

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abraham Hill S7015

Transcribed by Will Graves

f31NC

rev'd 5/4/11 & 8/6/20

[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 North Carolina, Iredell County

Personally appeared in open Court Abraham Hill, this 26th day of August 1832, a resident of Iredell County, and State of North Carolina aged about 74 years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following statement, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. -- That he entered the service (as well as he recollects) about the year 1779. In the Regiment then commanded by Colonel Francis Locke General Griffith Rutherford, Brigade, Captain James Purviance's Company. All the above described officers then resided in the aforesaid State of North Carolina, Rowan County of which County of Iredell now forms a part to which section of Country his Father removed when he was about seven years of age, and in which County he continues to live. His first service commenced in the service of the above named State about the time described as a volunteer, in what was then called the Cross Creek or Fayetteville expedition, and as well as I can now recollect, and which service continued as well as I now recollect about two calendar months.

The 2nd term of service which I performed took place in the same year, in the month of July as well as I now recollect, in what ought perhaps to be called a draft under the same General, Colonel and Captain and continued about three calendar months – we rendezvoused at what was then called Cathey's Fort on the head of the Catawba [River] in the State aforesaid, and which is now included in Burke County – we then proceeded westward – crossing the Mountains at the head of Swannanoa [River] in the Blue Ridge and on westwardly crossing various Fords until we reached the Valley Towns – the most westwardly point of the expedition. Our object in making the Valley Towns our point of destination was to form a Junction with the South Carolina Militia commanded by General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], who had had a skirmish with the Cherokee Indians before we joined him – we then returned to our place of residence, above described.¹

The 3rd term of service commenced in the Militia of North Carolina as a substitute for John Montgomery. Commanded by the aforesaid General Griffith Rutherford, Colonel Francis Locke – Captain James Purviance and in the month of July 1780 as well as can be recollected we joined General Gates' [Horatio Gates'] Army at the place which is now called Sneedsborough [?]- we then proceeded on towards South Carolina – crossing the Pedee [River] at the Cheraw Hill – crossing Lynches Creek – thence to Rugeley's Creek in South Carolina – where we encamped for some days – on the Tuesday before General Gates was defeated within _ [indecipherable number] miles from Camden, General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] sent a

¹ Veteran appears to be referring to the Cherokee Expedition of 1776, August 1, 1776-November 1, 1776
https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

request to General Gates for a reinforcement – there was a part of each Company of Colonel Locke's Regiment placed under the command of the aforesaid Captain Purviance & detached accordingly, of which I formed a part – we were placed in the Regiment of Colonel Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] & marched immediately – crossed the Catawba River at Rocky Mount, & joined him shortly thereafter a little below: and was with General Sumter when he was defeated near the mouth of Fishing Creek in South Carolina.² The length of this service I would suppose continued about two months – this was the only skirmish then I was in during the thus described term of Militia service: And I have no recollection that I ever received a discharge for either of those terms of service – I was not wounded.

The 4th term of service commenced in the Fall of 1780. It was ordered by Colonel Hugh Brevard a militia Colonel of the North Carolina line, that a company should be raised – called Rangers under the command of Captain John Bickerstaff [several words obliterated] my services as a volunteer, with all that formed the Company. We united on lower Little River in Burke County North Carolina, where we were employed our time principally for about three calendar months performing such service as was directed by the aforesaid Colonel Hugh Brevard-- principally in the County of Burke – State aforesaid – our object being principally to keep in check disaffected persons and affording security & protection to the Whigs inhabiting that Region of Country – we had no skirmishes during the tour: nor did I ever get a discharge to the best of my recollection – I was subsequently, and relative to the performance of all the above described tours, a volunteer in a volunteer Company commanded by the aforesaid Captain James Purviance called minute men – we performed various short tours – no one of any considerable length or importance along this tour not embracing more than two weeks at one time: and in all I would not suppose more than two months.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Abraham Hill



[Stephen Frontis, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

We Robert Gracey³ and William Woodside⁴ residing in the County of Iredell and State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Abraham Hill, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 74 years of age; that he is reputed and believed, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution, that I Robert Gray was a volunteer in the same ten months as described above & in the same Brigade, Regiment and Company, and that William Woodside, saw the said Abraham Hill in the hospital where he was confined in South Carolina: and they have a personal knowledge of the service performed by the said A. Hill.

S/ Robert Gracey

S/ William Woodside



² Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780

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

³ [Robert Gracey S8635](#)

⁴ [William Woodside S7960](#)

State of North Carolina, Iredell County

On this 26th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Iredell County now sitting, Abraham Hill, a resident of North Carolina, in the County of Iredell, and State aforesaid, aged about 74 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 as State Troops and served as herein stated in the Regiment of Cavalry commanded by Colonel Wade Hampton in April 1781 as a volunteer – Captain John Reed's [sic, John Reid's] Company in the North Carolina line – Captain Reed was a native of South Carolina, and was a student in Rowan County (now Iredell County) and proposed under the direction of General Sumter and Colonel Hampton to raise a volunteer Company to go to the assistance of South Carolina, forming a part of that Company we set off from my place of residence in North Carolina on the 25th day of April as above stated we repaired immediately to the aforesaid State and rendezvoused at Friday's ferry on the Congaree River not far from where Columbia is now situated where we were introduced as State Troops in the service of the United States – General Thomas Sumter Commanded the Brigade, Colonel Wade Hampton commanded the Regiment of Cavalry – called the first Regiment and Captain John Reed commanded that Company we marched across the River and took several British Forts – one on Congaree at Friday's ferry,⁵ and one near McCord's ferry on the same River: and that Orangeburgh⁶ where we had a slight skirmish with the enemy we then proceeded on towards Charleston, having a skirmish at Cooper River near Strawberry ferry⁷ having pursued the enemy from a Brick Church near Moncks Corner – we then marched in advance of Lord Rawdon towards Ninety Six,⁸ that we might form a Junction with General Nath'l Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], who had evacuated the place before we reached there – we then marched across the Country, having received an express to form a Junction as soon as possible which we effected within 12 or 15 miles of Ninety Six – we then marched on to Broad River. From Broad River back to Congaree – crossing the River at Middleton's Corn [?] House – at this junction I took sick about the 8th of August – whence I was carried across the River in a canoe, and placed in the Hospital where Dr. Dyzart [sic, Dysart] was the principal Physician – after I recovered near and about two months I joined my company on Edisto River – during which period the battle was fought at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] – the Regiment then proceeded on towards Savannah River where we lay in what's called Beech Island about six weeks – we then crossed the River and proceeded in to Ebenezer on the Ogeechee [River] which we crossed at Dollard's Ferry – the Regiment then proceeded on towards the Altamaha River – out of the immediate inhabitants for the purpose of checking & controlling the conduct of disaffected persons among the Indians. About this time our tour of service expired which was for the period of ten months – we returned to Orangeburg and was discharged by Colonel Beaufort – I received my discharge from Beaufort, but have long since lost it. I then returned to my adopted place of residence in Rowan County (now Iredell County) where I have uniformly resided, and continued to reside, I received no wounds during my term of service, nor any material injury.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency of any State.

S/ Abraham Hill

⁵ Fort Granby, May 14-15, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html

⁶ Orangeburgh, May 11, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html

⁷ Strawberry Ferry, July 16, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_strawberry_ferry.html

⁸ Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781

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

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State of North Carolina, Iredell County

Personally appeared before me Samuel King one of the Justices of the peace for the County of Iredell Abraham Hill for the purpose of amending a declaration setting forth his services in the Revolutionary War made the 26th day of August 1832 and sent on to the War department which has been returned to him with the following objections. That some of the Terms of service are not definitely expressed that the answers to the interrogatories were not written down and sent on to the War department with the declaration and that the certificate of the certifying officer named on a separate sheet was not attached to the declaration in the manner prescribed by the Rules of the Department and being Furnished with a printed Sheet containing the Rules aforesaid prescribed to make the following amendments Viz.: That he entered the service in 1779 under Captain James Purviance Francis Locke Colonel & Brigadier General Griffith Rutherford and served two months the second Term of service I performed under the same Officers in the same year was three months the Third Term of service as a substitute for John Montgomery commenced under the same officers was not less than two months the Fourth Term of service as a Ranger I was three months As a Minute man served not less than two months & the last Term of Service in the Cavalry of State Troops was Ten months as set forth in the Declaration He further declares that he completed his 75th year the 29th day of January last. Interrogatory 1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – The declarant says he was born in Bucks County in the State of Pennsylvania on January 29, 1758

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer – My age is recorded in my family library.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer – When I first entered the service of the United States I lived in North Carolina, Rowan County, now (Iredell County) where I have uniformly resided and now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: I was first a volunteer, secondly drafted, thirdly substituted for John Montgomery, and fourthly and lastly a volunteer.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: -- I first served under General Gates, and was with him near Camden, when I was ordered off to reinforce General Sumter – 2 days before Gates defeat – I was subsequently under General Greene & Wayne – in the States of South Carolina and Georgia: and was a private during the whole of my service in the Army.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer: -- I was regularly discharged by Captain Bleaufort [sic] at Orangeburg South Carolina and which discharge I have lost or mislaid.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer – I have in my declaration stated two witnesses, and am happy to say could add any number as to my veracity.

Sworn and subscribed before me Samuel King one of the Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid May 7th, 1833.

S/ Samuel King, JP

S/ Abraham Hill

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$81.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 22 months service as a private in the Infantry & Cavalry of the North Carolina militia.]

[Note: There is a file number 3597 among the South Carolina Audited Accounts under the name Hill, Abraham. Unfortunately the only document contained in that folder is completely illegible as posted online. It is so faint an image that no words can be discerned.]