

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jonathan Hughes S9591

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana }

Jefferson County } Sct. On this [blank] day of September 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Jefferson Circuit Court in the State aforesaid Jonathan Hughes a resident of the same County, aged 79 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 as a Minute Man in the month of June 1774 under command of Capt. John Cook & Lieut. William Gilliland in Greenbriar County in the State of Virginia [sic: Greenbrier County, now WV], where he then resided That a few days after entering the service as aforesaid, the company to which he belonged was stationed at Ellis' Fort in what was called the Little Levels in said County [now in Pocahontas County], in order to protect the then frontier against the Indians: That from the time he entered the service as aforesaid he continued to act as an Indian Spy under command of the above named officers until sometime in the spring of 1777 (he thinks in the month of May) he was attached to Capt. Hamilton's Company, in the same County, and was stationed at Major Rennix's Fort [probably spelled Renick's Fort] in what was then called the Big Levels [now Lewisburg] in the County aforesaid. A few days after he arrived Rennix's Fort, a body of Indians consisting of about 300 warriors attacked Col. Donnelly's Fort in said County [Fort Donnally at present Frankford], and as it was expected that their next attack would be upon McCoy's Fort about 3 miles from Donnelly's Fort this applicant with a few other members of the company to which he belonged, volunteered and hastened to the relief of McCoy's Fort from which, the Indians having made the anticipated attack, were repulsed with considerable loss, whereupon this applicant and his comrades returned to Rennix's Fort where he had been stationed as aforesaid: that sometime in the month of June or July 1777 he was again ordered to act as an Indian Spy, in which capacity he continued to act until the month of September next following - a period of three months, when he was discharged from the service, and returned to his place of residence, where he remained until the next spring 1778. That he removed from Greenbriar County where he then resided to Hampshire County Va. where he was born and remained there until October 1779, and joined Capt. George Bell's Company of Col. Poston's Regt. and was promoted to the office of Ensign in said Company as will appear from the Commission herewith transmitted to the Department. A few days after he received his commission, Col. Poston ordered out a part of his Regt. and among others Capt Bell's Company to which this applicant then belonged as Ensign as aforesaid and with which he then went in pursuit of a body of Tories who were at the time threatening that region of country, and that they continued in pursuit of said Tories more than a month. The Tories having been dispersed they returned home: That in the year 1780 he served another tour under command of the officers last above-named and in the capacity of an Ensign in pursuit of Tories and Deserters: And that he continued to serve as Ensign occasionally in pursuit of Tories and Deserters until the close of the War. That about the first of October 1780 he was ordered to perform a tour of service against the British on the Atlantic coast, but in consequence of some law or regulation he was excused from entering the service again on account of former services which he was required to prove and which he accordingly did prove by obtaining the discharge from Capt. Cook which he herewith transmits to the Department. He further [illegible word] the length of his services as well as he can now remember and as he verily believes, was more than 3 years as a private soldier and an Indian Spy; but that he may not exceed the actual time he will state it as 3 years: And that he served as Ensign more than 1 year, but he will put it down at 1 year: That soon after the close of the War he went from Hampshire Cty. Va. to North Carolina, thence to South Carolina, thence to Georgia, thence to Greenbriar Cty. Va. thence to Harrison Harrison Cty. Va. from thence he came to Jefferson Cty. Ind'a. where he now resides: That he has no other documentary evidence of his services than what is herewith transmitted to the Department That he knows no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes all claim 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 [signed] Jon'n. Hughes

Answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department

1st [Born] In Hampshire County Va. on the 25th day of March 1753

2nd I have a record of my age now in my possession.

3rd [First called into service] In Greenbriar County, Va. [Has since lived] In Virginia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Georgia & Indiana where I now reside.

4th I enlisted as Minute Man and equipped myself accordingly, and kept myself in the proper state of equipment for the first 3 years or more of my service.

5th When I entered the service Col. Andrew Lewis was known to me - the same Col. Lewis who commanded in Gov. Dunmore's Campaign. - I also knew Charles Lewis brother of Andrew. I think he was a Lieut. Colonel. I know his rank was inferior to that of his brother Andrew. But serving as an Indian Spy there were no Regular officers known to me as being with the soldiers with whom I served, unless Capt. Cook & Hamilton and Lieut. Gilliland were Regular officers. In relation to the general circumstance of my service the best statement I can make is contained in the foregoing declaration to which this honourable Court is respectfully referred. I do not remember any continental or Militia Regt or Regts except Col. Poston's

6th I received a discharge from Capt. Cook which will be transmitted herewith to the Dept. And I received a commission as Ensign signed by Governor Thomas Jefferson which will also be transmitted to the Dept.

7th Arnold Custer who has known me 50 years [several illegible words] Wells who has certified as to my [two illegible words] John Leorr who has done the same. Dr. Jackson Rev. Jacob S. Ryker, Robert [illegible], Thomas Jamison, Lou Humphreys and many others who might be named.

This is to sartify that Jonathan Hughes serv'd. as a militia solder in my Company in Green-Briar County and was in the ry war the of the Devision Therof

Given Under my hand this 29th of Oct'r. 1780

To

John Cook

Capt. Bell in hampshier County

[Oath of allegiance and commission; printed forms with handwritten entries in italic:]

I DO hereby certify, that *Johnathan Hughes* hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly intituled An act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal, this 2nd Day of day of *July 1778*

Sam'l. Brown

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA to *Jonathan Hughes* Gentleman, greeting:
KNOW YOU that our GOVERNOUR, on Recommendation from the Court of the County of *Hampshire*, hath constituted and appointed you *Ensign* of Militia in the said County. IN TESTIMONY whereof these our Letters are made patent.

Witness THOMAS JEFFERSON, Esquire, our said Governour at *Williamsburg* the *Ninth* Day of *November* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and *seventy nine*

Th Jefferson

State of Ohio } SS

Gallia County }

On this nineteenth day of March 1834 personally appeared in open Court Jonathan Hughes now a resident of Gallia County State of Ohio lately a resident of Jefferson County State of Indiana, before the Judges of the court of Common pleas in and for the County of Gallia aforesaid being a Court of Record aged eighty one years the twenty fifth day of March 1834 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provission made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 That he first entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War and enlisted

under the command of Captain John Cook in Greenbrier County Virginia to serve upon the frontiers against the Indians; this declarant enlisted to service until he should be regularly discharged; he first entered into the United States service under the authority of the State of Virginia, and as near as he can now recollect about the first of May of 1775 and was stationed at a place called Ellis Fort on the Little Levels of Greenbrier County and from said Fort he with one John Ewins and Joseph Edwards were appointed as Indian Spies from the Fort and this declarant was on the frontiers during the year of 1775 from the first of May until the last of September of that year when he went home to hold himself in readiness to return whenever called he served this summer under Capt John Cook as before stated Lieutenant William Gilliland the name of the Ensign is not remembered this declarant continued at home until the first of May of 1776 when he was again called out to the same Fort under the same officers as before and was then appointed an Indian Spy with John Ewins and continued in that service under Capt Cook until the last of September 1776 when he was sent home to remain until called for and to hold himself in actual readiness whenever called on - In the spring of 1777 in the month of May he thinks the first he was called out to Major Rennicks Fort so called in Greenbrier County Virginia on what was called the big Levels under the command of Captain Andrew Hamilton a few days after this declarant arrived at the Fort volunteers were called for to reinforce a small Fort called McCoys Fort on Muddy Creek this declarant together with James Boggs William Hamilton & William Gilkinson all volunteered to go to McCoys Fort which was at that time weak where he staid a few days and was then called back to Rennicks Fort by Captain Hamilton and appointed an Indian Spy with William Gilkinson and we were directed to draw rations for eight days and went as Spies until our rations were exhausted and then drew for eight days more and continued that course through the summer until the last of September of that year - In the summer of 1778 this declarant went from Greenbrier County to Hampshire County Virginia and in the spring of 1779 this declarant was again enrolled in a company commanded by captain George Bell Lieut. Charles Lander and this declarant was thereafter appointed Ensign of that company and received a commission which is herewith exhibited Marked (A) About the middle of May of 1780 this declarant together with Capt Bell Lieut. Landers together with the company under their command were called out and placed under the command of Colonel Morgan [probably Haynes Morgan] at a place called big Capon [sic: Cacapon River] and after being placed under Col Morgan the men were marched up lost River to the head of it and then were marched over the south branch Mountain [in present Hardy County WV] and on the top of the mountain the army had a small engagement with the Tories the Horse of Col Morgan's aid was killed under him but none of the American Army either killed or wounded one Tory killed and one wounded and then the Regiment returned to Hampshire County where after one months service as near as this declarant can now remember were discharged in a short time after his return home he was ordered out by Capt Bell to pursue and take deserters and this declarant under the order of Capt Bell was out one week this declarant states that he was in the American service in the Revolutionary war fifteen months as a private which he has here specified and in a particular manner described the times and place of service and that he served five weeks as an Ensign - He herewith sends his discharge from Captain Cook which was made out by Captain Cook for the years 1775 1776 and 1777 and sent to him after he moved to Hampshire County and which is the reason it bears date the 29th October 1780 which is marked (B) & this declarant has no further discharge — This declarant when he made out his former declaration was under a mistake of what constituted service in the Revolutionary War and was erroneously advised not understanding the law himself in this declaration he has stated the time he was in actual service and not brought into view the time he was at home though he was under orders to take the field when called for and to hold himself in constant readiness as stated in his former declaration. This declarant was never in any battles other than what he has stated. He was born in Hampshire County State of Virginia on the twenty fifth day of March 1753 according as his age is recorded in his Bible and as he has always been told by his Parents. At the close of the War he resided in Hampshire County, some time in the winter of 1783 he moved to Wilks [sic: Wilkes] County North Carolina where he resided until 1790 when some time in the latter part of the summer of that year he moved to South Carolina where he resided until the spring of 1791 when he moved to Georgia where he resided until about the middle of January 1792 he then moved to

Greenbrier County Virginia where he resided untill the year 1808, when he moved to Harrison County Virginia where he lived untill the 28th of January 1829 when he came to Gallia County Ohio where he has made his home most of the time and where he still resides he was in Indiana in 1833 about three or four months teaching a School in Jefferson County where he became acquainted with The Hon William Hendricks now a member of Congress who presented his former Declaration to the War department

This declarant is acquainted with colonel J. W. Ross and has been for about forty years Colonel Ross being at the time of his first acquaintance with him a citizen of Greenbrier County and since that time has been acquainted with him in Gallia County he did a tour of duty with James Boggs the step-father of the said Colonel Ross and has eversince kept up an acquaintance with the family. This declarant is also acquainted with the Honorable David Boggs a resident of Gallia County and has been for some years and he thinks he can prove that he has the reputation of being a soldier of the Revolution, he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services as his officers and the privates with whom he served are either dead or gone to places unknown to the declarant. — This declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state
[signed] Jon'n. Hughes

NOTE: On 7 July 1835 Hughes applied to have his pension transferred to Harrison County because "his children lives in Va and being old and infirm has returned to Va so that his children can take care of him."