

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Hancock S8687

f27GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Montgomery County

On this 19th day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me Hardy Morgan one of the acting Justices assigned to keep the peace and a member to hold the court of pleas & quarter sessions for the County aforesaid, Samuel Hancock, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, whose ages will be 75, come the 18th day of next September as showeth by the record kept of his age by his parance [parents]; and the said Samuel Hancock, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the Benefits of the provisions made by the Act of Congress, passed June the 7th 1832.

That he first entered into the service of the United States, (in the Revolution), a Drafted Militiaman under the command of Capt. Bonner, for a 3 months Tour, in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, in the upper part of the State of Georgia; and that he was drafted, in the town of Augusty [sic, Augusta] in the said Georgia, from hence he was marched to the upper part of said Georgia to a place called Clark's Fort where he served out the Balance of this tour. Received his discharge and returned back to Augusta, where he remained until the coming fall when he then removed back to the State of North Carolina, Franklin County the former place of his nativity, & the residence of his parents, where he made a crop in the year 1778 which brings to his recollection, that he served this Indian tour in the Spring season 1777. But has lost or mislaid his discharge for this service, so that he cannot lay his hand on it now.

The said Samuel Hancock, doth further continue his Declaration, for a pension, for another 5 months Tour, in this service of the United States.

Entered the service, a Substitute, in the place of William Gray Smith, in October 1778, Franklin County North Carolina, under the command of Capt. William Allen [? name written over and unclear] and who marched, from thence with his company, to Elizabeth town, Bladen County NC, where he joined the main Regiment, under the command of Col. Thomas Eaton, whose Adjutant was by the name of Joseph Taylor, from thence we was marched to Charles Town South Carolina, and from thence we was marched to Augusta Georgia and from thence we marched to Brier Creek Georgia, where we was met [March 3, 1779] by the Enemy, and was defeated dispersed in every direction, so that he the said Samuel Hancock, was unable to fall in again with his officers, and thereby was forced to leave the cappaig [campaign] without his discharge, But he is confident that his Term of Service in this campaign, had Expired within 2 days as the Battle at Brier Creek took place on the 3rd day of March 1779, and his term of service being up on the 5th day, all conspired in its being the more necessary for him the said

Samuel Hancock in that purlius Scituation [perilous situation], in a country so full of their Enemy, that he made the best of his way, until we fell in with other American Troops, in & about 8 miles, off the battle ground at Brier Creek, he fell in with them on the Banks of the Savannah River while in the act of crossing said River to the South Carolina side, where he remained with them for a few days, and received a permit by them to return home to Franklin County North Carolina, and which he attempted and came this far as Ninety Six in South Carolina where he stopped to refresh himself for a few days and finding that there was a company of Light Horse raising in that neighborhood, to be under the command of Col. Pickens, a gentleman whom he became acquainted with in his first Tour, against the Indians, at Clark's Fort. And they are finding an old friend of his a certain James Merry, who was good enough to furnish him with a horse, Bridle & Saddle and with arms, (he then volunteered under the said Col. Pickens, for another 3 months Tour, which he served as follows, the day of the month when he entered this service, he does not recollect, But at any rate he believes it to have commenced about the 1st April 1779 so that he believes that he was released about, (or before) the 15th day of the following June. Marched from Ninety Six, down near Stono, where he served within a day or 2 of his full time, when he was sent with an Express by his commanding officer, backed to Ninety Six for more men, But before he got out of hearing of the Guns, the engagement commenced which resulted in favor of the Americans, & they all returned Home, and there being no longer a necessity for a reinforcement by that Express, therefore he did not return again to the Army; and was again left without a discharge for this service.)

(The said Samuel Hancock, further continues as his Declaration, for a further pension for 3 months more service which he rendered in the United States, during the Revolution. He entered this term of service, under a draft in Franklin County North Carolina, under the command of Capt. James Richards, February 1st 1781 and was marched to the High Rock Ford on Haw River, NC Where the men was inspected concerning of their infirmities, about 12<sup>th</sup> March 1781, where he was judged unable to march and was sent back home where he remained not exceeding 10 days, when he again prepared himself and was about to return to the Army, (having got well) But in this time he received orders, (being himself a mechanic) from Birdsong, who kept a shop of artificials [sic, artificers] at Harrisburg Granville County NC and made utensils for the use of the Army and where he went and there worked out the Balance of his time -- in that shop, and at which service he never received a single cent. But for this service received no other Discharge except that of Birdsong's certificate certifying that he had worked out the balance of this Tour, and that he has either lost or mislaid so that he cannot come at it. And so far as respects both the name of regiments, and that of the grade of officers who commanded there campaigns, he the applicant, feels himself at a great loss to point them out correctly, and he hopes to be excused from this exaction on the part of the war department, knowing of his infirmities, together with the length of time, which have intervned between this and the period of the Revolution, and also he knows his memory, to be much impaired thereby, & he wishes not to make statements, to which he is not right confident of.]

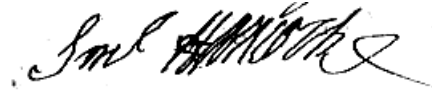
And he the said Samuel Hancock, hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any States, or territory within the United States.

And the said Samuel Hancock doth further make oath, that he is too infirm, to attend to any of the courts within his County, to make his Declaration therefore he makes it before a single Justice of the peace.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Witness: S/ H. Morgan, JP

S/ Sml. Hancock



State of North Carolina Montgomery County: This day came the above mentioned Samuel Hancock the above named Applicant for a pension and upon his oath already taken before me said Hardy Morgan, one of the acting Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid,

An amends his Declaration by swearing that he does not at present know of any other way to prove his above the latest services, But by his own oath, with the exception of the above mentioned 5 months Tour, served up to the Battle of Brier Creek which service he can, & will prove by his Brother John Hancock<sup>1</sup> who was in the same campaign.

And further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first above written.

Witness: S/ H. Morgan, JP

S/ Sml. Hancock

And in pursuance of the Rule laid down by the war department, I the said Hardy Morgan do propound & put forth the following Interrogatories to the present Applicant (viz.)

Question 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: In the State of Virginia, and brought to North Carolina Franklin County when young, where he staid until he was in his 17th year, when he removed to the State of Georgia, (Augusta) with his uncle, and was an apprentice, in the Carpenters trade where he remained for 2 years or thereabouts and served his first 3 months tour under Capt. Bonner in the Expedition against the Indians at the time of the Destruction of their Tugaloo towns.

Question 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have and has got it [at] home, attached to an old Bible.

Question 3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: When first called into service I lived in the town of Augusta, Georgia, and since that time I removed back to Franklin County NC where I entered the service a Substitute for a 5 months tour, which ended at Brier Creek in the State of Georgia, and from thence on my return home to NC I came to Ninety Six, South Carolina, where I entered the service again for my 3rd tour (viz.) 3 months in the Horse, (a Volunteer) and at the end of which service I returned home to Franklin NC and from thence I again entered the service, Drafted, for a 3 months tour. Being my 4th & last tour, in the Revolution March[ed] from Franklin NC to the High Rock Ford on the Haw River, Where I was permitted to return home again, a few days before the Battle at Guilford Court House, By Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] & Wallis [Cornwallis] and from thence I returned Home sick for a few days, and recovered and was then ordered to Harrisburg, & were at the Balance of my time in a military shop, there. All this Tour was served in North Carolina and in which State, I have remained a Citizen of ever since; removing from said Franklin to the County of Montgomery in said State of NC in the year 1792, where I have ever since remained citizen, and is one at this time.

Question 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer: I was first called into service Drafted for 3 months against the Indians 2nd I

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<sup>1</sup> [John Hancock R4551](#)

substituted for 5 months in the place of William Gray Smith. 3rd I volunteered for a 3 months tour in the Horse forth and lastly I was Drafted for over 3 months, which I served punctually as set forth in this Declaration; and making in all 14 months.

Question 5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: Capt. Bonner, the Capt. I served under in the Expedition against the Indians in my first Tour from Augusta (Georgia) others names not recollected; with the exception of Col. Clarke, & Col. Pickens a man that I became more acquainted with at the time I served a volunteer in the Horse from Ninety Six SC and Col. Thomas Eaton, commanded over the Regiment at the time I served my 5 months Tour, as a Substitute for William Gray Smith &c & Joseph Taylor was Eaton's Adjutant, my last Tour, when discharged, or permitted to return home (sic) from the High Rock Ford on Haw River my Capt.'s name was James Richards, the names of other officers in this campaign, not recollected at present; and as to the circumstances of my services rendered, I believe that I have already set them forth in this preceding Declaration, as to the grade & name of regiments I have no recollection But I do very clearly remember that General Ash [sic, John Ashe] commanded the Army that I served my 5 months Tour in, and so was General Briant on at the same time

Question 6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: None as I can recollect of -- But believes that I have fully accounted for this in my preceding Declaration.

Question 7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer: Brother John Hancock, William Harris, Edmond Deberry, Richard & Benjamin Bells, Charles & Hardy Morgans; William & Ebenezer Hearnese; and Littleton Harris Esquire

State of North Carolina Montgomery County: He had understood that all the above including both questions & answers are by the same oath already taken, to be considered a part of the preceding Declaration, and sworn to, Before me Hardy Morgan, JP the day & year first above written.

Witness: S/ H. Morgan, JP

S/ Sml. Hancock

[fn p. 21]

State of North Carolina Montgomery County: on this 3rd day of September A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me Hardy Morgan one of the Acting Justices of the peace in and for the said County the Rev. John Hancock a resident of the County & State aforesaid and made oath upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, that he is & was personally knowing of Samuel Hancock's, Substituting of himself in the place of William Gray Smith for a 5 months tour in the Revolutionary war and that said Samuel Hancock entered the Service aforesaid tour about the first of October 1778 and was enrolled in a company of Capt. William Allen in Franklin County North Carolina who marched him with the rest of his company to Elizabeth town North Carolina where he the said John Hancock was one of the Soldiers under said Allen, and that said Elizabeth we rendezvoused and joined the Main Army under the command of General Ashe & Col. Thomas Eaton and was marched from thence to Brier Creek in the State of Georgia: By the way

of Cheraw South Carolina, Charles Town SC and Augusta Georgia to the Battle at said Brier Creek which took place about the 3rd or 4th of March 1779 -- to the best of his recollection -- at which time the said Samuel Hancock's term of service was within 2 or 3 days of being out -- and the said John Hancock also swears that the said Samuel Hancock did faithfully served his country from his commencement in said Franklin County NC up to the said Battle at the said Brier Creek Georgia where the American Army was defeated and the said John Hancock was taken prisoner by the Enemy, and was absent from any further knowledge of the said Samuel Hancock for upwards of the 2 next years. And further this deponent saith not. Sworn to and subscribed before me the said Hardy Morgan JP at office, the day and year first above written.

Witness:

S/ Hardy Morgan, JP

S/ Rev. John Hancock

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. John Hancock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Rev. John Hancock".

[fn p. 23: Joel Hearne; Shadrach Stewart; Edmond Deberry, Charles Morgan, William Hearn; Wilie Harris gave a supporting affidavit as to the character and reputation of the applicant.]

[Rev. John Hancock, a clergyman, and William Harris gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$37.76 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in infantry and cavalry for 10 months and 20 days in various states' service.]