

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Hester S6998

f12NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/14/09 rev'd 12/21/15 & 9/12/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of North Carolina Granville County} SS

On this the 1st Monday of August 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid, now sitting Benjamin Hester a resident of the County aforesaid aged Seventy two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on 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 & served as herein stated. He turned out as a volunteer at the Court House in Granville about the time of the dark day¹ -- He has tried to identify the period but he is not able to and marched into the County of Halifax Virginia with one Capt. Ralph Williams and joined a part of the Army at a place called Peytonsburg, commanded by Col. Lytle [Archibald Lytle], Col. Thaxton [James Thackston] & Major Dixon [Henry "Hal" Dixon]. After remaining there 6 or 7 weeks, he crossed Dan River and lay some time at a place called Moon's Creek. Sometime afterwards how long this affiant does not now remember, he marched under the same officers into South Carolina and after traversing a great part of that State, joined General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] at Purrysburg, where he continued during the winter. At Purrysburg he was under Capt. Mills & afterwards in the light infantry under Capt. Goodman [Christopher Goodwin?]. After breaking up winter quarters at Purrysburg he marched to a place called Bacon's Bridge about 20 miles above Charleston on Ashley River -- thence to a place called Stono River or Stono ferry² and remained there about 6 weeks & then had an engagement with the enemy. In this engagement his Capt. was Goodman. He was led on by a French officer whose name was Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] or something like it and Major Moore. About 3 or 4 weeks afterwards, he was discharged at a place called Dorchester or Dodgester at the head of Ashley River. He does not know who signed his discharge. The affiant cannot now recollect the dates of the service detailed in the foregoing declaration, but he hopes it may be ascertained by referring to the history of the day. The time during which he continued with the Army as a volunteer as above stated was 13 months.

This affiant then returned home to the County of Granville. After an interval of what duration he cannot say with any accuracy, he again turned out as a volunteer under Capt. Pulliam [Barnett Pulliam] at the Court house in Granville County & joined the company of which Pulliam was Capt. at a place called O'Neal's in Orange [County] & marched immediately to

¹ There was a total solar eclipse on June 24, 1778 in the region that would have included North and South Carolina

² June 20, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/stonoferry.htm>

Charleston. The Col. in command was Col. Lytle & the commander of the Army was General Lincoln. At the expiration of three months he volunteered for another tour of three months under Capt. Pulliam -- and during the latter period he was taken prisoner with the rest of the Army at the taking of Charleston.³ This affiant was a soldier in the militia was discharged upon parole & returned home. Not long after his return, the brother of this affiant was drafted in the militia & prevailed upon the affiant to take his place as a substitute which he did without knowing whether he had been exchanged. He joined his Regiment at the narrows of the Yadkin [River] in a company commanded by one Capt. Peter Bennett -- but he does not recollect the name of the Col. or of the Major of the Regiment at that time. He marched into South Carolina & joined the Army at a place called Cheraw Hills under General Gates [Horatio Gates] -- he then marched towards Camden & halted at a place called Rudgeley's or Ridgeley's Mills [Rugeley's Mills]. Immediately before the Battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780] was fought, but this affiant was not in the action in consequence of being sent out with a detachment of 500 men to harass the baggage of the enemy which it was said they were sending on to Charleston. Before he returned from this service the action was fought. The detachment to which this affiant belonged retreated up the River to a place called Rocky Mount, where they were overtaken & defeated by the enemy, as it was said commanded⁴ by Col. Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton]⁴ -- Shortly afterwards the affiant was discharged at Hillsboro, his term of service having expired, but he does not recollect who gave him his discharge. After continuing at home a short time, he was employed as a substitute by one Stovall and marched under Capt. Merritt [Stephen Merritt] & joined his Regiment near Salisbury commanded, he thinks, by Col. Farmer [Lt. Col. Thomas Farmer]. -- During this tour he was out three months and was in a skirmish with the enemy on the Catawba where the Americans were defeated⁵ -- at this time he thinks Major Murphey was one of his officers. He thinks he received a discharge from Major Murphey [Archibald Murphey] but he is not certain of the fact. He afterwards entered the Cavalry as a substitute, under Capt. John Taylor, immediately after the battle at Guilford [March 15, 1781].⁶ He was with the Army that followed the enemy to Ramsey's Mills & afterwards to Wilmington. General Greene [Nathanael Greene] left the detachment to which this affiant belonged at [text over written and obliterated, but I believe the missing words is "Ramsey's"] Mills & marched into South Carolina. He received his discharge from Col. Malmedy but has not preserved it.

He then enlisted at the Court House of Granville County for 12 months under Capt. Tillmon Dixon [Tilghman Dixon] or Capt. Donoho [Thomas Donoho]. He joined his Regiment under Col. Dixon [Henry "Hal" Dixon] & marched to the High hills of Santee where he joined General Greene. This affiant was taken at this place with the small pox & was confined with it at the time of the action at Eutaw Springs [Battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781].⁷ After his recovery he joined the Army at Bacon's Bridge & continued there until his discharge. The last 12 months of his service was in the regular Army.

Altogether this affiant served in the Army as a volunteer, substitute & regular soldier upwards of thirty months as will be seen by referring to the different periods of service detailed above. He knows of but one person alive who can testify to his actual service thereto but 5

³ Charleston fell on May 12, 1780.

⁴ The claimant appears to be referring to the Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

⁵ The claimant appears to be referring to the Battle of Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781.

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

⁶ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

⁷ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

months of it. The name of his witness is Zachariah Hester⁸ whose deposition is hereto attached - he believes that one Shadrach Owen⁹ of this County is acquainted with his service a part of his time in S. Carolina -- the names of those by whom he proves a part of his service are Zachariah Hester & Shadrach Owen, whose depositions are herewith transmitted.

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.

S/ Benjamin Hester, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[John Mallory, a clergyman, Stephen K. Sneed & Leslie Gilliam gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina County of Granville

On this 8th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid now sitting Zachariah Hester & Shadrach Owen both residents of the County aforesaid who being duly sworn upon the Holy evangelist depose & say as follows --

Zachariah Hester saith that he served with Benjamin Hester in the early part of the Revolutionary War for the space of five months in Purrysburg on the Savannah River or near it. He knows that said Benjamin Hester afterwards served three months in or near Charleston before the capture of that Town.

Shadrach Owen saith that he knows that Benjamin Hester served five months near Purrysburg on the Savannah River in the war of the Revolution -- That he was himself in the service at that time -- that he afterwards served two months with said Benjamin Hester in a troop of Cavalry after the Battle of Guilford & was in a skirmish with said Hester at a place called Ramsey's Mills.

Sworn to & subscribed before us in Open court the day & year above & we certify that the Deponents above named are entitled to credit.

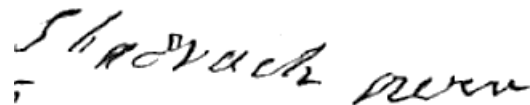
S/ James Wyche

S/ Zachariah Hester, X his mark

S/ Rich'd Sneed

S/ Shadrach Owen

S/ Thos. Turner



State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that Benjamin Hester a private Soldier in Captain Dixon's Company of the 10th Regiment enlisted on the 15th of May 1781 for the term of 12 months and was "omitted in 1781." That nothing more is said of him on said rolls.

Given under my hand this 1st day of December 1832

S/ Wm Hill [NC Secretary of State]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 ½ years in the North Carolina Continental line and militia.]

⁸ [Zachariah Hester S7002](#)

⁹ [Shadrach Owen \(Owens\) W5459](#)