

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Hignight S16153

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of Virginia Lee County towit

On this 21st day of October 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the County Court of said county, now sitting, James Hignight a resident of said county aged seventy nine years the 1st day of June 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 was drafted into the service of the United States in the Malitia of Virginia in April or May 1777 in Berkley [sic: Berkeley] County Virginia, and was marched to Wheeling in Virginia to guard the Frontier from the North Western Indians. John Vanmeter of the Virginia Malitia was the applicants captain, and McIntire and Hanto[?] Vanmeter the Lieut. & Ensign. The company remained three months at Wheeling, having several partial skirmishes with the Indians, in which our loss was one man killed, and it was not known of more than one Indian being killed by our company. On our march from Berkley to Wheeling, we went by the way of Fort pitt, where we received our arms and ammunition, and went from thence to Wheeling, in Boats down the Ohio River. Col. Zachariah Morgan [sic: Zackquil Morgan] was in command at fort Pitt when we received the guns and ammunition, and this declarants recollection at this time is, that Morgan had previously been an officer under the King of Great Britain. The declarant with his company were discharged at wheeling after the term of their enlistment had expired, which was for three months. For this service, the declarant obtained a discharge signed by Capt. Vanmeter, which he afterwards lost in a tour of service which he performed in the South, by having his pocket Book which contained it, stolen from him at his camp. In the fall of 1777 this applicant removed from Virginia to Wake county in North Carolina, where he was drafted in the summer of 1778 to serve a tour of five months in aid of the South Carolina line. In this enlistment Jamison was his Capt. and was marched to Santee River near the Raft Swamps east of Charlestown in So. Carolina [Charleston SC], and placed in the regt commanded Col Archey Lytle [Archibald Lytle], a Continental officer, as well as the declarant now recollects. In this enlistment the declarant and his company and the regiment in which they were placed were kept marching through the Country in the neighbourhood of the Swamps, at short intervals, to watch the Scotch Tories and keep them in check, and returning home at the expiration of his time without receiving a discharge, untill the year following. As soon as the applicant returned home from this enlistment, another draft took place in his company, and this applicant was again drafted and started immediately into service for Charlestown. This was in December 1778. On this expedition Woodson Daniel was his captain, William Handy[?] the Lieutenant, and William Mobley the Ensign. James Saunders the Col. In marching to Charlestown at Salisbury in North Carolina Col. Saunders Regt. joined two other Regts one of which was composed of nine month men [militiamen drafted for nine months rather than the normal three months]. These three Regts were all under the command of Gen'l. Griffith Rutherford under whom we marched to the neighbourhood of Charlestown. At what was called the ten mile house from Charlestown, all the Two [sic] Malitia Regiments mentioned declared that they would not march any further on that direction, except this declarant and four others of his mess, and we were stopped at this place two or three days, before the men could be got to march. The Gen'l. having to send into Charlestown for the laws and regulations in relation to Malitia service. The men who rebelled were under the impression that they could not be taken to serve out of their own State, and many, or all of them were from North Carolina, and were now in South Carolina, and were here informed that they had to march into Georgia. On hearing the laws and regulations read to them however, they again took up their line of march towards Georgia. From the ten mile house we marched on the direction to Purysburg [sic:

Purysburgh SC] on the Savannah River, but after leaving the ten mile house some distance, at the forks of the road, near Bacon Bridge [on the Ashley River near old Dorchester] on the Edisto River, Col. Frank Locke's [Francis Locke's] Regt. of the Salisbury Malitia took the right hand road to return home, and could not be prevailed on by Gen'l. Rutherford to take the Georgia road untill he put them under guard and turned them by compulsion. For this second mutiny, several of the mutiniers, were whipped, which put an end to the spirit of insubordination which had been for several days disturbing the army. At Purysburgh Gen'l. Rutherford's command joined Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln of the continental army, with whom the declarant remained for a short time, when he, with a detachment of about three hundred, under the command of Colonel Lyttle of of the Regulars, as an enlite [elite?] corps marched from Purysburg up the Savannah River on the South Carolina side to watch the British, who were on the Georgia side of the river, and to endeavour to prevent their crossing. The declarant was on this detached service two or three months, when the detachment returned to the main army on this detached service we proceeded upt the river to opposite Augusta where the British were then stationed, we, being previously joined by Gen'l Ash [sic: John Ashe], and Col [Samuel] Elbert, Col. Williamson [Gen. Andrew Williamson] and Col. Caswell [see endnote] with their respective commands. on our approach to Augusta the British retreated from the place, and we crossed the river and entered the Town [see endnote]. From Augusta we followed the British to Briar Creek, where the British attacked us [3 Mar], when Gen'l. Ash with his command, which was our principal force deserted us, by which the rest of the detachment were mostly killed or taken. Ashe's men in endeavouring to escape came to a Bridge across the creek, which had been broken up and not being able to cross the creek, & surrounded by the British on the rear, were also nearly all taken prisoners, without having participated in the fight. Col. Lytell with his detachment, of which this declarant was one, were the last on the ground and fought until they were nearly surrounded, and found it extremely difficult to effect their escape, which they however did, after sustaining considerable loss. From Brier Creek Col. Lytell with his detachment crossed the river, where we met with Gen'l. Rutherford who was coming to our support, and then Col. Lytill left us and went to Gen'l. Lyncoln. Gen'l. Rutherford stationed us at a place on the river called the two sisters where we remained until the end of our enlistment from whence we returned home, Gen'l. Rutherford having previously left us, and also Col. Saunders of the regiment to which the declarant belonged. After their departure the principal officer in command at the two sisters were Col. Spurlock of the North Carolina Malitia Capt. Daniel brought us home in a body and gave us discharges after we got home, my Discharge from Capt Woodson Daniel marked (A) is herewith filed in proof of this declaration. It was after my return home from this tour that Col. Michael Rogers of the Wake Malitia gave me a discharge for my previous tour of five months, dated on the 13th day of May 1779 which, marked (B) is also herewith filed as proof of this declaration as to that service. Each of these two tours of service was for five months. After my return home from my last service, I removed into Surry County in North Carolina, when in a little time another requisition was made to go to Charlestown, as an attack was expected by the British on that place. In this requisition this declarant had a young brother who volunteered in the service, which again determined this declarant to go also. He therefore took the place of a poor man who was drafted, and who seemed very unwilling to go, without any thing for so doing, except the promise of the said poor man to make some little fixing to the cabin of this declarant's mother, who was a widow, and whos cabin had not been prepared to make her comfortable in the winter. The declarant's principal inducement to go on this tour was to be enabled to take care of his young brother whilst in service. The declarant started on this tour some time before christmas in 1779 in the company commanded by Capt. Richard Allen under whom he marched till we joined the regt. commanded by Col. Andrew Hampton, to which the declarant was attached, and another regt. commanded by Col. Harnright in the Brigade commanded by Genl. Littleton all of the Malitia. After we joined Col. Hampton, he wanted a company of Pioneers, and one was formed of about ten men and the declarant was appointed a Sergeant to command them. In this capacity the declarant performed the Balance of the march to Charlestown, and served his whole tour in the same, which was a period of five

months. At Charlestown we joined the army of Genl. Lyncoln, who then commanded them, and the only duty performed by the army during this term of service was in keeping guard and fortifying around the city of Charlestown. The British made no attack upon the place until after this declarant was discharged, which was in the spring of 1780. [see endnote.] For this last service, the declarant had a regular discharge, which he has somehow lost, as he cannot find it among his papers. And indeed it is altogether accidental that he has the two discharges which he now produces, as he never expected they would be of any service to him, and took no care of them on that account. He does not recollect that he has seen them in thirty years untill the passage of the law under which he makes his application, after which, in hunting through his old papers, he found them, without knowing previously that they had been preserved. The discharge for the last mentioned service he cannot find. In the fall of 1781 [sic: 1780] the declarant turned out a volunteer on the expedition to King's Mountain and joined the regiment of North Carolina Malitia commanded by Col Benjamin Cleveland and marched with him to intercept Major or Col. Ferguson [Maj. Patrick Ferguson] in the company commanded by Capt. Benjamin Hearn [sic: Benjamin Herndon]. The declarant belonged to the foot troops and was left behind by the mounted men under the care of Capt. Richard Allen & Col. [Elijah] Isaacs; the declarant's Capt. having a horse went forward with the mounted troops. The declarant was of course not in the battle [Kings Mountain, 7 Oct 1780], which was fought by the mounted men before the foot troops could get up, who did not arrive at the Battle ground until the morning after the Battle. Col. Cleveland was the oldest officer in command on the expedition, but relinquished his right to Col. Wm. Campbell [William Campbell] of the Virginia troops, because he had the largest number of men, and as they were fighting furthest from home, it would encourage them to place their officer in chief command. The other officers commanding regiments were Col. [Isaac] Shelby, Col. [John] Sevier, and Col. Williams or Williamson [James Williams], the last of whom was from South Carolina, and who was wounded in the battle and died the 2^d. or 3^d. day thereof with his wounds. a Capt. Bell from Georgia was also wounded and died on the same night of the Col. at Pendletons old fields on broad river, and they were both buried in one grave. The declarant with the other foot troops arrived at the Battle ground but a short time before the mounted troops were ready to leave it with the prisoners, and the declarant continued with the army, and helped guard the prisoners to the Moravian Towns [Salem and others] in North Carolina where the declarant remained a short time and then returned home. The declarant obtained no discharge for this service, nor ever drew any pay for it and now thinks he was absent upon the expedition about three months. The declarant performing several other short services against the Tories in North Carolina, but being of but short duration, he thinks it scarcely worth while to name them. They would not all probably exceed a month in duration. For the performance of any of the foregoing services, he knows of no living witness who can prove them. 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 the day & year aforesaid

James hisXmark Hignight

13th May 1779 This May Certify that James Hignutt Was Drafted in the Wake Militia in No,1[?] & has served his Time to the aid of So. Carolina five Months, Certified by Mich. Rogers Col'l.

This is to certify that James Hignite served Five Months in the and in South Carolina under Cornal James Sanders Given under my hand this 17^d May 1779

Woodson Daniel Cap

NOTES:

Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell captured Augusta on 3 Feb 1779 and the British kept the city until May 1781. Col. Richard Caswell does not appear to have been present at the Battle of Briar Creek.

The British siege of Charleston began in the early spring of 1780, and the city surrendered on 12 May.

This is to certify that James Wignote served Five
Months in the Army in South Carolina under Colonel
James Sturges given under my hand this 17th May 1779
.....
Wm. Watson Daniel Gage

13th May 1779 This May
Certify that James Wignote
Was Drafted in the Wake
Militia in Vol. I has served
his Time to the aid of Colours
Line six Months, Certifies
of Militia Request
D O O