

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Hamilton S21804

f36SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina District of Fairfield

On this nineteenth day of July in the year of our Lord 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Henry W. DeSaussure Chancellor of the State of South Carolina, at the Court of Equity, now in session for Fairfield District, David Hamilton, a resident of the said District of Fairfield and State aforesaid, aged seventy-three 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.

The Deponent was born in the County of Antrim Ireland. The deponent has never heard of any record of his age save the Church Books in Ireland. And takes his age from family tradition, according to this tradition deponent was born the 25th day of December 1759 [written over 1758]. The deponent has lived in the same plantation ever since he came to this Country in the year 1771.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein after stated.

1<sup>st</sup> The first tour of duty performed by Deponent was under Captain Robert Ellison, the Company left the place of rendezvous, where the village of Winnsborough is now situated on the 23rd day of November 1775 and joined the rest of the Regiment under command of Colonel Richard Richardson about Granby and marched into the upper part of Ninety Six District after a body of Tories. In this expedition a detachment of the American forces took prisoners a body of Tories ~~between~~ upon Reedy River in Ninety Six. This expedition was known here as the snowy camp expedition was out 6 weeks in this tour, was a private soldier.

2<sup>nd</sup> The next term the deponent was under Captain Robert Ellison, and Colonel Richard Richardson, in the year 1776. Left home in January and returned home in March in this year the provincial Congress was then in session in Charleston, and the troops were ordered there, and after encamping there the 9th of January to guard the Congress principally it is supposed, were discharged. This term lasted about six weeks. A private and Clerk to the Company in this tour.

3<sup>rd</sup> The third term was in the same year 1776. Deponent served under the same Captain, Robert Ellison, and Richardson Colonel. Ordered to Charleston. Was in the Town when Sir Peter Parker attacked Fort Moultrie [June 28, 1776]. After the British fleet began to sail off, discharged. This tour about six weeks.

4<sup>th</sup> The next tour was in the Florida expedition in 1778 Captain Robert Ellison commanded the Company, and Colonel John Winn commanded the Regiment. There was no field officer

belonging to the Regiment out but Colonel Winn, crossed the Savannah River at Augusta, thence down the Savannah River to Cherokee Hill above the Town of Savannah and thence took road that led to St Augustine through Midway settlement, encamped on the Florida side of the St. Mary's River, was out in a scout of five hundred under Major Andrew Pickens, Colonel Andrew Williamson was the eldest [?]<sup>1</sup> Colonel and commanded all the South Carolina Militia. Some troops were there from Georgia. General Robert Howe commanded the whole Army. The Army received orders to return home at the St. Mary's and returned in Battalions. Deponent left home about though he last of March and returned home the 10th of August following. Deponent served as Clerk and private.

5<sup>th</sup> The next term was in June 1779. Colonel John Winn commanded the Regiment, and at the beginning of the tour appointed deponent Quarter Master to the Regiment, by regimental orders. The Regiment first marched to the Quarter House six miles from Charleston where orders were received to march to Purrysburg, done a month's duty there and afterwards discharged. The Deponent acted as Quarter Master to the Regiment all this tour. He never received a commission. The regimental order was looked upon as sufficient. This tour was about two months.

6<sup>th</sup> The next tour was to Orangeburg, Colonel John Winn Commanded the Regiment. A detachment of the Regiment that went to Orangeburg was commanded by Captain Robert Ellison commissioned Major at Orangeburg. The deponent served all this tour as Quarter Master. This term began in March 1779 and Deponent was out four months this term and until in July 1779. In this tour Deponent was present when a skirmish took place between the British under General Prevost and the advance guard of the Americans under command of General Moultrie [William Moultrie] at Coosahatchie [Coosawhatchie] Bridge [May 3, 1779]. The Americans lost some men killed and some were wounded and American advance guard driven in Colonel John Lawrence [sic, John Laurens] commanded the American guards as deponent believes and was one of the wounded.

7<sup>th</sup> The next term of duty was after the fall of Charleston [May 12, 1780] General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] commanded the Brigade, Colonel Richard Winn commanded the Regiment. This tour was principally through the Country lying between Charleston and the Congaree. We men were mounted. There was no depot of provisions and little use for a quarter master in this tour. The troops lived on whatever they could find, whatever occasion offered the deponent acted as Quarter Master. His warrant stood good. Out this tour nearly two months.

8<sup>th</sup> The deponent performed in addition to the above several short terms of duty in the neighborhood of home, cannot speak with certainty of the whole time. In the summer and spring of the year 1781 almost constantly on duty.

The deponent never received a written Discharge. The Commanding Officer of the Regiment usually received such a discharge, and whenever the relief came in the Regiment received a verbal discharge from its Colonel.

The deponent is known to Major Henry Moore,<sup>2</sup> Captain Hugh Milling,<sup>3</sup> Robert McCreight<sup>4</sup> and William Robertson<sup>5</sup> who can testify as to some part of the services rendered.

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<sup>2</sup> [Henry Moore S46010](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Hugh Milling S46394](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Robert McCreight S21881](#)

<sup>5</sup> [William Robertson S21951](#)

Deponent is satisfied he served nine months and upwards as quarter master of the Regiment, and first Lieutenant and Deponent received pay of one dollar per day and drew two rations.

Deponent 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.

S/ Jno. Buchanan, Commissioner Equity, F.D.

S/ D. Hamilton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Hamilton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 6]

I Robert McCreight of the District of Fairfield and State of South Carolina, aged seventy years hereby certify that I am well acquainted with David Hamilton who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that I believe him to be seventy-three years of age as above stated, that I have known him personally ever since before the Revolutionary War, was a near neighbor then and remains a near neighbor. The deponent served with said David the whole of the fourth term of duty mentioned by him. The facts stated by him in relation to that tour are truly stated. The deponent knows that said David Hamilton performed the fifth term of duty mentioned by him as he was one of the detachment that relieved the Deponent at Purrysburg, and has no doubt the facts stated by him in relation to this fifth tour are correctly stated.

6<sup>th</sup> The deponent served in the sixth tour mentioned by said David Hamilton, and saw him several times during the Tour. He then was the Quarter Master of the Regiment, and acted as such during the whole tour, and deponent is satisfied that what he states concerning this tour is correct.

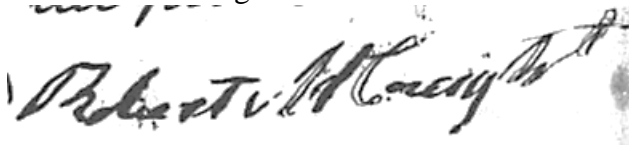
The Deponent knows of his own knowledge that said David Hamilton served in several other tours of duty in the militia, and that he acted in all after the sixth term as Quartermaster to the Regiment, and is satisfied he served in that capacity for more than nine months in the whole as Quarter master.

Deponent further states that the belief of the neighborhood has all along been that said David Hamilton had been a soldier in the Militia during the Revolutionary War, and had served and acted as Quarter Master and has never heard the fact called in question.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jno. Buchanan, Commissioner in Equity

S/ Robert McCreight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert McCreight". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 8]

I William Robertson of the District of Fairfield in State of South Carolina aged seventy-two years, hereby certify that I am well acquainted with David Hamilton who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that I believe him to be seventy-three years of age as above stated. That I have known him ever since and before the Revolutionary War, Has seen him serving in the Militia, as a soldier during that war, knew him to have served on several tours of

duty and have no doubt that he served in the whole more than nine months as Quarter Master to the Regiment. This deponent has been a near neighbor of said Robert [sic, David?] since before the Revolutionary War, and knew of his own knowledge of his giving [sic, going?] out and returning home in several occasions when the militia were drafted to go out against British. The said David Hamilton has by all the neighborhood been believed to have served as a soldier in the Militia during the Revolutionary War, and to have served and acted as Quarter Master and never heard it doubted.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid  
S/ Jno. Buchanan

S/ William Robertson, R his mark

[p 26]

(Supplemental) David Hamilton

State of South Carolina District of Fairfield:

I David David [sic] Hamilton of the District of Fairfield and State aforesaid, being the same David Hamilton who made his Declaration in open Court, at Fairfield Court House, before Chancellor DeSaussure on the 19th of July 1832 in order to obtain a pension as a soldier of the Revolution under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 do hereby Certify and declare that in all the tours of duty mentioned in Deponent's declaration Draft in the militia had been ordered. That the Company to which Deponent belonged until appointed Quarter Master (excepting in one instance) never would stand a regular draft, but went as a Company and considered themselves volunteers. That in the instance in which they stood a draft express orders had been given that the Company should be divided into three equal Divisions one division a third to go then and the two remaining divisions in succession and when called on. The fifth tour mentioned in the Declaration includes one division of the Company in this Draft. The deponent was no substitute in any tour.

In all the tours of duty mentioned in the declaration orders had been given by the Governor of South Carolina to the Colonel of the Regiment to call out the militia after ordered out they were organized in Companies if the whole company did not go on duty at one time, and was attached to a Regiment also organize as a Regiment and in duty and the troops were subject to and obeyed orders from the superior officers in command has any organized body of armed men in arms usually does. They were in the service of the government or civil authority of the State of South Carolina, and in the times of duty mentioned in the declaration the Deponent was acting in obedience to her public authorities. That deponent during the time he was on duty as stated was occupied in no civil pursuit or employment whatever but was entirely confined to military duties.

That all the military services rendered were in the field with the exception of part of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> tours. Deponent was stationed in Charleston part of these tours, at the times in the 6<sup>th</sup> tour and in barracks (or field dwellings converted into temporary barracks) the other two tours.

1<sup>st</sup> Tour In the first tour of duty mentioned by Deponent in his declaration, Colonel Martin's Regiment from North Carolina was along. Colonel Humphreys Regiment of South Carolina Rangers Colonel Thomson then Lieutenant Colonel and several other regiments.

3<sup>rd</sup> In the third term to Charleston a considerable body of Militia collected. Major Maurice Simmons paraded the Guard every evening. Main guard kept at the State house. General Lee [Charles Lee] of the Continental Army commanded the whole. In the first, second, third and fourth tours of duty mentioned in the declaration the deponent served as a private soldier nine

months and half. He acted part of the time as Clerk to the Company but presumes he is entitled to no additional pay on that account. He done duty in the Company at same time as a private soldier regularly. Deponent on better reflection thinks he got home from the Florida expedition (4th term) in September and instead of August, making the four first tours amounted in all to nine and half months. When he returned home from the 4th tour the farmers were pulling their fodder which crop is usually gathered in September not in August.

Deponent has no other proof that he was appointed Quarter Master to the Regiment in January 1779 but [such evidence as is] contained in his declaration. Colonel John Winn removed from this State of Tennessee twenty-six or twenty-seven years past, and deponent presumes took his orderly book with him. He did not leave it behind on his removal that deponent ever heard, nor has he any reason to believe he did. He died several years ago from report. A regimental order was the only mode by which any of the Regimental staff were ever appointed to office that deponent ever knew of. They there were obeyed and respected in their respective stations as officers and received pay accordingly. The Quarter Master [was paid] as first Lieutenant, and Deponent drew pay and rations accordingly. Deponent has seen the order appointing him Regimental Quarter Master in the order book of Colonel John Winn's Regiment.

5<sup>th</sup> In the fifth tour the Regiment to which deponent was attached found General Lincoln at Purrysburg South Carolina. When they arrived, General Lincoln commanded the Army North Carolina troops were there part of them the militia were under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and there regulars under General Sumner [Jethro Sumner]. General Isaac Huger of South Carolina regulars was there a good part of the South Carolina Brigade (regulars) were there.

6<sup>th</sup> Tour Colonel Simmons commanded the Militia in the service in the 6th tour mentioned by Deponent, about 800 militia. There were not many regulars.

7<sup>th</sup> In the seventh tour Colonel Wade Hampton and Regiment were out, and acted with Colonel Winn's Regiment General Sumter with the rest of the Brigade acted sometimes separately and at other times they were all united.

In the fifth, sixth and seventh tours mentioned in the Declaration the deponent served eight months as Quarter Master to Colonel John Winn's Regiment in actual and regular service and in the services rendered subsequently as stated under his eighth [indecipherable word]<sup>6</sup>, he served one month in addition as Quarter Master under regular orders from his superior officers, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of the different services rendered after his seventh tour, but knows that they amounted to at least one month and probably much more and claims a pension for nine months and half service as a private soldier and nine months service as Quarter Master rank of First Lieutenant.

That there is at this time no clergyman in the neighborhood who has had any opportunity of knowing the reputation of the neighborhood as regards deponent's services in the revolution. The Reverend Mr. Yongue the acting pastor of the Congregation to which deponent belonged was having died about 2 years since and Mr. Boyd his successor being a young man and not living in deponent's neighborhood and lately settled in the District, and the neighboring Clergyman Mr. Brearly being also a young man not long since settled here, and without good opportunity of knowing the neighborhood report as to his military services.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this the 11th June 1833  
S/ J. Elliott, QU

S/ D. Hamilton



[p 34]

I Major Henry Moore residing in the District of Fairfield, about two miles of the Town of Winnsborough in the State of South Carolina aged seventy-eight years, hereby testify that I am well acquainted with David Hamilton Esquire who has subscribed and sworn to the declaration to which this certificate is annexed, and that I believe him to be seventy-three years of age. That I have known him since before the Revolutionary war, and has lived a near neighbor for many years. That deponent receives a pension as Captain Lieutenant 4th Regiment Artillery [several illegible words]<sup>7</sup> South Carolina continentals.

That the deponent saw said David Hamilton serving as a soldier in the Militia at Charleston in the year 1779 when General Prevost summoned the Town to surrender. That deponent saw him frequently during this time. Deponent belonging to the Regular Army has had no opportunity of knowing the extent of the military services of the Militia. That from the reports of the neighborhood deponent has no doubt of said David's having served more than nine months in the Militia during the war of the Revolution.

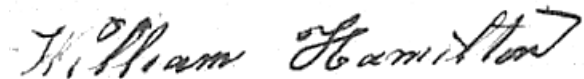
That said David is and acting elder in the Presbyterian Church and has so acted for many years.

S/ Henry Moore



Sworn to & subscribed before me July the 21st 1832 in open Court  
S/ Jno. Buchanan

[p 9: On April 7th, 1851 in Fairfield District South Carolina, William Hamilton gave testimony that he is the only surviving heir of David Hamilton who died May 1, 1839, that he, William Hamilton is the brother of said David Hamilton and the only surviving relative and is acting as executor of the estate; that his brother David Hamilton never married and consequently left neither widow nor children.



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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$211.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private in the South Carolina militia and as a quarter master in the South Carolina militia.]

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<sup>7</sup> Ed. Nevitt