

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hannaman S32299

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/10/14 & 1/15/20

[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 Indiana Vermillion County SS:

On this 13th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Asaph Hill Esquire, Court of Probate, now sitting William Hannaman a resident of Helt Township in the County of Vermillion, State of Indiana aged about Sixty-nine years of age, who being 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 the 7th 1832. –

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

He entered the service in the early part of the month of April 1778 when only turned of fourteen years old, as a volunteer for nine months, in Captain James Booth's Company of Virginia Militia. At the time he entered the service he was a resident of what was then called Augusta County in Virginia, now called Harrison County. He volunteered to keep Garrison at Nutter's Fort, on Elk Creek about a mile and a half above the town of Clarksburg in Virginia. This Fort was built for the purpose of protecting the Frontier against the Indians. He remained in the Fort and performed Garrison duty at Nutter's Fort until the fall or winter of the year 1778 until his term was expired. During this time he drew rations but received no other compensation. Applicant during his service never served with any regular officers and is not acquainted with the names or ranks of any of the Company or field officers of the Regulars. The Colonel of the Regiment to which Captain Booth's Company belonged was Colonel William Lowder¹ – Colonel Lowder however never took command in actual service during the time of applicant's service And in the Fort there was no other Captains or other superior officers in command except Captain Booth. Sometime in the year 1779 Captain Booth was killed by the Indians,² while working in his cornfield. Applicant, who lived about three miles from where booth lived assisted in burying him.

Applicant was also employed during the year 1781 in 1782 as an Indian Spy under the Orders of Colonel Lowder of Virginia. He served in the capacity of an Indian Spy during two seasons – about the Waters of the West fork of the Monongahela River in Virginia. His Tour of duty was to be out two days and to rest one day and night. Applicant does not recollect how long he served as a spy – it was at least three months at a time in spring and summer of the years 1781 & 1782. He cannot state on oath to any particular length of time that he served as a Spy – but he

¹ C. Leon Harris notes that "Colonel William Lowder" was actually [William Lowther VAS32](#)

² C. Leon Harris notes that Capt. [James Booth VAS1757](#) was actually killed on 16 June 1778.

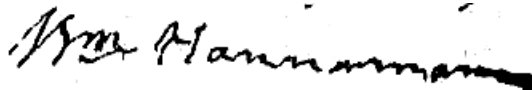
served at different times, during the spring, summer and fall of the year '81 & '82, whenever he was called on – but is entirely unable to state the length of time. Applicant does not recollect of any particular sum he was entitled to receive full pay during his service. He never received any pay. He served as a spy after the end of the Revolution at different times & for these services he received 83 cents a day.

Applicant has no documentary evidence of his service – and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service –

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/William Hannaman



[Richard Mack, a clergyman, and Jonathan W Downing gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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21325

Wm Hannaman Ind^a.

From 1781 private

6 months

\$20

Can only allow as above. Volunteer service for 9 mo. [months] at fort was as a minute man, does not appear to have performed any actual service[.] From the circumstance of his Captain having been killed while at work on his farm it is evident that the applicant like many others residing near the frontier forts pursued their usual occupation and was only in service in times of alarms, such service not provided for.³

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State of Indiana Vigo County Sct.

Be it remembered that on this 26 day of October in the year 1833 before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Samuel Jackson who being by me duly sworn on his oath says That he this deponent during the year 1781, 1782 and 1783, resided in Clarksburg, Harrison County State of Virginia (which County was then called Augusta County). That during the years above mentioned, he was well acquainted with

³ C. Leon Harris points out that the author of this anonymous note made several errors in explaining the denial of Hannaman's claim for his first service of nine months:

1) The Minute Man Service did not exist at the time in question, 1778.

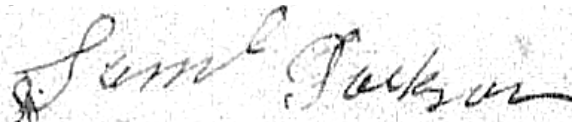
2) Hannaman's service was as a volunteer in an embodied corps under competent authority in field or garrison and therefore met all the requirements under the act of 1832.

3) The fact that Hannaman's Captain, [James Booth VAS1757](#), was killed while at home is irrelevant, because service on the Virginia frontier did not mandate that officers be constantly with their troops.

The decision was at odds with the general practice in the Pension Office in 1833, which allowed pensions for such service. The policy changed in the spring of 1834 after Washington G. Singleton's incompetent investigations and after he met with Pension Commissioner James L. Edwards. See the appendix to the pension application of [David W. Sleeth S6111](#) for details. The Pension Office was probably swamped with applications in 1833, and the decision may have been made by a new hire who was not familiar with the law or the regulations then in effect for administering it.

William Hannaman, who also lived in Clarksburg at the same time. That this deponent perfectly well recollects that during some part of the year 1781, 1782 & 1783 William Hannaman served on the frontiers as an Indian Spy. He has a personal knowledge of Hannaman's service as such spy, as he was personally well acquainted with him at the time. But this deponent does not remember in which of the years above mentioned it was that Hannaman served as a spy, though he thinks it was in the year 1782. Deponent further says that said Hannaman performed the services above mentioned under the command of Colonel George Jackson who was a brother of this deponent. Deponent further says that he (deponent) is Sixty-three years of age, that he was born in the year 1770 in Augusta County in the State of Virginia.

S/ Saml. Jackson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Saml. Jackson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat fluid and personal.

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State of Indiana Vermillion County: SS

On this 11th day of November A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open court before Rezin Shelby Esquire, court of Probate now sitting, William Hannaman a resident of Helt Township County of Vermillion State of Indiana, aged about seventy years, who being 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated –

He entered the service early in the month of April in the year 1778 when about 14 years old as a volunteer for nine months in Captain James Booth's company of Virginia militia. At the time he entered the service he resided in the then County of Augusta, now Harrison County Virginia – He volunteered to keep Garrison at a Fort on Elk Creek called Nutter's Fort – which stood about a mile and a half above Clarksburg in Virginia and was built for the protection of the frontiers against the Indians – He remained in this Fort and performed Garrison duty therein until his term of service was expired, which [was] sometime in the fall or winter of the year 1778. During this time he received his Rations but had no other compensation. Applicant never served with any Regular Soldiers, and is not acquainted with the names or rank of any of the Company or field officers of the Regulars. The Colonel of the Regiment to which Captain Booth's company belonged was Colonel William Lowder. Colonel Lowder never took command in actual service during applicant's term of service, and in the Nutter's Fort there were no Captains or other superior officers in command excepting Captain Booth. Sometime in 1779 Captain Booth was killed by the Indians while at work on his farm – applicant assisted in burying him.

Applicant was also employed during the year 1781 and 1782 as an Indian Spy under the orders of Colonel Lowder of Virginia. He served as such for two seasons on the Waters of the West fork of the Monongahela River. His tour of duty was to be out two days and to rest one day and night. He does not recollect how long he served as a Spy, but it was at least three months during the spring and summer of each of the year 1781 and 1782. He cannot state precisely as to the length of time he served as a spy owing to his age and loss of memory excepting as follows. In the year 1781 he served not less than three months and in the year 1782 he served not less than three months. His service as a spy was as a volunteer.

Applicant also volunteered and served as an Indian Spy in the year 1782 or 1783 under

Colonel George Jackson⁴ of Virginia. He cannot state precisely in which year but believes it to have been in the year 1783. Owing to his age and consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect the precise length that he served as a spy under Colonel Jackson except that it was not less than 3 months in one of the years 1782 or 1783.

Applicant does not recollect what was the compensation he was entitled to receive for his services. He never did receive any compensation. Applicant has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no person except Samuel Jackson and Polly Evans (whose affidavits accompany this application) whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

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.

1.⁵ Applicant further says he was born in the State of New York November 14th, 1763.

2. He has at home a record of his age.

3. When he first went into service he resided in Augusta County Virginia. Since the Revolution he has lived in Ohio near Chillicothe and in Indiana – he now resides in Vermillion County Indiana –

4. When called into service he always served as a volunteer –

5. Applicant never served with the regular troops, and knows the names of no Regular officers. Such Militia Regiments as he was acquainted with and also his services he has stated above.

6. He never received a discharge –

7. He refers to Richard Mack and Joseph Schooling his neighbors who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year above mentioned before me

S/ John W. Rush, Clerk

of Vermillion Probate court Indiana

S/ Wm Hannaman

[Richard Mack, a clergyman, and Joseph Schooling gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Indiana Vermillion County Sct.

Be it remembered that on this 17th day of October A.D. 1833 before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Polly Evans who being by me duly sworn says that she was well acquainted with William Hannaman during the year 1782 & 1783. That this deponent during that time lived in Augusta County Virginia. Deponent further says that sometime in the year 1781 or 1782 (deponent does not recollect which) said William

⁴ [George Jackson R15396](#)

⁵ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

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.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

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.

Hannaman perform service as an Indian Spy. During the time Hannaman performed these services, deponent resided in a Fort called West Fort, about 25 miles from Clarksburg. This deponent had a personal knowledge that Hannaman served as a spy, as the said Hannaman, while he served as such, made his home at West Fort. But this deponent cannot state how long Hannaman served as such spy.

Deponent further says she is now 61 years of age, that she was born at a place called Middletown in Pennsylvania near to the Susquehanna River in the year 1772.

S/ Polly Evans, X her mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]