

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Houston S2323

f15NC

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 8th 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.]

State of Ohio Warren County SS:

On this third day of ^{October} 1832 personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting in the County of Warren aforesaid, John Houston, resident of Turtle Creek Township in the said County, aged 69 years, who being duly affirmed, according to law, doth, on his solemn affirmation, make the following declaration, to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832:

That he was born in Mechlinburgh County [Mecklenburg County], State of North Carolina in the year 1763, & that during the period of the revolutionary war his place of residence was still in the said County of Mecklenburg, in which said County on the 10th day of April 1779 he entered the service of the United States, for three months as a volunteer under a Captain whose name he thinks was Barnes,¹ & within a few days, was marched in Colonel McDowell's [Charles McDowell's] Regiment [Burke County], under the command of General Butler [John Butler] to Augusta in the State of Georgia; that he there joined the Light Infantry under Captain White [Joseph White] in the Regiment of Captain Malmodi [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] a French Officer, who pursued the British towards Charleston, overtook the Enemy at Stono, where a severe Battle was fought [June 20, 1779];² that soon afterwards his term of service was out & he was discharged at Stono & he returned home. That in the month of April 1780 he, the said Applicant, in the County of Tryon, again entered the Service of the United States for a term of three months, as a substitute for John Reynolds of Tryon County, where this Applicant then resided. The name of the Captain of this Company, this Applicant thinks was Wilson [James Wilson], serving in Colonel Davy's [William Richardson Davie's] Regiment, in which he was marched from North Carolina to Waxhall [Waxhaw], near the Hanging Rock in South Carolina, from whence he was frequently sent out in scouting parties to scour the country; that in one of those scouting expeditions, sometime in the month of July 1780, this Applicant was taken prisoner by the scouts of Colonel Patterson, a British officer, & conducted to Camden, in South Carolina. After an imprisonment of about three weeks this Applicant was taken under guard to Charleston, in company with some of General Gates [Horatio Gates] Army who had also been taken prisoners; that at Charleston, this Applicant was put on board of an English prison ship; that about Christmas time of 1780, he was taken out of

¹ Perhaps Capt. James Barns of Mecklenburg County, NC, who served as a Captain under both Col. Thomas Polk and Col. Adam Alexander.

² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

the prison ship & lodged in the British Hospital on Gatson's wharf [Gadsden's Wharf] in Charleston; that he continued in the Hospital until sometime in the month of February 1781; that he was then removed by the British to their Barracks, from whence after a few days, this Affiant & three other American prisoners, made their escape & he got home about the first day of March 1781. That within the said month of March 1781 & whilst still residing in Mecklenburg County, this Applicant again enlisted. His enlistment at that time was for eleven months [sic, 10-Month South Carolina State Troops] in a troop of Horse under a Captain whose name he thinks was White.³ The other officers of this Company were Ensign Aikin [probably Lieut. William Akins], Lieutenant Wilson, & Major Hampton; the Company belonged to the Second Regiment of South Carolina commanded by Colonel Middleton [Charles S Myddelton] of General Sumpters [Thomas Sumter's] Brigade; that he was marched to Congaree, in South Carolina; that this Applicant belonged to the Vanguard of his Company; that whilst on this station at Congaree he was at the taking of Buck-Head Fort; that at the time Lord Rawdon was going to raise the siege of Ninety Six,⁴ this Applicant was in a detachment of 120 men, under Colonel Middleton, which had a serious skirmish with the British Troop of Light horse, at the Juniper Springs.⁵ In this conflict Colonel Middleton lost a good many men. That they afterwards marched to Orangeburg & took the Fort there;⁶ from thence to a Fort near Moncks Corner, under which, at a place on the sea-shore called Hob Cay [?], lay an English row galley schooner which (after dismounting) we boarded & took & plundered of a good deal of money which was divided amongst all the soldiers of the Brigade; after this exploit we took the Fort.⁷ This Fort was evacuated by the enemy in the night & under General Sumter this Applicant was in the morning marched in pursuit; the British crossed Strawberry Bridge & destroyed it after them;⁸ we followed on but did not come up with them till they were entrenched; as the Horse could do nothing here, this Applicant seized one of the prisoners muskets & assisted the Infantry and their attack him, but we failed in dislodging the Enemy. This Applicant then mounted his horse & returned in his troop to Congaree. At Congaree he got a furlough, went home & after a few weeks returned to camp. It was whilst he was at home on furlough that the Fort at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] was taken.⁹ He was next marched to Orangeburg where the Company was stationed for about a month; from thence he was marched to the Four Holes Bridge where the troops took up quarters for the winter. Towards the following spring, to wit, about the end of February he was marched back to Congaree & there received his discharge on the 10th of March 1782. This discharge was in writing which was kept by this Applicant until it was worn out.

This Applicant then returned home to Mecklenburg County where he continued to reside until 1787 when he removed to Madison County in the State of Kentucky. There he lived until 1800 & then removed to Williamson County in Tennessee where he resided till 1807; thence he removed into Miami County in the State of Ohio & lived there until 1809; then he removed to Warren County, Ohio, his present place of abode where he has resided ever since. He further

³ Actually, this veteran is listed on the Pay Roll of Capt. Francis Moore of Col. Charles S. Myddelton's Regiment of 10-Month State Troops. [B232](#)

⁴ May 21 – June 19, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

⁵ June 18, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_mydeltons_ambuscade.html

⁶ May 11 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html

⁷ Veteran MAY be describing the action at Strawberry Ferry on July 16, 1781.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_strawberry_ferry.html

⁸ The veteran appears to be describing the action at Quinby's Bridge, July 17, 1781.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quinbys_bridge.html

⁹ There was no Fort at Eutaw Springs.

states that his age is 69 years and that he has no record evidence of his age, nor has he any discharge or other documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove his revolutionary services. That there is no clergyman in his neighborhood to whom he is known. He states that he is well known to Nathan Sharp, Henry Valentine, Francis Bedle, of his vicinity by all or either of he can prove his character for veracity & that he has been generally reputed and believed that he this applicant was a soldier of the revolution. And 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 Houston, X his mark

[Nathan Sharp, Henry Valentine and Francis Bedle gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$90 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service in the North Carolina militia one-year as a cavalryman and the other in the infantry.]

[Note: There is no evidence that this veteran filed a claim against the State of South Carolina will payment for his services in the 10-Month State Troops. Under the terms of his engagement and that brigade, he would have been entitled to one grown Negro slave confiscated from the South Carolina loyalists. This horrendous form of payment was referred to as "Sumter's Wages." When the number of slaves confiscated from the Tories proved in adequate to pay the men, privates were granted an indent (a IOU from the State of South Carolina) for the amount of £94 Sterling. The payroll filed by Captain Francis Moore indicates that this veteran was in fact paid in the form of one grown Negro slave.]