

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Daniel Higdon <sup>1</sup> W25769      Mary Higdon      f55NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves      rev'd 2/10/09 & 9/29/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 12]

State of Georgia, County of Muscogee

On this Fourth day of December 1839 personally appeared in open court to wit, the Honorable Inferior Court of said State & county now in session, Daniel Higdon, a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged Eighty four years who first being 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service under the following name to officers & served as follows. He declares that he volunteered in the month of May or June in the year 1780 in Captain Joseph Johnson's Company or Corps for the term of six months to be best of his recollection; that he then resided in Chatham County North Carolina & shortly after this company, together with himself, was attached to the Army of General Gates [Horatio Gates] at Ramsey's Mills on Deep River in the State of North Carolina from thence declarant states that they were marched from there to near Camden in South Carolina where they were met by the British in the month of August as he believes & a severe battle or engagement [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]<sup>2</sup> ensued in which declarant was personally engaged declarant avers that himself & the most of his company did not retreat with the majority of the militia but that he remained in the line & received repeated charges from the British & was near the General the Baron DeKalb when he fell that around the fallen General the battle raged for a few moments with a fury never before or since witnessed by declarant but believing all lost declarant with others fled back to North Carolina & for several months was under the command of Major Galston [probably William or Charles Goldston or Gholson] in Captain James Maburn's [James Mebane's] Corps who was actively employed to check the depredations of the Tories declarant further states that in one of these excursions he was in a battle against them on Cane Creek near Lindley's Mill bracket September 13, 1781,<sup>3</sup> Orange County as he believes in the State of North Carolina in which the Tories were defeated & their commander Hector O'Neill slain with several of his followers declarant further states that some were slain also on the side of the Whigs amongst whom was his messmate Billy Dillard.

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt3774-160-55

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_lindleys\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html)

Declarant further states that shortly after he volunteered under one Major or Colonel Williams [James Williams] he does not recollect what length of time nor does he believe that he belonged to any Captain's Corps but simply belonged to as it was called to Major Williams' Company & that during that service he was personally engaged in a battle against the British at King's Mountain [Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780]<sup>4</sup> in which the British were defeated & Col. Williams killed. After which Declarant states that he joined the army under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at Ninety Six [Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781]<sup>5</sup> in the State of South Carolina as a volunteer during the war but whether he was considered by the head officers as being a regular or not declarant does not know but declarant served during some part of this time while in said army under a regular captain named Matthew Ramsey to the best of his recollection. Declarant further states that after the failure of the Army to subdue Ninety Six he retreated with them through North Carolina & into Virginia & participated in the battle fought there near Guilford Court house [March 15, 1781]<sup>6</sup>. Declarant further states that he returned to South Carolina with General Greene's Army & remained attached to it til near the close of the war in the Southern States, the precise time that he acted under the orders of General Greene Declarant does not know but is confident that it was more than twelve months & received a discharge which is now lost. Declarant further states that there are living witnesses now living as he believes by whom he can prove a portion of his services amongst whom is his first Captain to wit Joseph Johnson of Troupe County Georgia whose certificate is hereunto shown to the Court.

Questions by the court:

First. Where & in what year were you born?

Answer. I believe that I was born the first day of August 1755 in Chatham County North Carolina.

Second. Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Answer. I have no record now of my age now in my possession. There may be one in Chatham County North Carolina if my family Bible is yet in existence.

Third. Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Answer. In Chatham County, North Carolina. I also lived there for some years after the war. I removed from thence to Georgia, Hancock County & have thence to Muscogee County Georgia where I now live.

Fourth. How were you called into the service: were you drafted: did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. I volunteered to the best of my knowledge & belief & went with my brother in the same company who was drafted.

Fifth. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your services.

Answer. I served for some time under Capt. Ramsey who I believe was a regular captain. I remember Captain Washington [sic, probably Colonel William Washington], & Captain or Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] who both commanded the horse under General Greene also General Ash [sic, John Ashe] & General Thomas Butler & I saw Col. Williams

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ninety\\_six.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

directly after his death at King's Mountain & I saw the Baron DeKalb fall near Camden. I was in three great battles to wit at Camden at King's Mountain & at Guilford Court house & several others of less importance

Sixth Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given & what has become of it

Answer. I received a discharge signed by Col. Roger Griffis or Griffith to the best of my remembrance but cannot positively say. I gave it to my Sister to keep years ago she removed to Kentucky & report says is dead I presume it is lost

Seventh State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief of your service as a Soldier of the Revolution

Answer. I name Jos Coleman Madison Dancee & Peter T. Brigg Esquire

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. Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Daniel Higdon, X his mark

[M. Dancee, Peter T. Brigg, J. P. Coleman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p15]

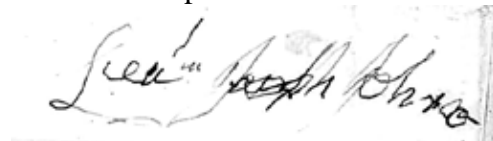
"State of Ga.

November 7th Day 1839

Troup [sic] C. D.

I Certify that Daniel Higdon Served in the Revolution in Behalf of the United States under my Command.

S/ Lieut. Joseph Johnson"<sup>7</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lieut. Joseph Johnson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 5: On May 29, 1851 in Muscogee County Georgia, Mary Higdon, 73, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Daniel Higdon; that she married him in the month of April 1798; that her husband died December 1, 1846; that she has made efforts to find evidence of her marriage in the County of Chatham North Carolina but was unable to obtain any record evidence of the same; and that she remains a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 21: On June 2, 1851 in Muscogee County Georgia, Lady Johnson of said County gave testimony that she is a daughter of Daniel and Mary Higdon; that she, affiant, was born about June 22, 1803 as she has been informed by her parents; that she is now 47 years of age; that she had an older sister named Mahala Blackwell who at the time of her death was a widow and who would have been 51 years old if still living; she signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 23: On June 2, 1851, in Muscogee County Georgia, Philip Higdon and Henry Johnson, residents of said County, made oath that they were well acquainted with Daniel Higdon, a reputed revolutionary war soldier; that they assisted in shrouding the body of Daniel Higdon

and were present at his funeral. Philip Higdon signed the document with his mark and Henry Johnson signed as follows

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Johnson". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

. Their relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.]

[p 8: On June 3, 1851 in Muscogee County Georgia, Rhoda Shoots gave testimony that she is the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Higdon; that she, affiant, is 46 years of age and upwards; that she was born about May 15, 1805; that she has a sister now living by the name of Letty Johnson who is some 2 ½ years older than affiant; that she, affiant, I had another sister named Mahala Blackwell, deceased, who would have been 51 years of age; that she recalls her parents speaking of having been married in Chatham County North Carolina. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 11: On March 27, 1855, Mary Higdon, 76, still a resident of Muscogee County Georgia, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner; in this document she states she was married to Daniel Higdon in Chatham County North Carolina in April 1798; that they were married by one Joseph Brantley, JP; and that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Bryant; that her husband died in Columbus, Muscogee County Georgia in December 1, 1846. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Facts in file: Veteran married Mary Bryant in April 1796 in Chatham County, NC; Daniel and Mary had the following children named in the file:  
Mahala, born about 1800, died prior to 1851 and at her death was the widow of a man named Blackwell  
Letty, born June 22, 1803, married a Johnson, living in Muscogee County, Ga., in 1851  
Rhoda, born May 15, 1805, wife of a Shoots in 1851]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 for service as a private for 20 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]