

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Houser W10118

Magdalena Houser

f29NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/12/11: rev'd 9/5/16

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 6]

State of North Carolina County of Stokes: SS

On this 28th day of February 1838 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Magdalena Houser a resident of said County of Stokes in North Carolina aged Seventy eight years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the Benefits of the provision of the 3rd Section made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th 1836, that she is the widow of George Houser Deceased who was a Lieutenant in the militia of the Army of the United States in the revolutionary war, and as such in the follow [following] services –

first he volunteered as Lieutenant under Captain Henry Smith in the month of July or August 1776 to go against the Cherokee Indians and started from Bethania Town (in the then Surry County but from the division of said County is now in Stokes County North Carolina) and marched, as she was informed, to the Mulberry fields in Wilkes County to meet with the South Carolina Army, But failed to meet, & was marched back to Surry after being gone two weeks or more, in a few days after his return home, went again in said Expedition Rendezvoused at a place then called Myers old fields near Surry Court house from thence marched against the Hostile Cherokees & in this last Tour he said he served one hundred and ten days as Lieutenant in said Captain Smith's company under Colonel Joseph Williams who was Chief commander of the Regiment,<sup>1</sup> and the next service he entered into, after she was married to him was in 1778, a company being organized in Surry County aforesaid as minute man to start at a moment's notice he was gone three weeks on a route after Tories towards the mountains in Captain Meredith's [William Meredith's] Company & Colonel Jo<sup>s</sup> Williams commanded, when they were attacked by a party of Tories at Surry old Court house & had to flee from them when his Captain John Crouse was wounded by the Tories, another time afterwards her husband was gone under Captain Smith ten days & routed a party of Tories on the South side the Yadkin [River] & several other short Tours he served ranging after Tories he said in all his had served as Rangers during the years he has lost at least three months on those ranging scouts after Tories. The next Service he was called on to guard the prisoners that was brought from Kings Mountain Battle [Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780] at the old Moravian Town, he remained in this only one week or ten days; the next service he was ordered to go into was in guarding the Magazine from Salem to some place in Virginia he went & put in one horse to haul in a wagon of his Uncle George

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

Houser of which Joseph Houser was Teamster & hauled a load of Ammunition, & her husband as one of the Guard as she was informed guarded to Henry County Virginia, he was gone three weeks & returned a few days or a week before the British Army marched into Bethania where we lived; our horses & wagon aforesaid being hid in a thicket not far from town where the British found it & Burn'd the wagon & carried away all the horses, plundered & striped them of everything they had almost; at the same time this Applicant had about ten days before been delivered of a child named Catherine (with whom she now lives (married to Britain Clayton) the British took her husband prisoner & kept him under guard during the night & day they remained in Bethania & then released him on account of his feeble state of health at that time, as was stated to him; it was supposed or conjectured that some Tory had informed the British that her husband had been in the service of his Country as above stated; altho he had joined in the Moravian Church shortly previous to that term, which was in February 1781, all his services as Lieutenant aforesaid being Eight months for which she claims a Pension. She further declares that she was married to said George Houser on the 3rd day of March 1777 at the house of Matthew Brooks by the said Brooks who was an acting Justice of the Peace then in Surry County North Carolina and that her husband the aforesaid George Houser died on the 3rd day of November 1818 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period; as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. Further she declares that from bodily infirmity she is not able to travel to Court to make her declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed, on the day & year first above written before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Magdalena Houser, X her mark

[p 8]

State of North Carolina Stokes County: SS

Be it known that on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 1838 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid personally appeared Henry Shore a respectable Citizen of said County and Brother of the aforesaid Magdalena Houser, and he being sworn according to law declares on his oath that he accompanied his Sister Magdalena Houser now; (then Magdalena Shores) in Company with George Houser & others from Bethania Town on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1777 to the house of Matthew Brooks Esquire and on that day the said Matthew Brooks solemnized the Rites of Matrimony between the said George Houser and Magdalena in due form, as he said Brooks was a Justice of the peace in Surry County North Carolina which being done they return home to Bethania, he further declares that he remembers that said George Houser acted as Lieutenant under Captain Henry Smith and went to the Cherokee nation in the year 1776 and afterwards served many times in Ranging after Tories & Guarding the prisoners in old Town & Magazine, as his Sister Magdalena has declared in the foregoing declaration, and that she is now a widow & has remained a widow ever since her husband the aforesaid George Houser died which was in the autumn of the year 1818, his said Sister being at present about Seventy-eight years of age & from bodily infirmity is not able to travel or go abroad without injuring her health.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year 1<sup>st</sup> above mentioned before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Henry Sure, H his mark

[p 4]

State of North Carolina County of Stokes: SS:

An Amendatory Declaration of the widow Magdalena Houser for a Pension taken by virtue of an Order of the County Court aforesaid, at her place of Residence in the County aforesaid on the 27th day of June 1838. She being first sworn according to law before me Charles Banner one of the Justices of the said Court, on her oath declares that her former declaration of the 28th of February 1838 which she swore to & subscribed before me, is just & true, which is hereunto affixed and she has no documentary proof to affix except that from the family records in a large Bible from which it appears that she was married to her late husband George Houser Deceased the 3rd day of March 1777.

Anna Maria their first Born the 19th of March 1779

Catherine Eliza the 2nd born the 28 of January 1781

John Henry the 3rd born the 18th of August 1782, dead

Johna Soloma the 4th born the 4th of May 1787, dead

Drad Born 5th on the 15th of September 1791, dead

Samuel Thomas 6 born the 30 of May 1794

Mary Magdalena Solome born the 8th of April 1796

She the said widow further declares that her husband George Houser Deceased was never on any Pension Roll of any agency or State, and that she relinquishes all claims for a Pension but the present. Sworn & subscribed the day & year first above mentioned before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Magdalena Houser, X her mark

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State of North Carolina County of Stokes: SS Magdalena Houser's Amendatory Declaration

On this 4th day of April 1839 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the Peace of the Court of Pleas and Court Sessions in and for said County, personally appeared Magdalena Houser widow of George Houser Deceased at her own place of residence in the County aforesaid being old & infirm, who being first sworn according to law who on her oath make the following amendatory Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836 and the Act explanatory of said Act passed March 3rd 1837, that in addition to her former Declaration which from information is filed as rejected in the Pension office of the United States on the grounds that the Services rendered by her Deceased Husband George Houser in part that a Tour of duty in the service in ranging after Tories & Guarding the Magazine from Salem to Virginia, was not considered as Military Service, and furthermore that proof was required of her husband's being an Officer of the grade of an Ensign & Lieutenant in the Service to be proven by the Testimony of some officer, she in reply to the first objections, states that her husband was called on by his Superior Officers, Colonel Armstrong [Martin Armstrong], Captain Henry Smith & Major Winston [Joseph Winston] of Surry County North Carolina to perform those services, first four months or more to the Cherokee Nation of Indians & next in ranging as many men after Tories they being numerous & troublesome in some sections of this & the adjoining Counties, and in the time of his acting as minute men commanded a company and marched over the Blue Ridge of mountains to the lead mines on or near New River and guarded the lead & those employed in transporting it to General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Army to Salisbury North Carolina for the use of the United States Army & in a skirmish with Tories at Richmond Surry old Courthouse; and on another occasion he was called on & marched with about 300 armed men to guard the magazine from Salem to Virginia in the year 1781 in January &

February these services has been proven by good witnesses heretofore and she has reason to believe that her neighbors George Kregar,<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spainhour,<sup>3</sup> Susannah Strupe<sup>4</sup> & others has obtained pensions for the identical same Tours of duty as above stated performed her husband George Houser Deceased one item reference being made to Elizabeth Spainhour's papers filed by which she obtained a pension, a discharge for one month this was guarding the magazine as above stated,<sup>5</sup> as to prove her husband aforesaid serving as Ensign or Lieutenant by an officer of the Army it is out of the Question as there are none living as she knows of, but there are some living private soldiers who served with her husband, and as she has failed to prove by any officer that her husband served as such she therefore claims for 8 months service (as stated in her former Declaration, performed by her husband the aforesaid as a private in the Army and prays that the Pension Department will reconsider her claim. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above mentioned before me.  
 S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Magdalena Houser, X her mark

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State of North Carolina Stokes County: SS

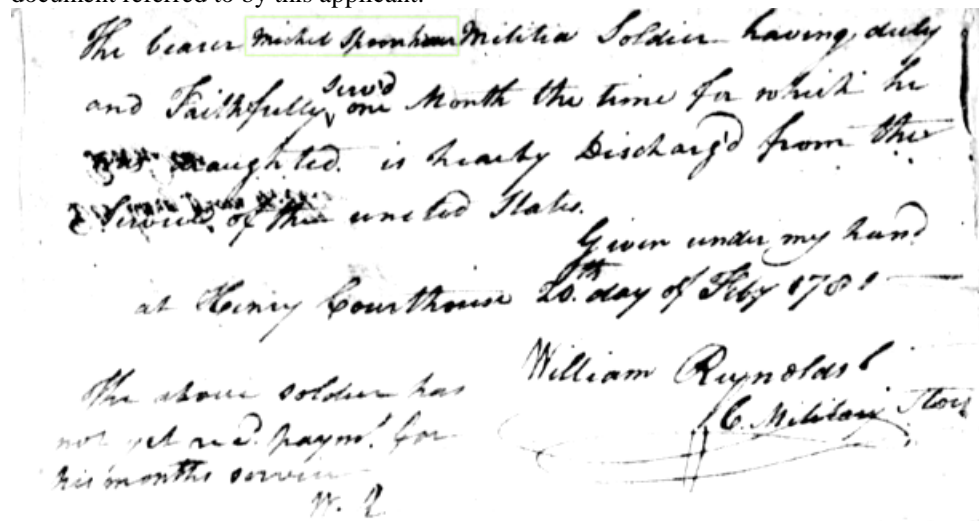
Be it known that on this 4th day of April 1839 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared John Venables<sup>6</sup> & George Kregar, both respectable citizens of the County aforesaid & believed to be man of veracity & truth in the neighborhood where they reside, and they being duly sworn according to law depose & saith (they both being pensioners of the United States) first John Venables saith that he served a Tour of duty with George Houser Deceased who was the husband of Magdalena Houser who swore to & subscribed the foregoing Declaration in my presence, which service was he said Houser acted in the capacity of Ensign or Lieutenant he does not recollect which as minute men on several calls sometimes 2 & 3 weeks at a time ranging to suppress the Tories in Surry, Rowan & Wilkes Counties North Carolina, in one expedition after lead over the mountains to the lead mines &

<sup>2</sup> [George Kregar \(Kregar, Krieger\) W3696](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Michael Spainhour W6149](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Samuel Strupe W9671](#)

<sup>5</sup> Fold3.com p. 22 of the file for Michael Spainhour contains the following discharge which I believe to be the document referred to by this applicant:



<sup>6</sup> [John Venable \(Venables\) W18220](#)

back to Richmond Surry old Courthouse where said George Houser parted with us & went on to guard the lead with part of the company to General Rutherford's Army at Salisbury North Carolina in all these services during one year or upwards he believes that George Houser actually served more than three months as a useful soldier and afterwards he saw said Houser guarding the prisoners that were taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain at the old Moravian Town and believes he served the other Tours of service as stated in the foregoing Declaration of his widow Magdalena Houser. Sworn to and subscribed the date above mentioned before me.

S/ C. banner, JP

S/ J. Venables



George Kregar Declares on his oath that he served with George Houser & John Venables aforesaid as above stated & that the above Statement made by Venables is correct. Sworn to & subscribed the date above.

S/ George Kregar, X his mark

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State of North Carolina County of Stokes: SS

Be it known that on the 5th day of March 1838 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Ephraim Banner<sup>7</sup> who is on the Pension Roll of the United States, a resident of the County aforesaid, and he being sworn according to law, to declare what he knows concerning the services rendered by the late George Houser Esquire Deceased during the Revolutionary War, declares on his oath that he served a Tour of service in Colonel Williams' Regiment of militia with said George Houser in Captain Smith's Company to the Cherokee Nation of Indians, marched first to the Mulberry fields in Wilkes County & returned to Surry & rendezvoused at Myers old fields near old Richmond (Surry Court house) organized & marched to said Nation of Indians in the latter part of the summer & fall of 1776 & returned about Christmas in this expedition said George Houser acted as Lieutenant or Ensign under Captain Smith, we were gone upwards of four months in all, & that sometime after that, about a year said George Houser was married to a Miss Magdalena Shore daughter of Henry Shore Senior Deceased by Matthew Brooks Esquire a Justice of the peace in Surry County aforesaid, that he knew & saw Brooks often sitting on the bench holding courts at Surry Court house in them days & in time of the War, and further he declares that he saw said Houser in the service ranging after Tories as many men, & guarding the prisoners that was at the old Moravian Town, taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain, and he understood that said Houser was one of the company that was taken by surprise & run from a party of Tories at Surry Court house (old Richmond) some years before the above mentioned battle; the said George Houser has been dead nearly 20 years leaving his wife Magdalena a widow who has remained a widow ever since his death. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year first above written before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Ephraim Banner, X his mark

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<sup>7</sup> [Ephraim Banner W3923](#)

On the same day above written personally appeared before me the subscribing justice of the peace Joseph Banner<sup>8</sup> also a Pensioner of the United States and being sworn according to law declares on his oath that the foregoing Deposition of his Brother Ephraim Banner being read to him, is just & true, to the best of his recollection, as he served the Tour to the Cherokee Nation of Indians with the said Ephraim Banner & George Houser as named in said Deposition & other particulars Marion stated, as well as his marriage to Magdalena Shores [sic], that he was well acquainted with both her & family & the Houser family before & since their marriage. Sworn to this 5th of March 1838 before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Joseph Banner, X his mark

North Carolina Stokes County: on the 2nd day of March 1838 before me the Subscribing Justice of the peace personally appeared Joseph Houser who is a credible person for truth & he being sworn according to law, deposeth & saith that he well remembers that George Houser Esquire did serve as one of the guard when this Deponent hauled a wagon load of ammunition from Salem North Carolina to Henry Court house in Virginia & was gone 3 or 4 weeks in that service in January 1781 in previous thereto said George served several tours in Captain Meredith's Company of minute man. Sworn to & subscribed the date above before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Joseph Houser, H his mark

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's 6 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>8</sup> [Joseph Banner W9716](#)