

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Hamilton S4320

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS

Lee County }

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court of the County of Lee now sitting, James Hamilton a Resident of Lee County Virginia in the County & State aforesaid aged 76 years the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1832

That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the same year that Cornwallis took Richmond Virginia [see endnote] but in what year he cannot say, he was and had been for some time previous a citizen of Amherst County Virginia, that some time previous to that, all of the citizens of the county who were disposed to unite in opposition to the Brittish Government were called on to take the oath of allegiance to the American Government, which oath he and many others of that county took, and after the oath was so taken the whiggs [sic: Whigs] were divided into ten classes, and every whigg in the county came forward to the Courthouse and drew a number and according to the number so drawn each was placed in one or the other of the ten classes. That he drew number six and stood in the 6<sup>th</sup> class. And as above stated was called out a few months before Richmond was taken. That he commenced his march from home in the fall or winter [more likely late spring 1781] under Capt Richard Ballinger [Richard Ballenger], Lieut. Thomas Jones and Ensign Richard Prior, that they marched from Amherst directly on to Richmond Va. That they went on near Buckingham Courthouse & by Goochland Courthouse & by Westham . That when they got to Richmond the rope works, Magazine, Smith Shops & all the public works were destroyed & the guns spiked & rolled down into the edge of James River by Cornwallis (see endnote). That when they got there a few Malitia had arived and some of the citizens were returning again to their property. That they staid there 8 or ten days & in the mean time pressed all the boats they could at Rocketts Landing [just downstream from present I-95]. And that they went of from there under the same officers to Woods fort, some in Boats and some on land. That when they arrive, the fort had also been much injured by the Brittish, had been done on there way to Richmond that he staid there at Woods fort the ballance of his tour of six months under the same officers guarding the river to prevent the enemy from passing up the river to Rocketts landing near Richmond where the shipping stopped in those day times. That some times during their stay there Gen'l. Stubon [sic: Baron von Steuben] of the American army came there. That during their stay there the Brittish light horse [probably Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, late May 1781] came near, that one King who was sentinel ran from his post & there were some guns fired & these horse returned. That at the end of his tour he got a discharge & certificate to draw his pay & returned home. That some time after his return home from this tour his number of 6 was again called out, & he again commenced his march from home for Richmond he recollects under Col. [John] Pope, Capt. John Diggs [probably John Digges], Lieut. Eads & Ensign not recollected. That they marched on by the inspection at the Mouth of Ballengers Creek on James River [Ballinger Creek on Rivanna River?], & went on down on the North Side of James River, by the Mouth of the North River [possibly North Creek], & by westham, and then turned to the left leaving Richmond to the right. That they went on near Chickahominy, and were all most constantly on a march during the tour That they were stationed a few days at Barrett Whites Mills & they there got their discharge having finished a three months tour. That they remained under the same officers that they had no fighting nor did they see any other soldiers, except companies from Augusta and other places going on towards the enemy. That sometime after his return home from this second tour his number was again called out & he substituted one Edward Masters then a prentice [sic: an apprentice] with him at the

Hatting business with him & give him \$1000 Continental Money & a Blanket. That Masters on as he recollects towards Portsmouth under a regular officer & served a tour of six months & returned to his trade of hatting again. That again some time after Master return, the number 6 were again called and he went another tour of one month under Capt Dawson & Lieut Watts to the Barris [sic: Barracks] in Albemarle and there remained under the same officers, guarding Burgoyne's troops who had been taken at Albany as he recollects [sic: Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777], & were again relieved at the end of the month by the arrival of another Capt's company & that he got another discharge. That again some months afterwards he & others of his number were called to go to guard the British Tories to Augusta. That he went to Augusta under Capt John Jacob's, that they guarded them to that county from some where in Amherst, that can not say when they were taken but he understood that they were taking them to Nova Scotia. That when they got them to Augusta they were taken from them by some other guards after serving something like 9 or 10 days. That he got discharges in every instance, all of which have by some means been lost. that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the above statement, nor does he know of any body by whom he can prove it except one Micajin Frazier who is said, if alive, to live some where in Kentucky. he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state whatever nor has it been.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid James Hamilton

NOTES:

By the time Cornwallis passed through Richmond about 26 May 1781, the city had already been plundered and the foundry and other public works at Westham destroyed by Gen. Benedict Arnold and Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe (5 - 7 Jan 1781).

Documents in the file indicate that Hamilton was born in Orange County VA and moved to Amherst County at age 15. He continued to live in Amherst County for several years after the war, then moved to Augusta County for about five years, where he married, then lived in Botetourt County for about three years, then to Wythe County for seven or eight years, then around 1813 moved to Russell County VA. On 5 Aug 1833 Hamilton stated that he resided in Scott County VA when he began receiving his pension, and that he had recently moved to East Tennessee. In the same year he referred to his first daughter, Mrs. Dougherty, 55. On 23 May 1835 he applied to have his pension transferred to McMinn County TN, where he had moved, "having lost his wife and wishing to remain amongst his children they having sold in Virginia and moved to Tennessee." On 21 Jul 1838 he was still living in McMinn County TN, along with his son, Wyatt Hamilton. A document in the file states that the final pension payment from the last regular payment until Hamilton's death on 6 Feb 1844 was paid to Wyatt Hamilton, his only child.