

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Declaration of Matthew Hight, S8715

f9VA

Transcribed and annotated by Roy Randolph, February 28, 2012.

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading. A bracketed question mark [?] indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Not all the material in the Pension File is included in the transcription.]

State of Virginia, Nelson County, to wit:

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 1833 personally appeared in open court before the justices of Nelson county now sitting Matthew Hight, a resident of the said county and state of Virginia aged seventy years the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March Inst [Instant], 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1779 then being a resident of the county of Amherst he joined a militia company or detachment ordered on a tour of duty to the barracks in the county of Albemarle Virginia, where he marched as a private soldier and served between thirty and forty days under the command of Captain Rucker and Lieut. Ware [?]. That sometime in the year 1780 being in the county of Pittsylvania in the state of Virginia he volunteered and joined the company commanded by Capt. Williams. That the said company marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina, where was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment of Infantry and placed under the command of General Stephens [sic, Brigadier General Edward Stevens] from the said state. That the regimental officers were Genl. Faulkner [sic, Colonel Ralph Faulkner] and Major Hubbard [Thomas Hubbard (S17227), at this time a Captain in the Militia]. That his said company set out on their march for Hillsborough some time about the first [of] June 1780 and remained at that place thirty or forty days when Genl. Gates [Major General Horatio Gates] with his army of regular troops and militia passed through that place on their march to the south. That some short time after this General Stephens [sic, Stevens], with his Corps to which the declarant was attached as aforesaid, marched with his army crossing the Pee Dee River and on the Cheraw Hills to South Carolina, and he joined the army of Genl. Gates at a place called Gesly's Mills [sic, Rugeley's Mill? B Gen. Stevens rendezvoused with Genl. Gates at Rugeley's Mill on August 15, 1780, the day before the Battle of Camden, also known as Gates' Defeat]. Orders were there received from the commander of the united forces to be ready to take up the line of march at 10:00 o'clock at night. That accordingly at that hour the forces were paraded and moved onward to Camden with the intention as he was afterwards informed, of surprising the enemy. That after marching about 12 miles the advance of Genl. Gates' Army met and had a smart skirmish with the advance of the enemy's army, who had unexpectedly met, both parties having set out from their respective encampments to surprise the other. That the advance of our army was forced by the enemy's arrival to give way, where our army was formed in order of battle across a road awaiting an attack, or awaiting for daylight to give battle. That accordingly when the light appeared a general engagement took place between the two armies which was sustained on our part but a short time when our line broke and retreated to a swamp, where we were pursued by the enemy and many were killed, wounded and taken

prisoners. That he the declarant with one or two others concealed themselves in a swamp until the night time of the day of the battle, when they escaped from the swamp and made their way into Salisbury which they did by traveling principally in the night time to avoid destruction [?] from the Tories. That at Salisbury he joined some officers and some other soldiers who like himself had shared in the defeat aforesaid, and after remaining a short time at the last named place were marched back to Hillsborough where he was taken sick and remained so until he was discharged the last of November 1780. That he served in this tour at least five and a half months. That in the year 1781 he was detached from the militia of the county of Amherst to aid in guarding some British prisoners through the county of Amherst. They were prisoners taken at the Cowpens [Battle of Cowpens, North Carolina, January 17, 1781]. That he was eight or ten days engaged in this service. That he is entirely confident that he served in the three tours aforesaid seven months. That he has no documentary evidence to sustain his said claims nor does he know that there is a single witness living at this time by whom he could prove them. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Interrogations propounded by the court to the declarant and his answers thereto

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

Answer. As appears by the old family Bible which I have seen I was born in the county of Hanover, Virginia on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1763.

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

Answer. I have no record of my age but I have seen the old family Bible but do not know in whose position it now it is.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service and where have you lived since?

Answer. I lived in the county of Amherst when called on to serve the first tour. Was on a visit to a relation in the county of Pittsylvania (Va) when I volunteered in the second tour and was living in Amherst County when called upon the third tour of service. Since the Revolutionary War I have continued to live near the same place, originally Amherst County but by a subdivision of the county it is now Nelson County (Va).

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

Answer. I was a substitute the first tour for James Bibb, who had been drafted to perform that tour in the militia company. The second tour I volunteered, and the last I was drafted or detached.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names 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 have stated in the body of my declaration as much as I well recollect on this subject and to which I refer.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a written discharge from the service for your said services?

Answer. My impression is that I received written discharges from the two first tours of duty signed by the captains of my respective companies, but if I did they have been lost in the great lapse of time.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons in your neighborhood who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution.

Answer. There is no resident clergyman in my neighborhood, but I refer to Jesse Wright and Edward Massie who have known me well for many years and who will so certify. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid, Matthew Hight. [No signature or mark, but certified as a true copy of the record in his office by Spotswood Garland, Clerk of the said Court at his office on May 31, 1833.]