

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Hughes S30501

f54VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/12/14

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Circuit & County of Jefferson: SS

On this 22nd day of May 1838 personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Jefferson Circuit now sitting John Hughes a Resident of Jefferson County and State of Kentucky aged Seventy-five years 11th August 1838 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: In the month of July 1779 he was a student at Washington Henry Academy in the County of Hanover & State of Virginia; at that time the state was invaded by a British fleet and army commanded by Sir George Collier. The Governor called for a large Number of men and particularly for Volunteers. There were at that time about 125 Students at the Academy or Seminary, their ages from about 14 to 23 years. They turned out a Company of 76 privates, four sergeants and four corporals, a Captain, Lieutenant and Ensign, John Barrett was our Captain, William Winston Lieutenant and Samuel Overton Ensign. We rendezvoused at Hanover Courthouse and were attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel William Dandridge and forthwith marched to Williamsburg and placed under the command of Brigadier General Charles Scott who had arrived at that place with his Brigade of Continental Troops a few days before us. We continued at that place and at York and Hampton about two months & a half when the British left the State and we were paid off and discharged and we marched home. We received no discharge in writing. On this service we were distributed at different post on the River watching the enemy and guarding against their landing but we had no engagement or skirmish with them. We had not been at home but a short time before another British force appeared, I think, commanded by Leslie. A requisition for volunteers was made by the Governor of Virginia by virtue and Authority of an Act of the General Assembly of said State and a Bounty of Fifty Dollars offered as an inducement for soldiers to serve during the Invasion. I entered into that service as a volunteer first in the Cavalry service for about three months in the company commanded by Captain Littlebury Mosby I think Wade Mosby was the Lieutenant and Horatio Turpin Cornet. I furnished my own Horse & Clothing. We drew caps swords & pistols. I think this was in the month of October 1779 during the time he served in the Cavalry he was on detached parties scouring the Country and watching for the enemy & during this service Colonel Richard Call of the Virginia Continental line was occasionally with us & in command. After serving as aforesaid about three months my horse was completely Broken down and I with many others (in the same situation) were transferred to the Infantry in Bland's Regiment [Theodorick

Bland's Regiment]. We were placed on duty first at Petersburg and then at City Point, Captain Charles Williamson & Lieutenant Povall was in command of the Company to which I was attached. We also done duty at Smithfield, Cabin Point and Hoods old Fort. Those different Posts were occasionally visited by Colonels Parker & Gibson both of the Virginia Continental line and sometimes by Baron Steuben who commanded the whole when together. Whilst we lay at Smithfield the British landed at Hoods old Fort to make an Incursion into the Country. It was thought advisable to send out Troops to repel them and Colonels Parker and Gibson had a very warm dispute about who should command the Party each claiming the right when Colonel George Rogers Clark (who was at that time with the Troops) proposed that he should take a detachment and waylay the road & stop them by giving them an Indian fire. It was agreed to and said Clark took three or four hundred men, of which I was one, and at night formed and ambuscade & gave the Enemy a very destructive fire (as we were informed) and then retreated through the woods to the main body; By the next morning the Enemy had retreated to their shipping. We continued in this kind of service until the latter part of October 1780 when a Brigade of Troops were levied from the different regiments to act as Light Infantry & to be posted near the Enemy during the Winter if it should be found necessary. I was with 15 or 20 others detached from Williamson's Company under Lieutenant John Povall for that duty – We rendezvoused at Smithfield & were attached to a Battalion of Troops Commanded by Major John Willis, a Supernumerary officer belonging to the Virginia Continental line, we were then marched to Suffolk Twelve miles from where the British were posted at that time where we remained sometime in the month of January 1781, news then arrived that the British under Colonel Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] had been defeated by Colonel Morgan at the Cow Pens [Cowpens, January 17, 1781] and that a reinforcement was to be sent to General Greene [Nathanael Greene] who was then retreating towards Virginia closely pursued by Lord Cornwallis. We then left Suffolk and marched to Chesterfield Courthouse where the troops were to assemble for the Expedition to the South. Some of the men did not like to go to the Carolinas but our Lieutenant and the whole of the men who had served with him in the light Infantry volunteered for that service and were attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Beverly Randolph, St. George Tucker and William Cunningham were our Majors, Thomas Pollock Captain and Wade Mosby Lieutenant (but before we joined General Greene, Captain Pollock was sick and returned to Virginia). At this place a Brigade of Troops was formed commanded by Brigadier General Lawson [Robert Lawson] and about the month of February we set out for North Carolina. After two days march we fell in with another Brigade commanded by General Stephens [Edward Stevens] who were ordered on the same service, we marched on together and joined General Greene near the Hanging Rock in Carolina about the 8th or 10th of March; on the 14th of the month at night we encamped at or near Guilford Courthouse on the same ground that the British had left in the morning. We remained here until about 12 o'clock the next day at which time our Light Infantry were closely engaged with the enemy about one mile in front; our line of Battle was instantly formed and in a quarter of an hour more our whole front line was engaged and the Conflict was severe & Bloody: The action lasted two or three hours, when our troops retreated a short distance and formed their line expecting the Enemy would pursue us, this they declined & we retreated still further to some old Iron Works [Speedwell's Iron Works on Troublesome Creek] and encamped on very strong & commanding Ground. We stayed at this place several days during which time General Greene directed General Lawson to select such persons as had distinguished themselves in the late action to fill vacancies where Officers had fallen in the same. He selected me with others and introduced us to General Greene who

appointed John Phillips Captain, William Parnell Lieutenant and myself Ensign to supply the place of Captain Hudson and his subordinates who were all killed in the said Battle. After this we again marched in pursuit of the Enemy and pursued them closely until they crossed Deep River & set the bridge afloat on which they had crossed. Here General Greene ordered Stephens & Lawson back to Virginia where we arrived sometime in the latter end of April or first of May; I got back in good health but my feet were blistered from heel to toe. I obtained a furlough without limitation as to time but to join our Regiment as soon as I could get recruited. I went home and stayed there Eleven days: I then started and joined the Army, below Petersburg, under Baron Steuben; The British shortly afterwards landed at City Point and the Troops under the Baron retreated to Petersburg, the Enemy followed and drove us out of that place, we retreated towards Manchester – they pursued and we retreated higher up the Country, they went on to Manchester and burned the Warehouses [April 30, 1781] in that place and destroyed much property. Steuben continued to retreat up James River as far as the Point of Fork where there was a considerable quantity of military stores; Cornwallis in the meantime had arrived at Petersburg. He soon after crossed James River below that place and marched up through Richmond and thence to Charlottesville. While the British were marching on Charlottesville the Baron, who had removed the military stores at the point of Fork from the North to the South side of James River and threw the said Stores into the River & otherwise destroyed them, retreated rapidly towards Carolina. He was at length overtaken by an Express sent by the Marquis Lafayette with orders to return and join the main Army. After a fatiguing & harassing march towards Carolina & back we joined our Army encamped about 15 miles from old James Town under the command of the Marquis Lafayette; General Anthony Wayne was also there. It was at this Encampment I received the appointment of Lieutenant and was attached to a company of Infantry commanded by Captain Samuel Woodson and a Regiment commanded by Colonel Henry Skipwith. I remained with the Army until after Lord Cornwallis & his troops were captured [October 19, 1781] at York Town, Captain Woodson being sick at that time I commanded the Company during the Siege, and at its termination we were discharged but I received no discharge in writing, nor any pay for my services or being reimbursed in a Considerable sum of money Expended by me during my service or receiving any part of the Bounty of Fifty Dollars except for the two months & a half services aforesaid. He has no documentary evidence in his possession proving his Service. He refers to the annexed proof of Mrs. Nancy N. Cox, the annexed Certificate as Corroboration of his statement and the Depositions of Charles Belloo, Benjamin Hatcher, James Wilkinson, Jacob Michaux, Thomas Hobson, Bartholomew Truehart and Joseph Mosby of Virginia whose Depositions will be taken or some of them & hereto attached.

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.

To the Inquiries propounded by the Court he answers as follows

To 1st Question – he was born in Cumberland (now Powhatan) County State of Virginia on the 11th day of August 1763.

To 2nd. I had a Record of my age in a Bible formally belonging to my Grandfather containing the family record and it is now in my possession at my house.

To 3rd. I was at the Washington Henry Academy in Hanover County Virginia when I first entered the service, when I entered the second time as a volunteer I was living in Richmond Virginia.

After the revolutionary war was ended I lived in Powhatan County Virginia until the first of April 1787 when I started to Kentucky and have lived in Jefferson County near Louisville Kentucky

ever since.

To 4th. I entered the Service as a Volunteer.

To 5th. I have already in my Declaration stated the names of some of the Officers who were with the troops where I served I will name others: General Washington Commander in Chief, General Knox, & Colonel Hamilton were with the troops at York Town Virginia.

To 6th. I never received a written discharge either as a private soldier nor as an officer. I received a Commission as Ensign signed by General Nathaniel Greene & Countersigned by General Lawson my Commission as Lieutenant was signed by Thomas Jefferson Governor of Virginia. Those Commissions I kept for many years but believing they were of no use I destroyed them.

To 7th. I am known to Daniel C Banks a clergyman & to Major John Nelson and Captain John Donna who can testify as to my veracity and their belief of my revolutionary services and I declare that I served from July 1779 until about the 20th day of October 1780 with the Exception of a few days between the termination of my first service and the commencement of my 2nd service, making in all my service to be two years & two months & a half.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Hughes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Hughes", written in dark ink on a light background. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

[Daniel C Banks, a clergyman, and William Pope & Warrick Miller, John Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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District of Columbia Washington County to wit

The undersigned being called upon to declare on Oath that reason why he has not made application for a pension at an earlier period than the present, States that his own circumstances in life have always been easy and free from Embarrassment. That he was well apprised (when the first pension laws were passed by Congress) That the Government was laboring under a large amount of debt and he for one determined that he never would draw upon her Resources until the last Cent of that debt was paid. Given under my hand this 5th July 1838

S/ John Hughes

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John Hughes amends the foregoing Declaration made before the Circuit Court of Jefferson County in the State of Kentucky, and states that he was appointed Ensign in Captain John Philips' Company and commissioned as such on the 17th or 18th of March 1781 and that in the month of June following as well as he can recollect, he was promoted to a lieutenancy and duly commissioned as such, was attached to a company commanded by Captain Samuel Woodson, and performed his duty in the same, until the surrender of the British troops under Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown in October. He further states that he believes that he was commissioned a Lieutenant on or about the 15th of June 1781.

Sworn and subscribed before me at Washington City this 6th day of July 1838

S/ Robt. Getty, JP

S/ John Hughes

[p 12: Nancy N. Cox, 72, a resident of Jefferson County Kentucky gave a supporting affidavit in which she states that she was well acquainted with the veteran; that she knew he was at the Academy in Hanover at the time he entered the service; that he was at the battle of Guilford courthouse, the engagement at Petersburg and at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered; and that the report was that he was wounded in the knee at the siege of York.

Nancy N. Cox
[Signature]

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B. J. Harris, N. O. If you should go to Louisville any time this summer I wish you to get acquainted with John Hughes in that neighborhood, & remember me to him, and ask him in my name if he can call to his memory being at the Battle of Guilford where I commanded a company in the action, and near the end of it a collection of about 70 or 80 men of different companies were collected in a road, & while there company notes some had shot away 18 round of Cartridges all they had, one of whom John Hughes, & that I made a distribution among them & while doing this, we were alarmed by Tarleton's Trumpet across a small field & the disposition made by to defend ourselves from a charge, when Washington's Corps [came] up the road to our relief & showed us the [way?] to the main Body of our troops, & to say what was the then report of the conduct of our Virginia militia & my company in particular, & you can tell my motive for it & if [Hughes] remembers anything that you think will be advantage to get his certificate & forward it to me, I have seen Thomas Tucker & will certify to all I have stated, & says they [their] conduct in that Battle was the cause of my being made Captain. The next June Court of Powhatan, where the records of the Court shows, Lawson complements me & so did St. George Tucker who was Major in the same Brigade, if you find Mr. Hughes, remembers anything I will send him a letter & get his answer that may be of service to me, if my health should enable me I shall offer next assembly better proved with vouchers, I wish you to answer this & give letter every 90 days at least & I will answer them

Louisville Kentucky 22nd May 1838 I certify this paper is a part of a letter my father Wade Mosby wrote me for the purpose of showing it to Major John Hughes for the purpose therein stated and I also certify that my father is dead.

Given under my hand as above written

S/ Littleberry H Mosby

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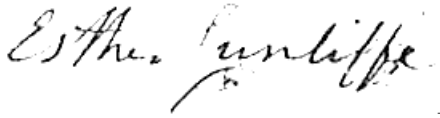
State of Virginia Powhatan County

Personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for said County Jacob Michaux also of said County who being sworn according to law doth on his oath depose that he is a near relation of John Hughes now of Jefferson County Kentucky, lived in the same family with him when he the deponent was eleven or twelve years of age, has a distinct recollection of the said Hughes being with the Army at the battle of Guilford and also at the siege of York, recollects well to have heard tidings from him while in service, and also the fact of his being wounded in the knee at the siege of York. The length of service performed the deponent has no knowledge of.

S/ Jacob Michaux

[Attested June 19, 1838]

[p 20: Esther Cunliffe, 65, of Henrico County, VA, gave testimony on June 27, 1838 when Henrico County Virginia that she is the sister of John Hughes, the applicant; that he left school in the winter of 1779 to join the Army as a volunteer; and served in 1780 and 1781 until the siege of York.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Esther Cunliffe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of a closing bracket.

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[Facts in file: Veteran was a State senator in KY, dates not stated; Veteran died November 10, 1842, leaving a widow (not named), who died November 4, 1846, leaving no children.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$138.62 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private, Ensign & Lieutenant in the Virginia service; as a Lieutenant for 2 months and 27 days; as a private for 14 months and 14 days, as an Ensign for 4 months and 4 days and as a private in the cavalry for 2 months and 15 days.]