

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Malachi Hafford [Hafford] S32323

fn32NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/8/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Illinois Gallatin County: SS

On this 22nd day of September in the year A.D. 1837 Personally appeared in open Court before the Circuit Court of Gallatin County now sitting, Malachi Hafford<sup>1</sup> a resident of Gallatin County and State of Illinois, aged eighty-one 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 the 7th 1832.

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

I was drafted and entered the service under the command of Captain James Pierce and marched to New Bern town and there was stationed to guard that place, no field officers recollected but Colonel Tilmon I saw there, and at the end of three months service I was discharged by Captain Pierce, the day, month or year I do not recollect but it was in the early part of the Revolutionary war, next after that I was drafted and entered the service under the command of Captain Hardy Gatlin we marched to Kingstown [Kinston] and round about that place to guard against the depredations of the Tories, I do not recollect any field officers at Kingstown but General Caswell, the month or year I do not recollect but it was not long after the death of General Bryant. I was sick part of my time and wanted to go home but General Caswell would not agree for me to go home until the expiration of three months service, when I received a discharge from Captain Gatlin. I next turned out volunteer under Captain Charles Roach for six months commanded by Colonel Johnson and a Major Lowery. We rendezvoused at Kings town we then marched to Charlotte from there we marched across the Catobo [Catawba] River at the old Indian town. We then marched to a place called the big swamp in South Carolina I was taken sick and the next place I recollect was the Savannah River we crossed at Augusta we then marched down the River some distance and crossed the River back into South Carolina and

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<sup>1</sup> This name appears to be spelled "Hafford" in most of the documents in the file, but the Interior Department and National Archives indexed under the name "Hofford."

marched until we came near Ston river [Stono River], where we had a severe swamps to pass through we was there halted near where the British was at or in a fort on the Stono River we lay there some time before we attacked the fort, from our Camp to the attack we marched in the night and with we of the Militia was put in the front and we commenced the action early in the morning and I saw the British picket guard run into the fort we fired some time on the fort and the Militia broke and I saw the green coats which was said to be the Hessian troops come pouring out of the fort as I thought in great numbers and we the Militia was marched off and the nine months men and regular troops advanced and I heard them firing heavily for some length of time. We was marched back to the camp and did not return to the fort anymore my officers informed us that our men had gained the victory we continued at our camp for some time. I was sick and had to be hauled a part of my time in a wagon and my six months service expired. I received a discharge from Captain Roach and set out for home and I was yet sick and unable to reach home and a friend came after me with a horse. I was not acquainted with the names of any of the Continental officers so as to recollect them, on the day of engagement I saw three officers riding and asked who they were, the answer was from a private soldier was that one of them was General Lincoln or Linkhorn as I understood the name, I was put on the picket guard one time where a Continental officer had the command and in the night as they informed me while I was sleeping a parcel of horses came running and they thought it was the British light horse and an alarm gun was fired and the officer commenced calling the guard I their numbers and I yet asleep he continued calling the numbers when I awoke from sleep and ran to my place and he cursed the Militia at a considerable rate though I do not recollect his name, this all the recollection I have of any Continental officers in my service in South Carolina the month or year I cannot recollect. Next after my return home I was drafted and stationed at Swifts Creek bridge under the command of Captain William Winum [sic?] to guard the public stores that was deposited at that place and I served three months and at the end of three months service I received a discharge from Captain Winum, and returned home, the date by month or year I cannot recollect, Again I was drafted and entered the service under the command of Captain Aron Arnold [Aaron Arnold] we was marched down the Country as low as a place called the richland Chappel [Richland Chapel] and there we was stationed for some time until I term of service for three months expired and I received a discharge from Captain Arnold. There was no regular troops served with us in any of my three months tours, the month or year I do not recollect only by the age of my oldest son which was born the night before I arrived at home from the last service which the record of his age now in the possession of his widow bears date the 12th day of November A.D. 1781 and I have no other documentary evidence in my possession at this time. And I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service. I served all my service a private soldier. And I never was furloughed to leave the service and I am certain that I served not less than 18 months for which I claim Pension, and I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and the reason I have not claimed sooner is I did not know that any but the regulars was allowed a Pension, And I do further declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any State.

#### Interrogatories by the Court

Q. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Craven County State of North Carolina on the 6th day of March A.D. 1756

Q. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have had the record of my age, but it is destroyed or worn out by the ware [wear] of an old Bible

Q. Where were you living when called into service

Ans. In Craven County North Carolina.

Q. Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War

I moved from Craven County North Carolina to Sumter County in the State of Tennessee about thirty-nine or forty years since I lived in Tennessee about nine years I then moved to Christian County since attached to Caldwell County in the State of Kentucky I lived there about eleven years, I then moved to Gallatin County in the State of Illinois

Q. : Where do you now live?

Ans. In Gallatin County State of Illinois

Q. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans. I have received five discharges one was given by Captain James Pierce another given by Captain Hardy Gatlin, and another given by Captain Charles Roach and another given by Captain William Winum and fifth given by Captain Aaron Arnold and all lost or destroyed with some other old papers that I did not think would ever be of any service to me and took but little care of them on that account.

S/ Malachi Hofford, X his mark

Sworn to and open Court Leonard White Clerk 22nd September 1837

[fn p. 28: John Brown and Peter Gates also gave a separate supporting affidavits.]

I Malachi Hofford aged eighty-one years do solemnly swear that I enlisted in Craven County North Carolina under Captain Charles Roach for six months from the time we joined head quarters <sup>as a private</sup> we was placed under the command of Major Lowry and Colonel Johnson we then marched up the country and crossed the Catawba River at the old Indian town we marched through South Carolina and crossed Savannah River at Augusta marched down the River then crossed the River back again and marched back into South Carolina near Stono we lay there some time until reinforced we then marched against the British that was stationed on Stono River there we had a severe battle in which we conquered the enemy in which some was killed and some wounded. I do not recollect the date for I am no scholar but I know it was in the revolutionary war and I do not recollect what General had the command on that day and being unacquainted with the Generals I asked one of the soldiers what officers them was that was riding and I think he said General Lincoln and he did not know the others. I heard them say the next day that if General Mootrie [William Moultrie] as I understood the name, had come from Charlestown as they expected he would, we would have done much better for he would have prevented the English from making their escape after the they crossed the bridge, we then returned to North Carolina our time being out we was discharged and I served by turn for three months tours several times during the war I went out or three months under Captain Aaron Arnold but had no engagement and returned home by discharge then when General Creig [Major James Craig] marched in I turned out under Captain Lewis Jones but Craig retreated and I was discharged in about a month and when Cornwallis marched through North Carolina I turned out under Captain Hardy Gatlin we marched up the country for the purpose of keeping the Tories from having access to Cornwallis but Cornwallis had passed through before we got up and we was discharged.

S/ Malachi Hofford, X his mark

Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for Gallatin County and State of Illinois this 28th day of June 1837

S/ Saml. Elder, JP

State of Illinois Gallatin County: Sct. The Amended declaration

I Malachi Hafford a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged eighty-four 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 stated. I was drafted and went under the command of Captain James Pierce to Newbern town and there was stationed to guard that place and served twenty days as a private Militia man next after I was drafted again and went under the command of Captain Hardy Gatlin to Kingstown to guard that place and served thirty days as a private next after I turned out volunteer under Captain Charles Roach, we rendezvoused in Kingstown under a Major Lowery & Colonel Johnson we marched to Charlotte from there we marched across the Catawba River at the old Indian town we then marched to a place called the big swamp in South Carolina we then marched to Savannah River and crossed at Augusta we then was marched down the River and crossed the River back into South Carolina and marched until we came near Stono River we was stationed near where the British was at a Fort on the Stono River I submitted stating that after we crossed the Savannah River back in South Carolina we was marched in various directions in search of the British and our troops took from a party of the British a parcel of the Negroes and rum. We was then marched on through the Country and was encamped at Bacons Bridge where our picket guard was fired upon and when we was marched from Bacons Bridge the British pursued us and sometimes so close that we could not get time to cook but we were reinforced and we got home pursuit of the British and they retreated to the Fort at Stono I had been sick from the time we left the big swamp and was hauled in the baggage wagon for some time and my health so bad that I have but a small recollection of all the circumstances that occurred and when we went into the battle at Stono I was hardly able to do duty but I marched to the attack at the Fort and our Lieutenant Philip Neal informed us that General Moltrie [William Moultrie] from towards Charlestown was to attack the British on the opposite side at the same time, but I understood he failed to do so. From Stono we marched to Moncks Corner from there to Dodgester [Dorchester] and from there to Georgetown and after we left Georgetown I was taken sick again and lay at a man's house until a friend came after me and carried me home. I also omitted stating that for turning out volunteer I got \$5 for turning out and \$5 per month which was paid in Continental money and I served three months as a private, next after I was drafted and stationed at Swifts Creek bridge under the command of Captain William Winnum to guard the public stores that was deposited at that place and I served 15 days, next after I was drafted and went under the command of Captain Aron Arnold we was marched down the Country to a place called the Richland Chapel and there we was stationed to guard against the depredations and I served twenty-five days I served all my service as a private and the day of the month or year I do not recollect but my service was all rendered in the Revolutionary war between the United States and Great Britain and I served six months for which I claim a Pension And I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present. And I do further declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/ Malachi Hafford, X his mark

[Attested August 8, 1840 by John Reynolds, JP]

[John Lane and Benjamin F. Spilman, a clergyman, gave a separate standard supporting

affidavits.]

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