary war. I was called out frequently and did serve numerous tours both day and night for many years. I served nearly half my time as a Ranger after the Indians, building and strengthening garrisons and burying the dead. John Sevier was Lieutenant Colonel under Carter Colonel, Jacob Brown likewise, our old Colonel Charles Robeson sometimes was with us but we were under the command of John Sevier. He lived close by me. He never served in a tour in all his life but I was with him except that one at King's Mountain, neither during the time of the revolutionary war or afterwards. I believe I served a great deal more than he ever did during the seven years I lived at that place. It is hard to tell for it was in the woods and mountains and in the settlements. I was summonsed as Life guard at the Ninety Six, at the Long Island on Holston River, I was summonsed frequently after the Tories and outliers. There were Tories of the name of Stout, of the name Honeycutt, of the name Hightower, of the name Pevely [?] -- we killed some of them and some handed to the Indians and some handed into the old states. I should have mentioned those services in my first papers but I understood the period of time and place had to be mentioned which I cannot do. Yet I have served under Captain James Wilson. I have served under his Lieutenant Daniel Cannedny [Kennedy?] and I have served under James Martin. I believe my whole service to have been altogether not less than two full years but in my investigation I shall say I have served one full year on my own expense for myself and horse. This I have served I know when under the sanction of law and when lawfully ordered out all in the time of the Revolutionary War.

I am sorry to trouble you so much but I expect it will be the last time. I am now 81 years old

the 24th of July past. I mentioned in my first papers I served three tours in the Indian towns in the time of the revolutionary war, and two tours afterwards. I am deemed a private. I do not care about what name this service is I did do. If I draw pay as a private, I am satisfied. I am a poor ?? old man. I claim no thing but justice and that I have no doubt of so far as comes to your knowledge.

S/ Abram Hill

[Hugh R. Smith, a clergyman, and Daniel Patton, a clergyman, attest the statement.]

State of Missouri, County of Ray

On this 29th day of July 1835 personally appeared before me James Dickie a Justice of the court for the County aforesaid Abram Hill, a resident of Missouri in the County of Ray, aged 76 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

I Abram Hill was born in the State of New Jersey, on the 24th day of July 1759, according to my father's record, which is now in my possession. At two years of age my father moved into Loudoun County Virginia, where I remained until the commencement of the revolutionary war. I was then about 16 years of age. At this time my father moved to North Carolina and lived on Nolichucky River, which Section of Country at present is in the State of Tennessee, about the time the Cherokee Indians were frequently amongst us and appeared entirely friendly, but their friendliness was of short duration, Our settlement was small, and weak. The Indians began to plunder and kill and the Tories and British backed them, and we were soon driven into little Forts. Then there came a runner with information that they were embodying with a view of destroying our settlement entirely. At that news Colonel John Sevier with all the men he could raise (together with myself) went on to meet them we met them about 50 or 60 miles from our settlement on Boyd's Creek, we there had a skirmish, and killed 16 of them, I killed one of the number, a few of our men were slightly wounded. Colonel Sevier and Colonel Carter had sent on to Colonel William Campbell of Virginia for assistance, and we retreated back a few miles into an Island in French Broad River, where we remained a few days, at which time Colonel Campbell came on with about 500 men, we then went on and burnt 15 or 16 Indian towns, which had been erected on the Hiwassee, Tellico and Tennessee rivers, we also killed several more Indians, and brought in 32 prisoners, we lost a few of our men. This was in the year 1776 or '77, my Captain was Robert King, our field officers were Tipton and Walton, both Majors, and here ended my first tour, which was about 60 days. Immediately after these services were performed, Colonel Sevier told me if I would enlist a company of Rangers, he would get me a Captain's commission. I accordingly enlisted about 30 young men, and Col. Sevier obtained a commission for me, which I held, and served under between three and four years. This commission was signed by the then acting Governor of North Carolina or his agent, but which of them I do not precisely remember. About the year 1777 I was called into service, early in the spring season of that year, and rendezvoused at a place called the Greasy Cove, to march from thence to the Indian towns called the Overhill towns, my orders were issued by Colonel Sevier. I met agreeably to my orders, but could only procure 16 men, Colonel Sevier then thought proper to attach my little squad to another company, which was commanded by Captain Prewitt, and I then became Lieutenant under Prewitt, and served as such until Captain Prewitt received a fatal wound. Those Indian towns were on the head waters of Tennessee River, between the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains, we then crossed the Allegheny mountains on what is called the bald mountain road, we crossed French broad River just below the mouth of Swannanoa River, we then crossed big Pigeon River at the Indian old fields, where we spent a part of the night, we then went on 16 or 18 miles to the first town, at the break of day we hurried on, we were then discovered by a party of Indians our horses being in tolerable order we out ran them and arrived at the town before the Indians, we found some of their warriors asleep, they had got in the evening before with several scalps which they taken at our

settlement. They had been in a frolic and had laid down to take a little repose, but we waked them by our martial music, and killed between 30 and 40 of them, at that place I killed a noted Indians called the Big Fish, we then left Major Walton with 25 men to guard the prisoners & plunder which we had taken, and the rest of us hurried on. The way was a difficult one to find, their runners discovered us and they fled before we arrived at the town, which was 16 or 18 miles from where we had the last battle, above mentioned, we unfortunately lost two of our men at one of the towns, where a small water course passed: Captain Prewitt, John Bond and Valentine Sevier hurried across thinking to find some of the enemy or some valuable property. Sevier was sitting on his horse watching for the Indians. The other two were in one of the houses searching for plunder, at which time about 50 Indians jumped up out of some high weeds and killed John Bond and took his head with them. Captain Prewitt was shot through his neck, but ran back and got under the river bank which was under our fire. We hurried over, but the Indians had taken up a laurel spur where our horses could not go, I then took command of our company, we carried Captain Prewitt back to the settlement, and in a short time he died of his wounds, we were four or five days in getting to where we left Major Walton, who had great need of our assistance, as the Indians had been firing upon him for several days in succession, we met Major Walton's waiter painted like an Indian, we hurried on as fast as possible to his assistance, we arrived at the place late in the evening, the Indians had ceased firing, but before we could place out our sentinels they fired a platoon at us and continued to fire from different directions about half the night, we put out all our fires, and every man lay upon his arms, our horses were kept in the center. They cursed and abused us very much, and occasionally we returned the same kind of compliments, at length Colonel Sevier told them that if they fired another gun that night, he would kill every one of his prisoners. They then ceased to fire at us, at the break of day my company was ordered to scout the neighborhood, in order to ascertain whether the Indians had gone off or not, we found none of them, one little event took place which I shall mention relative to our benevolent Colonel concerning an Indian woman who came to us and said she was starving, the Colonel then gave her a large crib of corn together with a bill of sale. He also left letters with her for the other Indians, we then returned to our homes unmolested. This tour did not exceed 30 days. About one year after I had served my second tour, which I think was in 1778 I was called upon by Colonel John Sevier to rendezvous at the big bend of Nolichucky River. I obeyed the order, but could only parade 22 man, our County had obtained more strength, about 800 met, in order to march to the Indian nation, we were all mounted Infantry, we formed peace with some few of the Cherokee Indians on Tennessee River, with the Chota town, Cittico town, and Tellico towns, Colonel Sevier sent the agent, or a superintendent to notify them of our coming, in order to let them know that we were not going against them but that we were going against the Chickamaugas, hoping they would help us to plenty of their water melon. About 50 of their young warriors offered their services, and was willing to join us, but our Colonel did not accept their offer for fear of treachery, I suppose. He desired two of them to pilot us to the Chickamauga towns and at his request they sent John Watts, and a half breed called Noonday. They piloted us on to the Shumake Valley towns, but the Indians had left their homes, John Watts had told us that there was some prisoners there which he knew he could get if he could be permitted to go after them, Colonel Sevier sent him after them, he met with the prisoners I think the next day. There was two, a young man and a young woman they had portioned [?] the young woman with a good horse and saddle, a good suit of clothes, they were both taken from our settlement by those Indians. Watts informed us that those Indians were anxious to make peace, however we burnt several towns, in passing on to one of the principal towns a few of our boys went forward and caught a white man there, who tried to run from them, and they shot him down, we discovered from his papers that his name was Patrick Clemons. We took several squaws and children, which we were kept as prisoners until the treaty of the Long Island of Holston. Then we gave up all their prisoners, and they gave up ours. But before this transpired [?] we burnt a number of their towns, we also went to Coosa River, and burnt the main town, which [was] called Easthanatter [?], Colonel Sevier sent Watts to see some of the Chiefs of that place, who said they desired peace. I do not

remember that they fired a single gun as we returned home Sevier sent Watts forward to notify the principal chiefs to meet us at the Coteau town, as he wanted a friendly talk with them. Shortly after this we treated with them at the Long Island of Holston River. This tour lasted about 60 days, our officers were Colonel Sevier and Majors Walton and Oar, at the end of this tour I resigned my Commission.

In the year 1781 we were called upon to march against the British and a number of us were drafted. I think there were about 500, we were commanded by Colonel John Sevier, and marched into the State of South Carolina, by way of Camden &c we passed by the infantry commanded (I think) by General Greene near the high hills of Santee, we were then placed under the command of General Marion as we were mounted Infantry, we served under Marion four months, we generally lay in the big swamp of Santee. The British lay at Moncks Corner about 20 miles from Charleston, we gave their light Horse men a handsome chase whilst we were there, at length an express arrived which brought us the Joyful news of the surrender of Cornwallis, which revived our spirits very much, as we were worn out with fatigue &c. I will here remark that I served two tours as a Captain and two tours as a private, all of which I [indecipherable word] (without predicting anything for myself) to the Honorable Judges of the department. In conclusion I will state that I resided in Washington County at the time I was called into service, and the Captain under whom I served the last mentioned tour was James Wilson.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State only on that of the agency of the State of Missouri.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written.

S/ James Dickie, J. C. J.

S/ Abram Hill

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace within and for the County of Ray Abram Hill, who being duly sworn deposed 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 herein Viz. First tour 60 days as a private, Second tour 30 days, 15 days as Lieutenant and the other 15 days as Captain, third tour 60 days as Captain. Fourth tour four months as a private. The officers under whom I served the above mentioned to four tours are stated in my declaration, and for such services I claim a pension.

S/ Abram Hill

Nov. 1st, 1835

[William Jack of Ray County, Missouri gave a supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]