

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Hilton S30484

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/2/16

[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' 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.]

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State of Kentucky Washington County: SS

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1834 Personally appears before me Uriah Graves a Justice of the Peace and one of the Judges of the Washington County Court James Hilton aged Seventy Six 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 7, 1832 – That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That in the year 1778 in the County of Guilford North Carolina he joined Captain McAdo's [probably Captain John McAdow's] Light horse company in the minute service in which service he continued for upwards of four years during which time he was in the Battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] and Six different skirmishes with the Tories & British as follows 1<sup>st</sup> on Deep River we dispersed about 300 Tories and took about a wagon load of arms, 2<sup>nd</sup> we had a skirmish with the British Light horse at a place called the New Garden [March 15, 1781]<sup>1</sup> & when we fired upon the Infantry in Guilford County we lost ten or twelve men and killed a good many of the British we had to give way and make the best retreat we could, 3<sup>rd</sup> we had a skirmish in Randolph County when we took 5 or 6 prisoners and some arms and several killed, 4<sup>th</sup> we had a fight with Tories at the Soap Stone Mountain where we dispersed them, 5<sup>th</sup> [sic] and a skirmish with [the Tories] at a place called Tory town, and the last fight we had with the Tories was at the Rice Swamp [probably Raft Swamp, October 15, 1781]<sup>2</sup> about one hundred and fifty miles from Guilford where we lost about one hundred men Colonel Oneal [probably William O'Neal of the Orange County militia] was our principal Commander. We took about one hundred prisoners, and killed about the same number in the fight and hung a good many also. During his four years' service as a minuteman in the Light horse, for he served in no other capacity than a Light horseman, he was under the following named Officers, Captain McAdo, Captain Moore [Smith Moore], and Captain Clark [Thomas Clark]. We were commanded by Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] in the battle of Guilford Court house, where we were badly whipt, we were discharged from the service of the United States after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781]. During the four years he was attached to the minute service, he was fully two years in actual service, years [sic] and upwards, for it is a fact not to be contradicted that the Tories were worse in Guilford, Randolph and Orange Counties than the British. Our Principal Officers were General Green [Nathanael Greene], Colonel Lee,

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_new\\_garden\\_meetinghouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_new_garden_meetinghouse.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_raft\\_swamp.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_raft_swamp.html) Capt. John McAdow of Guilford was killed in this engagement.

Colonel Oneal and the Captains above named – he further states that he was born and raised on Deep River North Carolina, he has no record of his age and his knowledge upon subject he derived from his Father & Mother, he further states that he is old and very infirm and nearly entirely Deaf, that his recollection of circumstances and things is greatly impaired as it respects the events of the Revolution. He was regularly discharged but does not know what has become of it, he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person living by whom he can prove his services, he has been confined at home by sickness and infirmity for the last twelve months, and he is now unable to travel to the Courthouse in Springfield to swear before Court to this Declaration, but he hereby declares solemnly upon Oath that he was in actual service upwards of two years 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ James Hilton, X his mark

[William Lambert, a clergyman, John McWilliams and John Sullivan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The further declaration of James Hilton (formally a citizen of Washington County but now a citizen of Mercer County) made in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. This Deponent being about Seventy Seven years of age, and duly sworn according to Law, upon his Solemn Oath states, that in the year 1777 or 8 he cannot now recollect which He entered the Service of the United States in the Minute services in Guilford County North Carolina where his Father then lived, in the company commanded by Captain McAdo of Light horse and remained under him for about eighteen months during which time he was in actual Service say in the field at least twelve months, He then Joined Captain Moore's Company of Light horse or mounted man, and served with him in actual service about the same length of time. Then Moore was promoted in some way, and Captain Clark took command of us, and he served with him until the end of the war, he is fully convinced that he was with Clark in actual service upwards of five months, he further states that he belonged to the cavalry and was in the minute service and he knows that he was out more than half the time and he served faithfully in it nearly five years. It is impossible for him in his present situation to recollect all the different Tours of actual duty and the different marches and counter marches they made, but the fact that he now exist is not more, certain, than his service in the War of the Revolution and that upwards of two years, He will state one or two additional facts not mentioned in his former declaration. He was wounded in the battle at Guilford with a Sword or Cutlass across the upper part of the fore head; that the scar is plainly to be seen, at the same time his horse was shot down did, and in extricating himself, he was struck with the butt end of a musket across the right shoulder by one of the enemy and fell, but was quickly relieved by his comrades, and the British soldier shot dead. He also states that he received another slight wound in the skirmish near the New Gardens, across the right thigh, in this affair the enemy brought the Cannon to bear upon us, and their guns were so elevated that the lambs of the blackjacks or Oaks that they are called fell upon us [:] in the conclusion he does not now remember the precise time he entered the service, they were the greater portion this time under command of General Greene and Colonel Lee, he cannot recollect all the names of the places where he served, his recollection is greatly failed him, and he refers to his previous declaration in connection with this – and lastly if any old soldier is entitled to receive the benefit of the act passed for them as Soldiers and patriots of the revolution he is one of that number. Subscribed and sworn to this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January A.D. 1835

S/ James Hilton, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private in the cavalry of the North Carolina militia.]

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#### Another Version

**Pension Application of James Hilton**, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 1282, Application #S30484

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

*The following pension refers to a "Captain Clark", but is probably NOT Captain Thomas Clark, since his death occurred before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1781, and this applicant states that he remained in Captain Clark's command until the end of the war. However, this is a convenient place to keep it in mind, in case this is William Clark, a cousin, brother of SUSANNAH CLARK, who was also reported to have been an officer.*

James Hilton, a resident of Washington County, KY, aged 76:

"That in the year 1778, in the County of Guilford, North Carolina, he joined Captain McAdow's Light Horse company in the minute service in which service he continued for upwards of four years, during which time he was in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and six different skirmishes with the Tories and British, as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> On Deep River we dispersed about 300 Tories and took about a wagon load of arms.

2<sup>nd</sup> We had a skirmish with the British Light Horse at a place called the New Gardens, when we fired upon the infantry in Guilford County. We lost ten or twelve men and killed a good many of the British. We had to give way and make the best retreat we could.

3<sup>rd</sup> We had a skirmish in Randolph County when we took five or six prisoners and some arms, and several killed.

4<sup>th</sup> We had a fight with Tories at the **Soapstone Mountains** when we dispersed them.

5<sup>th</sup> And a skirmish with [\_\_\_\_] at a place called Tory Town;

6<sup>th</sup> and the last fight we had with the Tories was at the Rice Swamp [*did he mean Raft Swamp?*] about one hundred and fifty miles from Guilford, when we lost about one hundred men. Colonel O'Neal was our principal commander. We took about one hundred prisoners and killed about the same number in the fight and hung a good many also."

"During his four years service as a minute man in the Light Horse, for he served in no other capacity than a Light Horseman, he was under the following named officers: Captain McAdow, Captain Moore and **Captain CLARK**. We were commanded by Colonel Lee in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, where we were badly whipped. We were discharged from the service of the United States after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. During the four years he was attached to the minute service, he was fully two years in actual service, yes and upwards, for it is a fact not to be contradicted that the Tories were worse in Guilford, Randolph and Orange Counties, than the British. Our principal officers were General Greene, Colonel Lee, Colonel

O'Neal and the captains above named. He further states that he was born and raised on Deep River, North Carolina...etc.”

The further declaration of James Hilton...now a citizen of Mercer County [KY]:

“That in the year **1777** or **8**, he cannot now recollect which, he entered the service of the United States in the minute service in Guilford County, North Carolina where his father then lived, in the company commanded by Captain McAdow of Light Horse and remained under him for about eighteen months, during which time he was in actual service in the field at least twelve months.”

“He then joined Captain Moore’s company of Light Horse or mounted men, and served with him in actual service about the same length of time, then Moore was promoted in some way, and **Captain CLARK** took command of us, and he served with him until the end of the war. He is fully convinced that he was with **CLARK** in actual service upwards of five months. He further states that he belonged to the cavalry and was in the minute service, and he knows that he was out more than half the time, and he served faithfully nearly five years.”

“It is impossible for him in his present situation to recollect all the different tours of actual duty, and the different marches and counter-marches they made, but the fact that he now exists is not more certain than his service in the War of the Revolution, and that was upwards of two years.”

“He will state one or two additional facts not mentioned in his former declaration. He was wounded in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse with a sword or cutlass across the upper part of the forehead, the scar is plainly to be seen, at the same time his horse was shot down dead, and in extricating himself, he was struck with the butt end of a musket across the right shoulder by one of the enemy and fell, but was quickly relieved by his comrades, and the British soldier shot dead.”

“He also states that he received another slight wound in the skirmish the New Gardens, across the right thigh. In this affair, the enemy brought the cannon to bear upon us, and their guns were so directed that the limbs of the black jack, or oak, as they are called, fell thick upon us.”

“In the conclusion, he does not now remember the precise time under the command of General Greene and Colonel Lee. He cannot recollect the names of the places where he served, his recollection has greatly failed him, and he refers to his previous declaration in connection with this, and lastly, if any old soldier is entitled to receive the benefit of the act passed for them as soldiers and patriots of the Revolution, his is one of that number...”