

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Houston S21288

f58SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/8/11: rev'd 4/26/18

[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.]

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State of Georgia

This is to certify, that James Houston – was Enlisted to serve as private in the Battalion of Minute-Men, raised for the Defense of this State, by Resolve of Assembly, passed the 3rd June, 1777; and that the said James Houston was not, at the Time of his Enlistment an Inhabitant of this State, nor had he resided in any Part thereof for Twelve months preceding his enlistment and further, that he was in Service at the time the said Battalion was reduced by a subsequent Resolve of March 1st 1778.

Given under my hand at Augusta this 13th day of March 1784

S/ Saml. Jack, Col.

STATE OF GEORGIA.

THIS is to certify, That *James Houston* –
was *Enlisted* – to serve as a *Private* –
in the ——— Battalion of Minute-Men, raised for
the Defence of this State, by Resolve of Assembly,
passed the 3d June, 1777; and that the said *James*
Houston ——— was not, at the Time of his
Enlistment – an Inhabitant of this State, nor
had he resided in any Part thereof for *Twelve* –
Months preceeding his *Enlistment*. And further,
That he was in Service at the Time the said Battalion
was reduced by a subsequent Resolve of March 1st,
1778.

Given under my Hand, at *Augusta* this
13th Day of *March* – 1784.

Saml. Jack Col.
2222

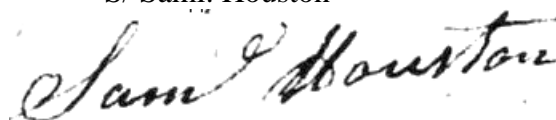
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Georgia Henry County: Personally came Samuel Houston¹ before me the Subscribing Justice and made oath in due form of law and saith on his oath that he knew that William Houston and James

¹ [Samuel Houston W7810](#)

Houston did Enlist into the Minute Service to serve in the State of Georgia for the term of two years in the company of Captain Michael Dickson under the command of Colonel Jack [Samuel Jack] and that Thomas Kelley [?] and Hugh Kelley [?], Chales Miller [sic, Charles Miller?] and William Miller was enlisted soldiers in the same company and this Deponent further says that he understood they was to have bounty land from the State of Georgia for their services and he further understood since they never had got it and at the time of their enlistment they lived in the State of South Carolina and is Deponent further says he understood that the two Kelleys [?] and Charls Miller and William Miller sold their claim of their bounty land to Captain Michael Dickson which he believes to be the case. Sworn to and subscribed this 2nd day of November 1826

S/ Saml. Houston

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Saml. Houston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Saml. Houston".

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State of South Carolina Abbeville District} SS

On this 25th day of October [1832] personally appeared before the Judge of the Court of common pleas for the District Abbeville James Houston Esquire a resident of Abbeville District aged not far from eighty years, who being 1st duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 (as well as he can recollect) with a Captain Michael Dickson and served in Colonel Jack's Regiment. The field officers were General Screven [James Screven], Colonel Jack his Captain was Michael Dickson as above stated William Henderson first Lieutenant. That he resided in Chester County South Carolina when he enlisted in a Regiment raised for the defense of Georgia that the company to which he belonged met or rendezvoused at Captain Dickson's and from thence they marched to Tyger River where they were joined by Captain David Dickson's Company of infantry and Captain James Pettigrew's company that they crossed Savannah River at Bagdale's ferry and passed on through Wilkes County Georgia and so on to Fort Rogers on the Ogeechee River which was the then line of Georgia where they kept Garrison for several months from there they marched down the Ogeechee River & finally crossed over and joined what was called the Florida expedition crossed the St. Mary's River & went some distance into Florida when they turned about & came to a place called Midway Meetinghouse where they remained for some time from there the[y] march[ed] into the town of Savannah where they continued [to] serve until his term of enlistment expired that he got a discharge which he supposes is at Milledgeville in the state of Georgia as he gave it up when he applied for his bounty from the State of Georgia which he received that on this occasion he served out two full years & left the service about the 1st of December 1778. That he has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he now know of any person living who can testify to his service, on this occasion.

He further declares that he again entered the service of the United States as a substitute in the militia of the State of South Carolina for the defense of Charleston in the place of one Henry Townsend. That he entered this service in the spring of 1779 for a three months tour under Captain William Hannah [William Hanna], a Colonel Neal [Thomas Neel] commanding the Regiment. That he resided [in] York District when he entered the service and joined his company at Fishing Creek that the[y] march[ed] to Orangeburg where the[y] stayed some time and march[ed] from thence to Charleston and built the fortification across the neck and [was] there guarding Charleston when the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] was fought when this tour

expired he was acquainted with a Colonel Braton [sic, William Bratton] and Colonel Lacey [Edward Lacey] of Chester & Colonel Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]² and that when this tour expired he again volunteered in the Militia service under General Thomas Sumter and was with him at the battle of the hanging Rock [August 6, 1780] and continued constantly in the service without intermission until after the battle at Eutaw Springs on the 8th September 1781 sometime over two years during which time he was well acquainted with Colonel Washington [William Washington] & Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], and also with General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] after he came to the South.³

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 this day & year above written in open Court

S/ Jas Wardlaw, Clerk

S/ Jas Houston



[Hugh Dickson, a clergyman, and John Davis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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South Carolina Pickens District} Personally came Major Thomas Henderson⁴ before me James Osborn one of the Justices of Quorum in and for the State and District aforesaid and being duly sworn, on his oath saith, That he was personally acquainted with James Houston Esquire, the present applicant for a Pension, in the time of the American Revolution. That he knew the said Houston to be a good Whig and saw him bearing arms in defense of the United States – and believes he was in the battle at the Hanging Rock, that he saw the said Houston the night after the said battle attending to his the said Houston's brother William who was mortally wounded in said battle. That he saw him at McCord's ferry on Congaree River on the march to drive the English from the Burned Church and Quarter House and saw him again on their return march at Nelsons ferry on Santee and knew that the said Houston was a soldier in the service at those times. That he believes the said Houston always in service when required until peace was made – but from his old age and lack of memory he cannot say how long the said Houston did serve. Sworn to and subscribed before made this 24th day of July 1833

S/ Thos. Henderson



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State of South Carolina Abbeville District} SS

Personally came and appeared before me James A. Black a Justice of quorum in and for the State & District aforesaid James Houston Esquire and on his oath makes the following amendment to his original declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832

That he has sent to Milledgeville and procured Colonel Jack's certificate of his service as stated in his original declaration. That he also procured the affidavit of James Brown and Elijah

² Sumter was not active in the military either Continental, State or militia in 1779

³ Greene assumed command of the Southern Division of the Continental Army on December 2, 1780 in Charlotte North Carolina.

⁴ [Thomas Henderson W10102](#)

Brown Esquire both going to prove his service. He further states and has fully proved by the above affidavits that he was elected and commissioned as a Captain of militia on or about the 10th day of April 1781 and continued to serve in that capacity until after Lord Cornwallis was taken in November [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] following when the Militia were disbanded and suffered to return home. That he served at least 7 months in the command of a Captain of militia in actual service, that the reason why he did not state this part in his original declaration was because he did not know at that time that he could prove the fact and having lost or mislaid his commission he did not think it worthwhile to attempt to establish the claim. He also makes the following answers to the 7 interrogatories prescribed by the War Department

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Laurens District South Carolina as I believe in the year 1754

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

Ans. I have no record of my age and am only guided in this matter by what I have been told and what I believe from other circumstances.

3rd How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I enlisted in the 1st place in Captain Michael Dickson's company in Colonel Jack's Regiment for the term of 2 years which I faithfully discharged I was then a substitute in the place of Henry Townsend for a 3 months tour which I for field. I then volunteered and served as a volunteer until the end of the war.

4th Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I was a resident of Chester County South Carolina when I enlisted in which County at hand York I resided during the Revolution that he now resides in Abbeville District South Carolina

5th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I did receive a discharge from Colonel Jack which is lost and I also did receive the certificate within sent which was given me in order to enable me to get my bounty of land. I also got a discharge from Colonel Neel for a 3 months tour when I was a substitute which is lost. I never had any other discharge for when we were permitted to go home we expected to be called out again in the service.

6th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I cannot recollect what was the name or number of any Regiment which I served in only as they were called Colonel Jack's Regiment Colonel Neel's Regiment Colonel Sumpter's Regiment etc. I was acquainted [with] Colonel Bratton, Colonel Lacey, Colonel Thomas Sumter, Colonel Lee, Colonel Washington, General Greene & others. As to the general circumstances of the service see the original declaration.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. I am acquainted with the Reverend Hugh Dickson, John Davis, James A. Black Esquire, Joseph Black Esquire, James Wardlaw oh, Esquire, Alexander Bowie Esquire, Armistead Bist Esquire, John W Wilson, Samuel C Jones, William Young & others.

Sworn to and subscribed this 8th day of August 1833 before me

S/ James A. Black, JQ

S/ James Houston

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State of South Carolina Abbeville District} Personally came and appeared before me the subscribing Justice James Houston Esquire and on oath saith that he did actually serve as an enlisted soldier in the State of Georgia as set forth in his original declaration and that there is no mistake in the matter that he fully understands the difference between a liability to service & service itself he further swears that he did serve 3 months as a substitute as set forth in his original certificates no mistake whatever, and also that he did voluntarily freely and fully serve two whole years with General Thomas Sumter as a militia man that when others quit the service and went home at the expiration of their tour he never did but staid continually in the service – that he is under no mistake as to those matters but did actually performed the services set forth in his original declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed this 12th day of November 1833 before me

S/ James A Black, JQ

S/ James Houston

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South Carolina Anderson District} Came personally before me one of the justices of the Quorum for the District aforesaid James Brown⁵ of said District and being duly sworn according to law, doth on oath saith, that he was well acquainted with James Houston Esquire (who formerly was an inhabitant of York District in this State) and knows said Houston to be a good Whig; and defended his Country against the British and Tories; and that he served a 3 months tower [tour] of duty with said Houston which is called the Stono Expedition under the command of Colonel Thomas Neele Senior and said Houston was at the Battle at Stono and further saith that said Houston was in the Battle where Captain Hook [sic, Christian Huck] was killed and defeated [Huck's Defeat or Williamson's Plantation July 12, 1780], and said Houston was in the Battle at hanging rock; and also in the battle at Congaree Fort [Fort Granby May 15, 1781]; and said deponent further saith that he always knew the said Houston the present applicant throughout the revolution and that he was always in the services of his Country and that he commanded some part of his time as a militia Captain. Sworn and subscribed to before me this 31st day of July 1834

S/ James Brown



[p 11: James D. Houston filed a power of attorney dated November 5, 1852 in Hinds County Mississippi in which he states he is the child of Sarah Houston deceased, the widow of James Houston, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$96 per annum for his service in the revolution; that he is filing this in order to obtain an increase in the pension due. He states that Sarah Houston died November 19, 1842.



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$145.38 commencing March 4th, 1831, for 3 months service as a Captain, one month and 16 days service as a Lieutenant, and 19 months and 14 days service as a private in the South Carolina [& Georgia] militia.]

⁵ [James Brown W25294](#)