

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Hughes S3079

f44VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/10/14

[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 Virginia Campbell County to wit

On this 10th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Richard Perkins, Sackville King, Thomas Fox & Allen L Werly [?] Justices for the County court of Campbell now sitting Benjamin Hughes a resident of the County of Campbell aforesaid in the State of Virginia aged 69 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein after stated – to wit: That he first entered the service as a volunteer for the term of six months in a Company of Dragoons raised and commanded by a Captain Elisha White of the County of Hanover and State of Virginia and did serve accordingly as a private in said Company for the said term of six months, and was honorably discharged at in the said period, but obtain no written discharge. That he was born in the said County of Hanover, and resided there at the time he entered said Company, but does not recollect the day, month, or year when he entered this service or when he was discharged. The said tour of duty was performed in the State of Virginia at Smithfield (and the surrounding Country.) The said Company of Dragoons was attached to and armed force commanded by General Vance [?] (Mercer and Munroe Colonels –). Within a few days after he was discharged from said service, he engaged to serve, and did serve as a substitute for a man named Drury Hodges in the regular Army, for eighteen months. This last enlistment was made at Smithfield in the State of Virginia. The Company in which he served as a substitute was commanded by Captain Samuel Hubbard. A few days after this last engagement he marched with the Company to which he belonged to the State of Maryland, & from thence to Pennsylvania where he was engaged in the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], after which the Company returned to Maryland where he continued to serve until his term of enlistment 18 months expired, and he was regularly discharge, but the written discharge then obtained was afterwards destroyed by fire in his father's House.

About three days after his return from this service, he again enlisted in the said County of Hanover as a volunteer in a Dragoon Company raised and commanded by Captain William Tinsley of the said County of Hanover, for the term of six months, which term he of accordingly served in & about Williamsburg in the State of Virginia, and during said period was engaged in two battles one at Malvern Hills & the other at Charles City Court House. The armed force to which he at this time was attached was commanded by Colonels Monroe, Mercer, Seawell, & Winston. That after this to wit in the month of May in the year 1781 he served another tour of duty of three months as a private in the militia of Virginia (being drafted as such), in a Company

commanded by Captain Thomas Richardson. This term of service was performed at Richmond, and up and down James River in the State of Virginia. Upon this occasion the militia rendezvoused at New Castle in the County of Hanover and from thence marched to York, & Hampton, – where he was regularly discharged in writing, but the written discharge then in their obtained, was afterwards destroyed by fire in the accidental burning as believed of his Father's House.

That after this tower [tour], on the same day October the year 1781 he with his Company, on that of which he was a member, commanded by Captain William Anderson, who and other Companies then at Gloucester were commanded by Colonel Monroe, were impressed or detached to guard some British Prisoners taken on the Gloucester side, at the time when on the other side Lord Cornwallis with his command were captured [October 19, 1781], from thence to the Town of Winchester in Virginia, in the performance of which tour of duty he was engaged 21 days, when he was dismissed by Captain Anderson by the Colonel Monroe's orders sometime about the last of October 1781, that he has no documentary evidence nor any person within his knowledge now by whose evidence he can prove the facts required save R. Burnett. 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/ Benjamin Hughes, X his mark

To which are annexed the interrogatories propounded by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born? From the Register of a Friend & Neighbor of my Father Ben Anderson here produced, I was born in October 7th, 1763 in the County of Hanover.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? I have a copy of the Register of my age which is the one filed as above the original I know nothing about.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? In Hanover County I lived when called into service. Since the Revolutionary War I have lived some years in Bedford & for the last 28 years I have lived in Campbell where I now reside.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom? I first enlisted voluntarily for 6 months. Then I went as a substitute for Drury W Hodges for 18 months & then enlisted voluntarily for 6 months. I was then drafted as a militia man & served in Timberlake's Company 3 months. I then enlisted and was at the taking of Cornwallis, served 6 months. I was then detached to guard the British prisoners to Winchester in which service he was engaged 21 days.

5th [State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.] I was under Colonels Monroe, Mercer & Anderson & General Washington & Lafayette. The siege of York, the battle at Patapsco in Maryland, the battle of Charles City Court House, the battle of Mabbins Hills [Malvern Hills], the Battle in Sewell's lane [lane] the regiments he does not recollect he the Continental or militia.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? I had a [sic] discharges given by Colonels Monroe & Mercer & Anderson but they have been destroyed by fire

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. Thomas Tucker & Thomas Strong

S/ Benjamin Hughes, X his mark

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Hanover County, to wit:

Richard Burnett Senior¹ of this County made oath before us Justices of the peace for the said County, that in the year 1781 he served a three months tower [tour] of militia duty with Mr. Benjamin Hughes, at that time residing in this County, but now of the County of Campbell under Captain Thomas Richardson. That they both entered the service at the same time, about the month of May, and both were discharged about the same time that this service was performed at Richmond, and up and down James River, and in the County of Hanover. And in the fall of the same year that he served another three months tour of Militia duty with the said Hughes under Captain William Anderson – both entering the service at the same time and both being discharged about the same time, which last service was performed a little preceding and during the siege of Cornwallis's Army at York Town, till it was captured.

And the said Richard Burnett further made oath that he has been acquainted with the said Hughes from very early in life, and that he believes himself to be about 5 or 6 years older than Mr. Hughes, and that he was according to his Register 74 years old the 18th of January last. Given under our hands and seals this first of August 1832

S/ B. Street, JP

S/ John Pate, JP

[p 3: family record:

George Hughes son of Henry Hughes and Margaret his Wife was born June 14th 1761

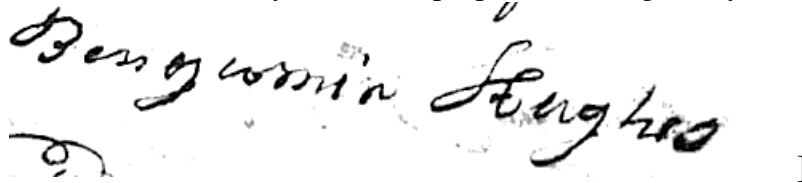
Charles a Negro child belonging to Henry Hughes was born June 12th, 1761

Benjamin Hughes was born October 7th, 1763

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy found among the papers of the Register Book kept by the Rev'd Pab. [?] Henry; given under my hand this 14th day of February 1778

S/ Ben Anderson

[Facts in file: The veteran stated on April 8, 1835 that he was living about 60 miles from Nashville Tennessee, and had moved there because his wife's father (not named) was living in that state, but he did not give the name of his wife. The veteran was living in 1837 in Smith County Tennessee; he died June 24, 1838 leaving a widow (not named); there is no reference to any children of the veteran in this file. The application for a transfer dated April 8, 1835 and filed in Smith County Tennessee purports to be signed by the veteran as follows:



The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Hughes". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. Below the signature, there is a small, faint mark that appears to be a checkmark or a similar symbol.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$90 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Private in the infantry & the cavalry for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line.]

¹ [Richard Burnett R1474](#)