

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Hale S1765

f33VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/3/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

State of Tennessee Bledsoe County: County Court: SS

On this eleventh day of February in the year 1833 personally appeared in open court before the worshipful Justices of the County Court for the County of Bledsoe now sitting, John Hale a resident of the County of Bledsoe aforesaid in the State of Tennessee aforesaid aged either seventy-nine or eighty 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. – He entered the service in Bedford County in the State of Virginia and from declarant's best recollection's in the year 1776 as a volunteer in the company commanded by Captain Harry Bluford – John Fields was Lieutenant and Abram Sharp an Ensign in the said Company. Declarant was marched from Bedford County through the Country to what was then the Cherokee Nation, and through it to the Long Island on Holston [River] where he was stationed. During the time declarant was stationed at the Long Island a treaty was held and peace was made with the Cherokees and he was there discharged by Captain Bluford having served this tour as a volunteer under him six months. Declarant then returned to Bedford County Virginia. He received a written discharge for a six months tour to a day from his said Captain. Declarant may mistake the year, but he is certain it was at the time the aforesaid treaty was held Fort declarant has a perfect recollection of having been at the treaty. – Declarant returned from the treaty at the Long Island in the fall of the year – remained at home during the winter and went to school the summer following in Bedford County to one George Lambert. In the fall of the next year after declarant's first term of service – the citizens of Bedford generally subject to Military duty were classed, and numbered in numbers from one to ten, and the numbers drawn for. Declarant recollects that his number was Seven. Not long after this classification & in the same year declarant was called out and entered the service under Captain Charles Watkins¹ – declarant thinks the Lieutenant's name was Milum [perhaps William Milam]. He marched from Bedford County to Richmond and Norfolk and Little York and was marched from place to place without being stationed any length of time at any one until he was discharged – this tour having been called out for, served and discharged at the end of, three months – by Captain Watkins. He then returned home. – About this time a new County was established taken principally off of Bedford called as well as declarant recollects Campbell County, He believes on a division he fell into this

¹ McAllister lists a Captain from Bedford County by the name of Robert Watkins, but no Charles Watkins

new County – James Calaway [James Callaway] was a Colonel in the new County and ___ Quarles [John Quarles] in Bedford County. – After declarant's tour under Watkins he served two, three months tours under Captain Charles Morgan, sometime intervening between the two tours, but how long declarant does not recollect. The first time Morgan was commanded by Colonel Crockett – and the last time by Colonel Campbell. One or the other of the tours, not recollected which, but believed to be the first a man by the name of Rice [perhaps Benjamin Rice] was Lieutenant under Captain Morgan and Heard or Hurt a Lieutenant the other trip. Declarant served two three months tours, making six months, under Captain Morgan – while under him he marched into North Carolina crossed the Yadkin River, the Catawba, Broad River and some distance through the Country but cannot recollect the counties. He was in hearing of the guns at the time of the battle at Ramsour's mill [June 20, 1780], but was not in the engagement. Colonel Campbell, he believes was his commander, at all events he was a long period – Declarant states that beside the tour of duty before stated for all of which he got discharges – he served three other tours of three months each for which he got discharges and one tour of two months for which he got no discharge. When calls were made for men out of each company, they were generally taken from several companies and embodied under one Captain. Declarant is positive as to the length of his service but cannot specify his officers each tour, nor the grade in which they served owing he supposes to the above circumstance – As well as he recollects he was under officers by the name of Baird, Ewen, Logwood & Leftridge or Leftwick and he believes Smith. Declarant cannot more specifically than he has state the periods of the war in which he served. His last Tour was, he thinks in the latter part of the year 1780 – at all events he recollects that he was in his last tour at the time of the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], and was near, but not in it. Declarant performed all his service as a private soldier.

Declarant states positively that he got written discharges for twenty-four months service, and served two months for which he obtained no discharge. Declarant states that he has always been a man in quite moderate circumstances, that he is no scholar, and has never had any papers to preserve, that he did not attach any importance to his discharges, the thought that they would ever be of service to him never having, while he had them, entered his mind. He cannot tell what has become of them, About 30 years ago declarant's house was burnt in Blount County Tennessee and everything in it burned. If he then had his discharges they were burnt, but he is not certain he then had them. Declarant has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service – which he states in all amounted to twenty-six months.

He further states that he was born in Bedford County in the State of Virginia in the year 1753 or 1754.

He has no record of his age, he has in his memory preserved the account given him by his parents & relations.

He was living in Bedford County State of Virginia when called into service. After the close of the war he moved to near Fort Chissel [Fort Chiswell] which he believes is in Wythe County Virginia where he remained only a few months, from there he moved to Greene County Tennessee where he remained about two years – from there to Washington County Tennessee where he lived near ten years, from there to Blount County where he lived about ten years, and from there to Bledsoe County where he has lived over twenty years, and where he still lives.

He states that he was a volunteer six months, and drafted for the balance of his service.

He states that in addition to the names of the officers given in his declaration, he was with Colonels Shelby [Isaac Shelby] at the Long Island & he thinks Avery or Cleveland – and that the

circumstances of his service are given in his declaration as specifically as he can recollect them.

He received discharges from his captains but does not know what has become of them.

He states that he is known in his present neighborhood to John Bridgman Esquire, merchant of Pikeville, Elijah Kirklen Esquire, merchant, Eli Thurman Sheriff of Bledsoe County and James A Whiteside attorney at law who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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.

S/ John Hale, X his mark

[John Dalton, a clergyman, John Bridgman, Elisha Kirklen, Eli Thurman and James A. Whiteside gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]