

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Hamilton S21267
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn87NC
rev'd 4/4/11

[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.]

[fn p. 78-81]

The State of South Carolina

To the Honorable the President and other members of the Senate and to the Speaker and other members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina in General Assembly
Convened

The Petition of Thomas Hamilton Humbly Sheweth

That in the year your petitioner then residing in York District in the State aforesaid turned out Volunteer under James Willson to take a tour of one month against the Cherokee Indians, after the expiration of that time he went into Randolph County in North Carolina and joined General Sumter and went with him to be Battle of the Hanging Rock from thence Sumter returned into N. C. where he remained but a short time. Sumter marched to join General Gates at Camden but before he arrived Gates was defeated. The British met Sumter and his men and defeated them. After this defeat he returned into N. C. and joined Captain John Moffett. He was afterwards commanded by Captain "Frame" Woods, was with him at the Siege at Columbia. He afterwards served a tour under Captain Thomas Wood on Edisto River. He afterwards served a tour under Captain Reid of Col. Hampton's Regiment was with Hampton at the skirmish at the quarter house near Charleston. He was out upwards of four years in the Service of his Country all the time found his on horse. He never received any compensation whatever for his services. He has raised a family of 11 children all of whom are grown and have left him except one son and his daughters. He has now three orphaned grandchildren dependent on him for support. He is now in the 66th year of his age, by age and disease attendant there on he is unable to labor as he has been accustomed to do. Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays your Honorable body to grant him some relief either a pension or pay for these services. He would not ask or receive anything from his Country while he was able to do without her help but now in the time of need he pleads for that return for his services which he rendered in the time of peril, to which Services there are yet living many witnesses.

Any relief granted to your petitioner will be gratefully received and as in duty bound, he will ever pray.

Pendleton 1 November 1824

S/ Thos. Hamilton

[fn p. 10]

State of South Carolina, Anderson District

On this First day of October 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas for Anderson District in the State aforesaid Thomas Hamilton a resident of the State and District aforesaid aged 75 years who being duly sworn makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He first entered the service of the United States in the Fall of 1777 in a company commanded by Captain Sadler & Lieutenant James Wilson in Colonel Neale's Regiment against the Cherokee Indians on the Frontiers of South Carolina and served a tour of four months. Immediately after the Fall of Charleston he went into North Carolina with several other of his acquaintances to avoid the enemy and whilst there in June 1780 attached himself to General Butler at Haw River and served with him a tour of one month. In August 1780 he joined General Sumter at Charlotte in North Carolina to which place he had retired after his surprised at Fishing Creek for the purpose of collecting his forces. He was attached to the company commanded by Captain James Jamison¹ and returned under these officers in to South Carolina. From the frailty of memory and the description of the service he cannot detail particularly the marches he undertook or detachments upon which he was sent but for a succession of months it was a season of great activity and although this Deponent was sometimes permitted to go home in short furloughs yet this Declarant declares from the time he attached himself to General Sumter until the withdrawal of the enemy from the State by evacuating Charleston in December 1782 he was in service and always subject to the orders of Sumter or those officers to whose command he was attached by Sumter's Command. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency of any State.

To the Interrogatories propounded by the Court he answers

First – He was born on the 4th of July 1759 in York County in the State of Pennsylvania --

Second – Has a record of his age at home taken from an entry in his father's family Bible in possession of a Brother

Third – Was living in York District in this State when he entered the service where he continued during the war and until 1786 when he removed to the place at which he now lives in this District.

Fourth – He was drafted on his first tour of duty against the Indians and a Volunteer always after.

Fifth – He was under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at Orangeburg. And was attached under the command of some regular officers belonging to Greene's troops but the names not recollected. He was with Colonel Wade Hampton very frequently in recollects well that Colonel Hampton once made a registry of the names of troops among whom this applicant was taken but whether it has been preserved or for what purpose it was taken he is unable to say. He was at a Siege of a Fort on Congaree – in the battle of Blackstock's and various skirmishes.

Sixth – Never had a written discharge.

Seventh – he has procured the attendance of John Craig² and James Brown³ with whom he was well acquainted during the war and done much service. He is known by most of the members of the Bar who practice at this Court but cannot attend to specify what particular neighbors would testify to his character for veracity and his reputation as a soldier. He has known Col. Robert Anderson from his boyhood – General Earle⁴ has known him intimately for more than 40 years. He is well-known to the Honorable W. R. Davis & by the present officers of this Court and very many men of first respectability

1 [James Jamieson S21839](#)

2 [John Craig W22864](#)

3 [James Brown W25294](#)

4 [Samuel Earle S21174](#)

now present in Court.

Sworn to in open Court day & year aforesaid.

S/ Van A. Lawhon [?], C. C.

S/ Thos. Hamilton



[fn p. 12]

John Craig appears personally in open Court on the day aforesaid and makes oath that he was well acquainted with the applicant Thomas Hamilton during the Revolutionary War as they lived in the same County. He has heard his Declaration read and is satisfied that the account of his services is correct. This deponent was with him during the tour against the Indians under Sadler and Neale. He was with him at Charlotte when they joined General Sumter and knows that he continued in service as represented until the evacuation of Charleston – much of the service they were together and again detached and separated for short times on different tours of duty when they would again unite and talk their matters over. This Deponent is satisfied therefore that he may have been regarded as under arms during that time and never heard his fidelity to the cause questioned.

Before me.

S/ John Craig, X his mark

S/ Van A. Lawhon, CC

[fn p. 13]

James Brown appears in open Court and declares on oath that he was well acquainted during the Revolutionary War with Thomas Hamilton and is satisfied he was a true Whig during that Struggle. This Deponent joined Sumter at Clem's Branch on his return from Charlotte and those that Hamilton was then with him and continued under his command as stated in his Declaration. He was often actually present with him and in various skirmishes side-by-side and from the circumstances is none is well satisfied as it can be of his continuance under arms although they were sometimes separated for short term in different services.

Sworn to in open Court day & year aforesaid Before

S/ James Brown

S/ Van A. Lawhon, C. C.



[Sanford Vandiver, a clergyman, and Robert Anderson, a resident of Pickens District, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 15]

State of South Carolina, Anderson District

Personally appeared David Sadler⁵ before me and made oath that he was acquainted with Thomas Hamilton during the War of the Revolution and has known him until the present time. This Deponent knows that said Hamilton was in service for a considerable time that he and his family were good Whigs and universally considered as devoted to the cause of independence. This Deponent cannot specify the terms of his engagement but has heard the Declaration read and from the good character which said Hamilton has always sustained from his Whig reputation & this Deponent's personal knowledge of the man and those services this Deponent believes the declaration made by him to be substantially correct.

Sworn to & subscribed November 28th, 1834 Before me

S/ David Sadler

⁵ [David Sadler S9471](#)

S/ Joseph N. Whitner, N. P.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Sadler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'S'.

[Joseph Grisham and J. Miller, citizens of Pendleton District, affirm Hamilton's reputation as an “upright and highly respectable man.”]

[John Craig, Aaron Boggs and David Hamilton,⁶ residents of Pendleton District, attest the services of Hamilton in the Revolution saying they were “with him in the war.”]

[fn p. 4: Power of attorney dated 1854 signed by David K Hamilton of Anderson district South Carolina in which he states he is the son and heir at law of Thomas Hamilton deceased, a revolutionary war pensioner.]

[fn p. 6: Affidavit dated June 25, 1855 filed by Colonel David K Hamilton in which he states he is the son and administrator of the estate of Thomas Hamilton; that he has a family record by which it appears that his mother Ann [Anna] Hamilton died on the 24th day of March 1836 and that his said father died on Made 2, 1853; that he and his sisters Mrs. Letitia Boggs, Mrs. Eleanor Boggs & Ann Gaillard and William Hamilton but now the only living children of his parents.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the world rate of \$118.66 per annum (increased from \$44.66 per annum) commencing March 4th, 1831, and ending May 2, 1853, for service as a private in the Infantry & cavalry and wagon master.]

⁶ Possibly, the David Hamilton whose application is found at S17998 (of Pickins SC) or S21804 (of Fairfield SC)