

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Mathias Hite S38031

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Towit

At a Court held for the County of Harrison on the 22^d day of April 1818 & 42^d year of the Commonwealth Present David Morris, Elias Stillwell James Bartlett Peter Lynch and Edward R. Jackson Gentlemen Justices - Before the Court aforesaid personally appeared Mathias Hite and being duely sworn according to law upon his oath makes the following declaration in order to procure the provision of the late act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval force of the united states in the revolutionary war" that he entered the service of the united states as a first Lieutenant of the 8th virginia Battallion about the month of February 1775 and after remaining there about one year he received his commission which accompanys this declaration that he continued in the said service until the 8 may 1776 at which time he was a captain and then had leave from the Commander in Chief to resign as appears by the accompanying discharge [not found] and that from his reduced circumstances in Life he needs the assistance of his Country for support and that he has now no other evidence in his power of his said services.

IN CONGRESS

The DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania*, the Counties of *New-Castle, Kent and Sussex* on Delaware, *Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina* and *Georgia*, TO

Matthias Hite Esquire

WE, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be A First Lieutenant in the Eighth Virginia Battalion

in the Army of the United States, raised for the Defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of First Lieutenant by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as First Lieutenant And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall received from this or future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Army of the United States, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

Dated at Philadelphia February 19th 1776

By Order of the Congress,

[signed] John Hancock PRESIDENT.

ATTEST. Chas Thomson Ju'y

Virginia towit

At a court held for the County of Harrison on the 22^d day of June 1820 (being a court of record established by an act of the General assembly of this Commonwealth) Personally appeared in open Court Matthias Hite aged 70 years resident of Harrison County Virginia who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows: that he entered the service as Lieutenant 1775 in the 8th Regiment Virginia line - his original Declaration was made April 20th 1818 - his pension certificate is No 5989 & he the said Matthias also took the following oath viz "I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any other manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provissions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war"

passed on the 18th day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts, or Debts due to me; nor have I any income, other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed & by me subscribed. viz "I have an article of agreement with William Martin by which he is bound to furnish me meal meat & flour, flax, & wool for clothing and sundry necessary articles which at the time I entered into the contract I considered a good one, but the loss of my wife my advanced age & crippled situation which makes me unfit for business renders the contract of little service to me, as the articles are to be furnished in the raw state they are of small benefit as my situation is such that I cannot even dress myself without assistance. I have some Debts due me the amount I do not know nor the prospect of payment I was a cabinet maker by trade have no family am in fact helpless - Mtt. Hite

a Schedule of the real & personal property (& Debts due) Matthias Hite —

1 Bed Bedstead & covers

The debts due me do not exceed two hundred dollars the precise amount I do not know I have no land am a cripple and cannot dress myself without assistance
Harrison County Va

Personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Mathias Hite & made oath that the above Schedule & statement is correct & true Given under my hand this 18th day of April 1820 Th. Moore JP

Harrison Cty to Wit.

Mathias Hite further states that he supposes the person who gave information that he (Hite) was not in needy circumstances was induced to believe so from the fact that in the year 1816 he entered into a contract with a certain William Martin who was to find him (Hite) "meal meat & flour, also flax & wool in the raw state for clothing, which contract had his wife lived to cook his vituals, spin & weave the flax & wool would have enabled him to support himself so long as said Martin should continue solvent" but having lost his wife become a cripple & dependent for the very cooking of his vituals he feels conscious he is within the meaning of the act & hopes this statement will satisfy the Honorable Secretary of war & that he will give orders for the payment of his pension

Mathias Hite appeared before me and made oath that the above facts are true Given under my hand April 20th 1820 Th. Moore J.P.H.Cty

Washington City. May 10, 1820

Sir, [two paragraphs unrelated to Hite]

I have heard that Matthias Hite of Virginia has been struck from the pension list or that the payment of his pension was suspended - pray inform me to day or as soon as convenient whether this be so, - for if any difficulty has occurred with regard to his circumstances I am satisfied I can remove it, and convince the Sec'y. that Hite is properly entitled to the pension.

your obt servt Jas Pindall

NOTES:

A Matthias Hite was one of 86 signers of the following document who comprised the First Independent Company of Dunmore:

"Impressed with a deep sense of the present truly Alarming Situation of American affairs and the precarious State we are in, Occasioned by the repeated encroachments which Britain has made, on those Liberties, to which as free born Subjects & by Charter we are so justly entitled and willing as much as lies in our power to assist our Brethren on this continent who have so nobly stood forth in defence of our Liberties, And confident that a well regulated militia is the surest defence of every State, We the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the County of Dunmore and Colony of Virginia embody ourselves in one *one* Company, to be called the first Independent Company of Dunmore, And do bind ourselves by all ties of Honour Love to our Country, and the words of Gentlemen to adhere strictly to such resolves which shall be entered into by a Majority of the Company—" After 1778 Dunmore County was renamed Shenandoah

County. From *Virginia Military Records*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1983, pp. 142-144.

A note on the pension certificate states that Hite died 9 Jan 1823.