

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Hamilton W2732

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } Court of pleas and quarter Sess.
Cabarrus County } Oct'r. Term 1832

On this 15th day of Oct. personally appeared in open Court James Hamilton a resident of the County of Cabarrus and State of North Carolina and 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he volunteer'd for the term of three months and entered the service on the 16th day of June in the year 1780 at Phifers Mill in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina, under the following officers (viz) Brigadier General [Griffith] Rutherford, Colonel George Alexander, Capt'n. Samuel Givens [possibly Samuel Givins], Lieutenant Thomas Givens, and Ensign John McFalls, that he dont remember the name of any Continental officer with whom he was acquainted except Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates and Baron De Kalb, that from Phifers Mill he was marched by Charlotte N.C. and from thence to Ramsours where they arrived after the battle there [Battle of Ramsour's Mill NC, 20 Jun 1780], from Ramsours he was marched to Salisbury where the Army remained 15 or 20 days, from thence they marched into South Carolina and joined the Army under Gen'l Gates between Cheraw & Rudgelys [sic: Rugeley's Mill], that he was at the battle near Camden South Carolina [16 Aug 1780] when Gen'l. Gates sustain'd a defeat from the British Army under the command of Lord Cornwallis; at which place after the dispersion of the North Carolina Militia he was taken prisoner by a detachment of the enemy dragoons [Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion] and was carried to Charleston South Carolina and kept in confinement, partly in the Barracks and partly in a prison Ship until the 26th July 1781 making his term of service including imprisonment over thirteen months. after his imprisonment as above stated he was exchanged as he was inform'd, but was retain'd in custody and carried round to Jamestown in Virginia where he was finally set at liberty. he has no documentary evidence of his service inasmuch as he was taken prisoner as above recited previous to the expiration of his term of service and never afterwards joined the army. as to the fact of his being enroll'd he expects to prove it by William Carrigan - whose certificate is hereto annex'd. as respects his credibility and the tradition of his being a revolutionary soldier he refers to the evidence of Reverend John Robinson and William Carrigan whose certificates are anex'd. he knows of no person living who can prove all the facts herein stated as he believes those who were with him in the imprisonment are dead or at least he has not heard of them for many years

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on any pension roll whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written

[signed] James Hamilton

Questions by the Court

question 1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer In the State of Pennsylvania and County of York, and I believe on the 29th Sept 1763

Quest. 2 Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answ. I have a record in my possession in an old family Bible saying I was born in 1761 but am inclined to believe that it is wrong and that the true time of my birth is stated in my declaration above.

Quest 3 Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answ. I was living in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina. Since the revolution I moved to the State of Pennsylvania and remained there until the year 1814 when I came to North Carolina and have lived since that time in Cabarrus County North Carolina.

- Quest 4 How were you called into Service. were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?
- Answ. I volunteer'd.
- Quest. 5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.*
- Quest. 6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?
- Answ. I never received any discharge because I was taken prisoner before the expiration of my term of service.
- Quest. 7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution?
- Answ. I am known by revr'd J. Robinson, William Carrigan and others.
- *Answer to Question 5th. I dont now remember the names of any of the Continental officers except the Commander in Chief Gen'l Gates and the Baron De Kalb There was I think one other Regiment of N. Carolina Militia with Col. Alexanders the officers name not rember'd now. The part of the Army I was with marched immediately from Phifers on to Charlotte and thence to Ramsours in Lincoln County but arrived too late for the Battle there with the tories.

NOTE: On 25 Dec 1851 Martha Hamilton, 76, applied for a pension stating that she was married by a minister of the Presbyterian or associate reformed church to James Hamilton in York County PA on 22 Aug 1799, and he died in Cabarrus County 21 Oct 1842 at age 81. On 21 Apr 1855 she applied for bounty land, stating that her maiden name was Martha Wallace. With her pension application is a copy of a family record certified by Thomas H. Hamilton to have been transcribed by his father before 1835 from the original record.

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS

James Hamilton was born Sept 27th 1761
 Martha Wallace was born December 9th 1775
 John W Hamilton was born June 5th 1800
 Lot. D. Hamilton was born April 8th 1803
 Louisa Hamilton was born August 18th 1806
 Thomas H Hamilton was born August 2nd 1809
 Sarah I Hamilton was born Nov 26th 1811
 Hugh C Hamilton was born July 30th 1814
 Maria Louisa Hamilton was born September 11th 1828
 Children of [unclear; possibly Thos H] & Sarah Ann.
 Francis W. Hamilton was born Oct 3rd 1833
 Charles M. Hamilton was born Feb 10th 1835
 William H. H. Hamilton was born Dec. 25th 1837
 Martha Ann Hamilton was born Jan. 22nd 1841
 James Alexander was born Jan. 21st 1843
 John Robinson was born April 3rd 1845
 Sarah was born 17th 1848

DEATHS

James Hamilton died October 21st 1842

MARRIAGES

James Hamilton & Martha Wallace were married August 22nd 1799
 Lot D Hamilton & Margaret Scott were married January 2nd 1827
 John W. Hamilton & Jane E Sadler were married November 20th 1827
 Lot. D. Hamilton & Mary Davis were married July 13th 1830
 John. W. Hamilton & Sarah A Monserat were married December 22nd 1831
 [entry now illegible, but transcribed in a typed summary as "H. C. Hamilton married Susan S.

Massie, August 8, 1843.”]

BIRTHS

Susan S Massie was born May 28th 1822

Mary Virginia Hamilton born Jany 17 1845

William [the rest unclear, but appears to be “H Hamilton born March 20th 1847”]

[one line now illegible but transcribed in a summary as “Martha Frances Hamilton born October 6, 1849”]