

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Hughes S7046

f32VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/12/14

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[ pp 3-6: undated document]

I James Hughes do solemnly affirm to the best of my knowledge & belief to the following statements.

I was born on the fifteenth of September 1762 and lived in the County of Hanover, State of Virginia until I enlisted in the Continental Army. At the time I was enlisted, the companies were raised by divisions – every division furnishing its man or men. I enlisted in one of those divisions, received the bounty of Garland Anderson, & man of high standing in the division as it was then called – It was in December 1788 [sic]. We were called in the service sometime in the winter, met at Fredericksburg; there we drew our clothing & marched to join the northern Army. We got within 20 miles of Philadelphia at a place called the Blue House. We there received orders to march back to the South. We faced right about and made a forced march to Petersburg. We were there met by a good many old Soldiers & Officers & were laid out in regiments. I belonged to Colonel Richard Parker's Regiment, Colonel Hopkins was Lieutenant Colonel. Richard Cluff Anderson [Richard Clough Anderson] was the Major – Alexander Parker was Captain – Thomas Parker was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant – \_\_ Conway was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Our Regiment was the first that had orders to march to the South. We marched through North Carolina by the way of Hillsboro; Salisbury &c into South Carolina & so on to Augusta in Georgia. We there received orders to march to Savannah & lay siege to the town, the British then having it in possession. General Lincolnton [Benjamin Lincoln] commanded the American Troops. There was a large Army of the French. The siege lasted 20 or more days [September 16 – October 18, 1779]. At Length orders were given to storm the town. Our Army was completely defeated. More than half of our Regiment was killed or wounded. The sick & wounded was put on board of some small vessels for Charleston South Carolina. The vessel that I was aboard after leaving the land sprung a leak. We fired signals for relief from the other vessels there being 5 or 6 in number. One of their boats returned. Our own boat with that was laden with men was to have returned for the balance, but night coming on, storm & rain, the boats never returned. The Captain threw out his anchor with hopes of getting relief from the French fleet but the storm raged so during the night that our cable was broken & in the morning we were out of sight of Land on the Ocean. The Storm continued to rage for 4 or 5 days & we expecting every minute to be lost. Everything belonging to the vessel was torn in pieces & it was with great difficulty that could be prevented from sinking. The 5<sup>th</sup> day at night we ran aground. We all gave up for death but that God who doth all things well was with us. The vessel was so near the Land that by laying plank we could walk to the shore. There was great rejoicing on the little Island that night

although we had nothing to eat – but our lives were spared. In the morning we found ourselves on a little Island inhabited alone by wild beasts. We remained there some 6 or 7 days & there we buried some 4 or 5 of our poor fellows who starved to death. We were cast away about 50 miles south of St. Augustine in West Florida which at that time was in the possession of the British. They heard of us and send [sent] for us claiming to be brought to St. Augustine claiming us for Prisoners of war. They sent Horses for all those who could not walk. We remained prisoners at St. Augustine 4 months & were then filed out & sent to Charlestown to be exchanged. When we got there we found the English just about laying siege to the town. After a siege of about 2 months & one month's hard fighting we had to surrender our whole Army to the British. Colonel Parker was killed at Charleston – about 4 days before the town was surrendered [May 12, 1780]. We were there all taken & confined as prisoners in a Barracks made of plank & were kept 5 months. The men were continually breaking out & running away, so the remainder was taken & put aboard a prison ship. A good many of our men enlisted in the British service with the hope of getting clear. We were confined there nine months & for the first time I received two dollars which was sent to us by our Government & this is every cent that I ever did received [sic]. After being a prisoner 14 months at Charleston we were at length once more set sail for Virginia our native country. We were landed at old Jamestown & carried from thence to Williamsburg & there received our discharge in the summer of 1781. I do not recollect who signed my discharge & thinking that it never would be of much value I took but little care of it & it was lost. I from there returned home & there was very soon a call for men. As I had gotten used to the roar of cannon I took a man's place, whose name I do not recollect – to go to the Siege of Little York. I belonged to Colonel Eanus [?]<sup>1</sup> regiment, Captain Anderson's Company & there remained during the siege doing my duty. After the capture of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], the prisoners being removed up the Country I was discharged & returned home. Sometime after hearing that the certificates of discharged soldiers were worth something I applied to Colonel R. Cluff Anderson who gave me a certificate of service – which I sold for some trifle. I was married in the year 1790 to my present wife – the daughter of John Sizer<sup>2</sup> of Caroline [County Virginia]. I lived in the County of Hanover Virginia until \_\_ year when I removed to James River in the County of Goochland – where we have lived until the year 11832 [sic, 1832, I assume]. We have raised 7 sons & 3 daughters, 4 sons & 2 daughters were living when I last heard of them. We have great reason to think God that they are all considered respectable as far as we have heard & are generally esteemed by their acquaintances – as all like me [indecipherable word] we acquainted [indecipherable word].<sup>3</sup>

S/ James Hughes

*James Hughes*

<sup>1</sup> *Col Eanus*

<sup>2</sup> *John Sizer*

<sup>3</sup>

*by their acquaintances - so all told me though we  
acquainted with them -  
James Hughes*

[p 20: copy of a deed dated May 11, 1821 in which James Hughes of Goochland County conveys to Garland A. Hughes, of Charlotte County his heirs and assigns, a tract of land containing 160 acres.]

[pp 21-22: Bill of sale dated May 12, 1821 from James Hughes to Garland A Hughes by which the grantor conveyed to the grantee the following personal property: old man slave named Jim \$400; Sear and her child Walker \$400; Edy \$250; together with other personal property including 2 horses, one cold, 3 cows, 2 heifers, 2 calves, 17 hogs, 5 sheep, for lambs one ox cart etc..]

[p 23]

State of Virginia County of Goochland: SS

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before Benjamin Anderson, William Bolling, George Woodson, Payne and Thomas Curd Justices of the peace for the County of Goochland, who are the Court of Goochland County, now sitting, James Hughes late a resident citizen of the County of Goochland, and State of Virginia, aged seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration; that he is the same James Hughes, that appeared before the County Court of Goochland in the State of Virginia on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 1830, and then made a declaration before that Court being a court of record for the County of Goochland created by the laws of the State of Virginia in order to obtain the provisions of the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 and first of May 1820 which declaration he now repeats: that he the said James Hughes enlisted for the term of eighteen months, on the \_\_\_ day of December in the year 1778 in the State of Virginia, in the company commanded by Captain Alexander Parker in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said Corps until 1781 being eighteen months a prisoner: when he was discharged from the Service in Williamsburg in the State of Virginia: that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, except the present, that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state: and that the following is the reason for not making earlier application for pension than the declaration made by him as aforesaid on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 1830: that until a short time before that date, he was ignorant of the provisions of the laws of the United States providing for persons engaged in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me so as to render me any support or provision for the support of myself or family: having to rely entirely on the bounty & aid of my son for a support for myself & family. – My former occupation was a farmer; at this time I am unable to follow it or any other for a support: my wife who is aged about 66 years & myself are living with my son Nelson B. Hughes in the State of North Carolina, in the City of Raleigh.

About the commencement of the year 1818, I was in possession of the following property, to wit one hundred sixty acres of poor land, one old man slave, a young man, an old

woman, a girl & three children Negro slaves; two horses & other stock consisting of cows hogs & sheep & also some household & kitchen furniture, which I held in possession till the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1821. But being in dated myself a considerable amount & being bound as security for between eight & nine thousand dollars, which I became bound for in the year 1816, & suits having been instituted against me to compel me to pay said debts, I was forced to sell all my property; & in order to obtain the best possible price therefore, I sold it on long credit to Garland A. Hughes for about the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars, taking a deed of trust to secure the payment of the same: which bond & deed of trust I passed to one William Owen in discharge of a debt I was bound to pay him; the receipt for which is hereto annexed. After the sale to Garland A. Hughes, with his permission I remained upon the place sold him, till after his death: and he having died owing more money than his estate was able to pay, all his property of every kind was sold, and thereby I was left destitute of a home or any support, when my son Nelson B Hughes came to my relief & carried me to his house & now supports me & my wife.

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid

S/ James Hughes

[Nathaniel Smith, Thomas M Herndon & Thomas Binford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]