

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joel Hicks S4365

f32VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/24/14

[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 Tennessee Hawkins County: Circuit Court September Term 1833

On this 7th day of October 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Circuit Court now sitting, Joel Hicks, a resident of Hawkins and State of Tennessee aged 68 years on the 21st day of this month, 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he was born in Hanover County in the State of Virginia on the 21st of October in the year 1765; that there was a record of his age in his father's Bible, now in the possession of his sister in Albemarle County in Virginia; that he has in his possession a copy of said record; that he lived in Hanover County in Virginia when he was drafted into the service of the United States in the summer of 1781 under Captain Ambrose Lipscomb; that the different Captains Companies rendezvoused at Hanover Court House & joined a Regiment under Major Burk as well as this applicant can now recollect; that from Hanover they marched to Southampton; that at this place they were stationed two months, or more to guard that place; that while they were at Southampton Lord Cornwallis visited Hanover Court House from which he was driven, as well as this applicant can recollect, By General Green; that he then took his stand at Little York at which place he was forced to surrender [October 19, 1781] to the combined forces of America & France. This applicant further states that from Southampton he & the other forces were marched to Richmond, expecting that Lord Cornwallis would attack that place as he was in its neighborhood; that while they were stationed at Richmond guarding that place, the surrender of Cornwallis took place at Little York in October 1781.

This applicant further states that after they received the information at Richmond of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, they were marched to Hanover Court House, where they met with the prisoners taken at Little York; that here this applicant was put under one Captain William Grimes, for the purpose of going on with the prisoners & guarding them to Albemarle County, that in a few days they set out with the prisoners with the intention above mentioned; that they arrived safely with the prisoners at their place of destiny, which was about four miles from Albemarle Court House, where they threw up Barracks to shelter them while guarding the prisoners; that while stationed at these barracks guarding the prisoners, his six months for which he had first drafted expired; that after the expiration of his six months, he again entered the service, at the barracks, as a substitute in the place of one John Hill; that this was under the same Captain Grimes & this term of service as a substitute lasted four months, as well as he can recollect; that finally the prisoners were dismissed & this applicant discharged from further

service; that he received his discharge at the expiration of his six months service, & also the discharge as a substitute from the hands & signed by Captain Grimes, & returned home; that his discharges have been misplaced or lost so that he cannot find them; that he took very little care of them, thinking he would have no use for them. This applicant further states that he knows of no one now living by whom he can prove his services, but that he is known in his present neighborhood to Eldridge Hord & William H Smith who can testify to his character & their belief of his services; he further states that there is no clergyman in his neighborhood; that after the revolutionary war he lived in Albemarle County, Virginia till the last 24 years, during which he has lived in Hawkins County, Tennessee where he now lives. That it has been so long and his memory has failed him so that he cannot state safely any of the names of the officers except those who had immediate command over him; he further states that he never received a commission.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State; (or if any) only on that of the Agency of the State of Tennessee.

That owing to the loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the length of time he served but believes according to his best recollection he served not less than the period above mentioned making in all 10 months & for such service I claims a pension.

S/ Joel Hicks, X his mark

[Eldridge Hord & William H Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Rogersville October 18th 1836

Sir,

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 18th of July last enclosing the Original papers upon which Robert Housley¹ obtained a pension from the United [States] as a revolutionary soldier. Immediately on the receipt of those papers a warrant was issued against Housley on a charge of Perjury. He was brought before three magistrates of this County & several witnesses against him and on his behalf were examined in the presence of numerous spectators and I believe the unanimous opinion of all who heard the Testimony was that he had never been in the Revolutionary War, that his whole story was a tissue of falsehoods; and that he ought to be stricken from the pension Roll. He was recognized to appear at the Circuit Court of the United States and at the Session of that Court which was held last week at Knoxville the Grand Jewelry found a true bill against him for perjury. He continued the cause [image of this page cut off at the bottom thereof, text missing]

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Several of the United States witnesses are aged and my own opinion is that Housley put off his time in hope that some of these witnesses may die before the next Term of court which will be October 1837.

I have also been informed and have no reason to doubt the truth of the information that a man by the name of Joel Hicks who resides in this County (Hawkins) has improperly obtained a pension as a Revolutionary Soldier when in fact, as is stated to me he never was in the Revolutionary War and has obtained a pension by means of Perjury. I have the information from Hicks' own nephew and others. I promised them to communicate the information to the War Department and to await the Instructions I might receive on the subject. If you will transmit the

¹ FPA R5267

original papers in his case I will esteem it a duty on my part to cause a prosecution to be instituted against him. I have also heard of others in the same situation in an adjoining County whose names I will transmit to the Department as soon as I can get the necessary information.

I am satisfied that enormous frauds have been practice on the Government in obtaining pensions by those who have no legitimate claim to have their names on the pension Roll.

I am very respectfully Sir
Your Obedient Serve
S/ John A. McKinney
United States Attorney &c

[Facts in file: Upon an investigation of his claim by the US district Attorney at Rogersville, Tennessee, it was found that he never served as a soldier in the Revolution, in consequence of which his name was dropped from the pension roll October 29, 1836.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for ten months in the Virginia militia.]