

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Hamm (Ham) W2935

Happy

fn124NC[sic, VA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/4/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[fn p. 19]

State of Kentucky, Sct

On the day of the date hereof John Ham, Personally appeared before me as one of the circuit Judges of the state aforesaid and being sworn, stated in addition to the statement made in the Circuit Court for Rockcastle County, Kentucky, on the 29th day of September in the year 1818,<sup>1</sup> that he believes that the company & Regiment to which he belonged, was part of the Virginia line upon Continental establishment.

Given under my hand this 29th day of September 1819

S/ Thomas Montgomery

[fn p. 4]

State of Kentucky 12th Judicial District and Circuit Court for Rockcastle County Sct.

On the 28th day of September A.D. 1820 Personally appeared in open Court, before the Court above mentioned it being a Court of Record, made so by act of Assembly and proceeding according to the Course of the Common Law, John Hamm, aged about 62 years and a Resident Citizen of Rockcastle County and the district aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, In addition to his declaration heretofore made before this Court with a view of obtaining a pension from the General Government declared that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows (viz.) three years in the Regular Army of the United States, in the company commanded by Captain Morgan in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Daniel

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<sup>1</sup> I have examined the contents of this file thoroughly and I find no evidence of an application dated September 29, 1818. Also, there are letters in this file summarizing the veteran's service in which it is stated that he first entered the service in the NC militia under Capt. Salathiel Martin while the veteran was a resident of Surry County, NC. I found no documents in this file which supported these statements. Thus, I conclude that either the summaries are incorrect or there were additional documents in this file which are now missing. I checked HeritageQuest to see if by chance the missing documents were posted in its version, and did not see any documents there which are not also in the Footnote.com version. If anyone can shed light on this mystery, it will be appreciated.

Morgan, that his Regiment belonged to the Virginia line upon Continental establishment, which Term the said John Hamm, saith that he served his term of enlistment & obtained a legal discharge during the time of his enlistment he was in two General engagements, viz., the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] & the battle of Guilford [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781]. That he enlisted and entered into the Service aforesaid in the year 1778 in the State of South Carolina. And at the same time upon his oath aforesaid the said John Hamm, stated that he was a Resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that he has not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed (viz.) three Horses worth \$80 and no more, four head of cattle worth \$25 and no more, six head of hogs worth \$18 and no more, seven head of sheep worth \$9 and no more, Farming tools worth \$6, Household furniture worth \$50, [2 indecipherable words, looks like "Artits Am"] \$7.

S/ John Hamm, X his mark

That the said John Hamm says that he has a Wife and eight children, namely Polly about 36 years old living with her father and not able to maintain herself, Josiah about 32 years old married in living apart from his father and able to maintain himself, John about 28 years old living apart from his father and able to maintain himself, Ezekiel about 26 years old living apart from his father, and able to maintain himself, Marthy about 21 years old married and living apart from her father, Daniel about 18 years old living with his father and able to maintain himself – William about 16 years old living with his father and able to maintain himself, Isaac about 13 years old living with his father and not able to maintain himself. His wife by the name of Happy about 58 years old and not able to maintain herself.

[fn p. 43]

State of Kentucky Rockcastle County Sct

On this 2nd day of April 1824 personally appeared in open court it being a Court of Record made so by act of Assembly and proceeding according to the course of the common law for the 15th Judicial district of Kentucky, John Hamm (by some spelt Ham) aged sixty-five years the last day of this month (April) and a resident citizen of the aforesaid County of Rockcastle, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement and declaration in order to obtain the provision made by Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the first of May 1820, that he the said John Hamm enlisted for the Term of three years in the month of April (the day of the month not recollected) in the year A.D. 1778 in the State of South Carolina at Bacons Bridge (the County he does not recollect) about 6 or 7 miles from a town called Dodguster [Dorchester] in the Rifle Company commanded by Captain Morgan open this his given name he has forgotten) and about one year afterwards Captain Morgan joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment and under the command of General Lincoln, that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the expiration of his said term of enlistment when he was discharged from the said service in Winchester in the State of Virginia by the said Colonel Daniel Morgan, that his discharge was a long time since inadvertently washed up in his waistcoat pocket that at the

time of his enlistment he does not know whether Captain Morgan belonged to Colonel Daniel Morgan's Regiment but at the time of his enlistment he was informed he belonged to said Regiment – He was a Regular Officer and Continental establishment as he understood and was engaged until he joined Colonel Daniel Morgan in Charlestown South Carolina in ranging about in said State with General Marion then called Captain Marion. That he was in the battle at the Cowpens, Guilford and at the Siege of Lord Cornwallis at little York in Virginia and that he has no other evidence now in his power (in this State) of his said service except the evidence of Joel Watson here annexed.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed (Viz.) One horse 20 years old worth \$15 and no more, one mare and colt worth \$30 and no more, one small wagon worth \$30 and no more, household furniture worth \$50 and no more, that he has debts owing to him to the amount of about \$10 & that he is indebted about the sum of \$43. –

S/ John Hamm, X his mark

That the said John Hamm says that he has a wife and eight children namely Polly about 38 years old and living with him not able to maintain herself, Josiah about 36 years old married and living apart from his father able to maintain himself, John about 32 years old living apart from his father able to maintain himself, Ezekiel about 29 years old living apart from his father and able to maintain himself, Martha aged 24 years old married and living apart from her father able to maintain herself, Daniel about 22 years old living apart from his father and able to maintain himself, William about 19 years old living with his father and able to maintain himself, Isaac about 17 years old living with his father but owing to his being unhealthy he is unable to maintain himself, his wife by the name of Happy about 63 years old and not able to maintain herself. His mother Seth (widow) 90 years old and not able to maintain herself, that he is by occupation a farmer, That he is name in one ankle but able to maintain himself, but that he is in such reduced circumstances he feels that he is in need of Governmental aid for the support of himself and family.

S/ John Hamm, X his mark

A respectable witness Joel Watson<sup>2</sup> came into Court and made oath that he has known the aforesaid John Hamm forty odd years past, that he first got acquainted with said Hamm in the Continental Army under General Greene in North Carolina that he himself was a soldier in said Army and Colonel Daniel Morgan's Rifle Regiment of Virginia and that from information he thinks that he served a considerable time in the regular Army and that from his knowledge of said Hamm and his general good character he has no doubt but that his statement is true in his Petition and Schedule.

[General William Smith and Martin Owens gave testimony as to the good reputation and character of both John Hamm and Joel Watson.]

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<sup>2</sup> I could not find a federal pension application filed by a man by this name. Consequently, this may be the only record of his services in the revolution.

[fn p. 38]

State of Kentucky Rockcastle County Sct

This day Seth Hamm made oath before me William Carson a Justice of the peace for said County, that her son John Hamm who has applied for a Pension under the acts of Congress in the Circuit Court of the County aforesaid served as a soldier as she understood in the Revolutionary War – when he left home as a soldier she understood from him and others that he had enlisted in the Rifle Regiment commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan of Virginia on the line of the Continental establishment – she does not know the fact of his enlistment, but such was the understanding of all her neighbors and she made him some clothes to wear in the Army, that he was absent from home upwards of nine months and on his return she was told by her son that he had served in Colonel Morgan's Regiment aforesaid. During his enlistment she frequently heard from him letters from him etc. by others as being in Morgan's Regiment a private soldier. – I do further certify that I have been acquainted with the said Seth Hamm for many years & that from her good character I do not doubt her statement as aforesaid – I do further certify that said John Hamm long prior to the passage of the Act of 1818 told me of his Revolutionary Services & stated that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. From the good character of said Hamm I never doubted his statements – given under my hand this 25th of November 1825.

S/ William Carson, JP RC

[fn p. 9: the On November 25, 1839 in Rockcastle County Kentucky, "Happy Ham (by some spelt Hamm)", resident of Pulaski County, aged 79, filed for her widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Hamm, a pensioner for his service in the revolution; that she married him in August 1782 she cannot remember the day; that her husband died September 22, 1839 in Pulaski County Kentucky; that they were married in Surry County North Carolina by proclamation at a meeting house.]

[fn p. 93: Elijah Denny,<sup>3</sup> 82, testified that on January 24, 1842, in Rockcastle County Kentucky in support of the widow's application regarding her marriage to John Hamm and in addition, Denny noted that he too is a pensioner and that while serving at the siege of Charleston South Carolina he saw the said Hamm enlist as a regular soldier for 3 years or during the war.]

[facts in file: the widow's name prior to her marriage was Happy Ryon; the file contains no information regarding her parents

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing February 23, 1826, for 3 years service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]

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<sup>3</sup> [Elijah Denney \(Denny\) S2513](#)