

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Hart S9555

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Transcribed by Will Graves

4/19/11: rev'd 8/19/20

[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 Orange County: SS

On this the 30th day of August 1832 Personally appeared before the County Court for Orange County James Hart a resident of said County & State who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1775 with Captain John Walker, Regiment not remembered under the following officers – Colonels __ Moore & Frank Nash, Captain John Walker, Lieutenant Absalom Tatum, __ Tatum Ensign, ~~Saml. Thomson Sergeant~~. This said applicant enlisted for six months in the Town of Hillsboro Orange County, on the 9th of September and on the 29th of the same month the troops left Orange for the Town of Wilmington in said State, passing down the North side of the Cape Fear River, through the Counties of Wake, Johnston & Sampson. After reaching Wilmington they were joined by the Companies of Captains Alfred Moore, Henry Dixon, Roam [?] and another from Halifax, name not recollected. After remaining some time in Wilmington they were ordered to proceed up the River on the other side towards Fayetteville against the Tories who were embodied under the command of he thinks of Colonels McDaniel & McCloud. When within 7 or 8 miles of Fayetteville we learning that the Tories were advancing upon Wilmington on the North side of the River, the troops took boats & went down the River and landed this affiant thinks about 10 miles above Wilmington, in again commenced their march up the River with the view of cutting off the Tories if they should escape Governor Caswell who was also in pursuit of them. And on the morning after they had landed they heard the firing in the engagement between Governor Caswell & the Tories, in which the latter were defeated and McCloud killed: this engagement took place at Moore's Creek.² They did not reach the battle ground until the fight was over – and the same day perhaps, set out for Wilmington with this applicant remained until his term expired and he was discharged receiving a certificate from Captain Walker which he has since lost, nor has he any other documentary evidence of his service.

This applicant was seventy-five years of age in May last was born in Chester County Pennsylvania, his father removed with him to Orange County North Carolina when he was about eight years of age, where this applicant has ever since resided.

¹ At the time I transcribed this material, the file contained 70 pages, but from page 45 to the end of the file were documents relating to Job Hart S44196, a Connecticut veteran.

² February 27, 1776 http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html and <http://gaz.irshelby.com/moorescreek.htm>

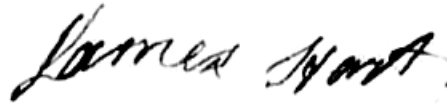
This applicant again volunteered in Captain William Williams' company in the town of Hillsboro in 1776 for the term of three months & served against the southern Indians. The other officers remembered were Colonel Ramsay & Colonel William Moore: Shortly after entered the service they proceeded to Salisbury, and thence to a place called Greenlee's appointed as the place of rendezvous for the troops; fording the Yadkin [River] in August about 6 miles this side of Salisbury, And the Catawba [River] at Sherrills Ford. But the rest of the Army having marched before them arrived at Greenlee's this party from Orange again returned to Hillsboro, having been out about 6 weeks. If this applicant received a certificate he has forgotten it. He now has none, nor any other documentary proof of his service. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

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.

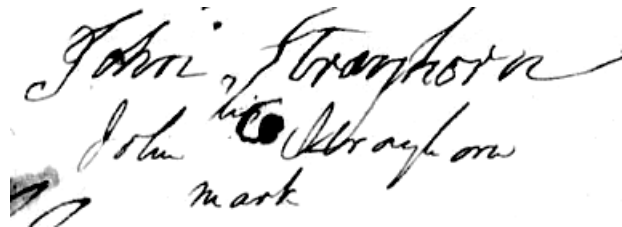
Subscribed and sworn to as above

S/ J. Taylor, Clk

S/ James Hart



William Strayhorn³ & John Strayhorn⁴ make oath that they are both citizens of Orange County and have been intimately acquainted with James Hart the applicant as above for a pension for upwards of 60 years, and they both remember distinctly that said Hart enlisted under Captain Walker in Hillsboro in 1775 and was out on an expedition to Wilmington for 6 months – that said Hart again volunteered in the voluntary service in 1776 in the Town of Hillsboro for 3 months, in the company of Captain William Williams and was out against the southern Indians for about 6 weeks. The said William Strayhorn served with him in this last tour.



Supplemental or Explanatory Statement to the Declaration of James Hart of Orange County N C for a pension

State of North Carolina Orange County: SS

On this the 23rd day of August 1836 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County of Orange aforesaid James Hart, a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County now in the 81st year of his age, who being first duly qualified doth on his oath make the following additional (and explanatory) Statement to his Declaration for a pension (viz.)

That in the month of September 1775 he enlisted in the United States service for the period of six months, the Company to which he was attached was under the command of Captain John Walker, Ab. Tatum Lieutenant – John Minnis Sergeant – James Moore Colonel of our Regiment. Were marched to Wilmington remained some time there and were marched below

³ [William Strayhorn S7650](#)

⁴ [John Strayhorn S7655](#)

that town and stationed there some time, the precise length of time not recollected – went to Brunswick & Fort Johnson – recollects distinctly of the attack made by General Caswell on the Tory forces at Moore's bridge – We were on our march at that time to aid in making an attack on the said Tory forces – We were some miles distant – heard the guns at the battle – went to the Battleground – presently went back to Wilmington – and returned to the Town of Wilmington and remained there in duty some weeks till our period of 6 months enlistment expired and we returned home, having first received a regular discharge from Captain Walker (he thinks). As to his payment, this affiant states that he received full pay for his six months service, and cannot account for the entry upon the pay roll that "James Hart was paid for 34 days," except that he was paid at different times and this entry has reference to want of said pavement; this seems to be this affiant the most probable way to account for said entry – As to the time of his entering the Service, he is under the impression it was about the 7th or 9th of September 1775, and the time he was discharged he thinks was about the 7th or 9th of March following, to wit 1776, and that during all his six months service this Declarant acted as a private in said John Walker's Company was paid as a private and for six months – and this affiant further states upon his said oath John Minnis⁵ of the aforesaid County, now an applicant for a pension – acted in the capacity of Sergeant all of said 6 months & is reputed a good Whig.

In support of his Declarant Statement (in addition to that already forwarded) he herewith submits the affidavit of John Strayhorn which is marked "B."

Sworn and subscribed this the 23rd day of August 1836, before me.

S/ C. W. Johnston, JP

S/ James Hart

Supplemental & Explanatory proof to the original Declaration of James Hart for a pension
State of North Carolina Orange County: SS

On this the 19th day of April 1837 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, James Hart, a resident citizen of the aforesaid County, now in the 81st year of his age, who being first duly qualified according to law, maketh on oath the following additional statement to his original Declaration. To wit:

1. That in the year 1780 he volunteered in the militia in the United States service, for a three months tour of duty – Ab. Allen was Captain of the company to which he was attached – and after doing service in this Company about two weeks, there was a necessity for blacksmith's in the service – when this Declarant and some other of the troops, that understood the blacksmith straight – had their service changed to that business for the public (Gates Army) which that summer & fall were in the town of Hillsboro – and during the balance of this tour, to wit, 2 months and 2 weeks, this Declarant served in the capacity of blacksmith for & in the United States service, and labored faithfully all of the said 2 months & 2 weeks as blacksmith for said Gates Army etc.. It being a change of service from that of a private in the militia, to that of blacksmith or artificer for & in the public service. In this tour we rendezvoused in Hillsboro, sometime in the summer of the year aforesaid, to wit 1780 and was regularly discharged at the expiration of said 3 months service by Andrew Ross, who was Superintendent of the Blacksmiths.

2. In the next summer 1781, this Declarant was drafted in the United States service in the militia, for a three months tour commencing on or about the middle of August 1781 and after serving one month under Captain Allen I got a furlough and returned home – these two tours are in addition to the original Declaration I made.

⁵ [John Minnis S9413](#)

These two additional Tories, this Declarant proves by the affidavit of John Strayhorn, which is hereunto annexed.

Sworn & subscribed on the day and date first above written before me

S/ J. Strayhorn, JP

S/James Hart

State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 19th day of April 1837 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County, John Strayhorn, a resident citizen of the aforesaid County, who being first duly qualified maketh oath that he is now in the 83rd year of his age, and that during the War of the Revolution he served as a private in the militia (but not 6 months in all). That in the year 1780, he remembers the fact that James Hart (who was then and now he has a near neighbor to this affiant) volunteered for a 3 month tour in the militia in 1780, Ab: Allen was Captain and that after serving in the militia a short period had his service commuted to that of a blacksmith and in that capacity served the Army balance of said Tour as this affiant always understood and believes.

And this affiant further states upon his said oath, that in the summer and fall of 1781, he was drafted for a 3 month tour in the militia in the United States Service, Ab: Allen was Captain and was in the Battle at Kirks Lane⁶ in September 1781. In this tour this affiant remembers that James Hart aforesaid served one month as private in said Alan's Company – That both of these tours were legally organized Corps and called into service by competent authority.

The said affiant further states that said James Hart did serve previous to the tours above stated – that said Hart was a good Whig, and a man [of] truth & veracity.

S/ John Strayhorn

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.67 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months & 12 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia. His pension was reduced from \$30.]

⁶ Kirk's Farm September 12, 1781 http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_kirks_farm.html