

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Archibald Houston W295 Rosanna Houston f43NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 6/13/11 & 1/13/16

[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 '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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 14]

State of Tennessee, McNairy County

On this the twelfth day of July, in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and thirty three, Daniel Barnhill, Esquire, one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County, duly commissioned and qualified and authorized with others to hold the County Court of pleas and quarter sessions for said County, the same being a Court of Record, waited on Mr. Archibald Houston a resident of McNairy County, State of Tennessee, aged eighty one years old next October at my own house where I am and has been confined by bodily infirmity for a number of years by reason of which I am unable to attend Court. And the said Archibald Houston 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 the 7th 1832.

That I was born on the 26 day of October in the year of our Lord 1751, in York County, State of Pennsylvania. When I was about nine years of age, my father moved to Rowan County State of North Carolina. Here I entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier in the month of September 1776, for the Term of six months under Captain George Davidson [George Lee Davidson] and Col. Alexander Martin. After our company was made up, we marched to Salisbury and there attached to the Regiment. Here we remained about two months then we took up our line of march and went directly on to the Savanner [sic, Savannah] River in South Carolina, a distance of about one hundred and fifty miles. At this place we met a great many troops from South Carolina. I do not recollect the General's name that commanded them. We were marched there for the purpose of dispersing or putting down the Tories which had assembled on the Savannah River but they through fright or some other cause, dispersed before we arrived there. From here we marched back to Rowan County. After we arrived home, we were ordered and marched to a place called Cross Creek in North Carolina for the purpose of routing or putting down a set of people called Tories and by the name of Highland Scotch, which had assembled for the purpose of protecting and fighting for the King. When we arrived there they appeared to be peaceable so the Regiment marched back to Salisbury, a distance of about one hundred and fifty miles. By the time we reached home my time was out, so I was discharged.

In the last of June or first of July in the year of our Lord 1777, I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier for the term of three months under Captain Galbreth Falls [sic, Galbraith Falls] in Rowan County, North Carolina. As soon as the company was organized, we joined General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] (the Colonel who commanded us I do not now recall owing to the great length of time and the loss of memory) and marched to the

head of the Catawba River in North Carolina, a distance of about one hundred miles. Here we crossed the Blue Ridge and marched into the Cherokee Nation of Indians passing by the Swannanoa River and crossing the French Broad River. After our arrival in the Nation, we went to several towns but the Indians had deserted their towns before we reached them. We marched first one place and then another destroying the Indian crops and killed a few Indians. At length we marched to the Overhill. Here we met some troops from South Carolina. From there we marched directly home and my term of three months being out, I was discharged.

In the fall of the year 1777, I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier for the term of three months under Capt Francis Cunningham. I joined the company in Rowan County. As soon as the company was mustered into service, we were ordered by the head commander to go in Lincoln County, North Carolina, so we took up our march and went on the south side of the Catawba River for the purpose of keeping down the Tories who were raising in that section. Here we remained marching, first to one place and then to another, guarding and defending the neighborhood from the notorious robber and Tory Brown [Thomas Brown], who had collected a large company and was committing a great many outrages every chance or opportunity he could. After we had finished our business here, we marched to Lincoln Courthouse. By the time we reached there my time was out, so I was discharged. I went out this time as a volunteer mounted horseman. I do not recollect whether I received a discharge or not. If I did, it was signed by my captain and is now lost or destroyed. My impression is that my captain drew the full amount of pay coming to his men and paid them off himself.

In the fall of the year 1778, I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer mounted horseman for the term of five months under Captain Galbraith Falls. I volunteered in Rowan County, North Carolina, and our company was attached to Col Francis Locke's Regiment, which was commanded by General Rutherford. As soon as we were mustered into service, we took up our line of march and went directly on to a place called the Ten Mile house from Charleston. Here we remained some time then we marched to a place called Purysburg [Purrysburg]. Here General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] army was stationed. Our army did not join Genl Lincoln but was stationed about one mile from him. After staying there some time, we marched to a place called the Two Sisters [Ferry] on the Savannah River. There we stayed some time then we marched to a place called Three Sisters [Ferry]. There we stayed some time then we marched to Brier Creek [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]. Here we intended to join the main army to fight the battle at that place but were prevented from doing so by not getting across the river in time. From here we marched down the river to Purysburg again, and from there nearly to Charleston. Then we struck our march for Rowan County, North Carolina, my place of residence. By the time I reached there, my time was out so I was discharged. I do not recollect whether I received a written discharge or not. If I did, it is now lost or destroyed and signed by my captain.

In the year 1780, I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer mounted horseman under Captain Davidson [Alexander Davidson]. As soon as our company was made up, we joined Col Locke's Regiment, then we marched to Works Mill. There we joined the troops from Mecklenburg [County] and marched directly on to a place called Ramseur's [sic, Ramsour's Mill] where a number of Tories had embodied themselves. Here a battle ensued between us which I was in. This was on the 20th day of June, 1780, as well as he now recollects. Here my Captain was killed and a very short time after this battle was over, Generals Rutherford and Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] came to us at Ramsour's. It appeared there was no more use for our services. Immediately, we marched home to Rowan County, where I joined the army and

was dismissed, having accomplished the object which I volunteered for in this tour. I cannot say precisely how long he served, but he is positive he served not less than ten days. I never received any discharge for the services I performed this tour.

In the fall of the year 1780, hearing that there was a great call for men in South Carolina, so I went to Fishing Creek in South Carolina, and there volunteered as a mounted horseman under General Sumter (owing to very old age the loss of memory I am now unable to say who my captain was.) A short time after I joined him, we marched to Fish Dam Ford on Broad River, stopping on the way three or four weeks. Here we had a battle [November 9, 1780] with the British which I was in. About four weeks after the battle, I left General Sumter and went home to Rowan County, North Carolina. I cannot say how long I served during this tour, but I am positive I served not less than sixty days. I did not receive any written discharge, do not know why.

In the year 1781, I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer mounted horseman under Captain Winn & General Rutherford (from the great length of time, I cannot now recollect my Col's name.) in Rowan County, North Carolina. As soon as we got organized, we marched from Rowan immediately on to the Raft Swamp in North Carolina, for the purpose of breaking up the Highland Scotch which had assembled there to fight and put down the Whigs. I was sent out as a scout and General Rutherford marched on after them. He overtook them and a skirmish [October 15, 1781] ensued. I was not in it owing to my not returning from the scout. I served in this tour not less than 30 days for which I never received any discharge for.

In the year 1782, I understood that good wages was offered in South Carolina for substitutes, so I went to the Congaree River, South Carolina, for the purpose of hiring myself as a substitute. But when I reached there, I found I could not get any person to hire me. So I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer mounted horseman on the Congaree River under Captain William Alexander and Col William Polk & Genl Sumter. This was at a place called Friday's Fort. Here we remained under strict command for some time, then the army marched to Thompson's Fort on the same river. Here we had a skirmish [probably the engagement at Thomson's Plantation, February 22, 1781] with the Tories. From here, I marched home to Rowan County, North Carolina. I served in this tour not less than sixty days. If I ever received any discharge for my services this tour, it was given by my Captain and is now lost or destroyed.

He hereby relinquished every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present one, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any state.

He also states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services by or any part thereof.

Question: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in York County, Pennsylvania on the 26th day of October, 1751.

Question: Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have no record of my age, but respectfully recollect of seeing it recorded at my fathers'.

Question: Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolution and where do you now live?

Answer: I was living in Rowan County, North Carolina and lived there three or four years after the war. Then I moved to the state of Kentucky and lived there for a number of years. Then I

moved to the middle part of Tennessee and lived there until I moved to McNairy County, Tennessee, which was seven or eight years ago, where I now reside.

Question: How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer : I went out as a volunteer each and every trip.

Question: State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect.

Answer: I have answered this question in the body of my declaration.

Question: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer: I received a certificate from a board of Commissioners of North Carolina for my first and second tours. They are now lost or destroyed. I do not recollect whether I ever received any discharges for the balance of my services. If I did, they were, I presume, signed by my Captain's, and not knowing they would ever be of any service to me, I used them so they are now lost or destroyed.

Question: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for sincerity and their belief of your services and the neighbor has a belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. Answer: I am well acquainted with John Winn and Jacob Walker. They can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief and the neighborhood's belief of my services - and that it has always been said in the neighborhood that I was a soldier of the Revolution. I would get a clergyman to certify for me but there has never lived one in my neighborhood since I come to the county. Therefore, I am not known to any. [This] is my reason for not procuring one.

S/ Archibald Houston

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Archibald Houston".

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date aforesaid.

S/ Daniel Barnhill, J. P.

[John Winn and Jacob Walker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 7: On April 24, 1843 in McNairy County Tennessee, Rosanna Houston, 82, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Archibald Houston, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him sometime in October 1784; that her husband died March 18, 1836. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 5: Copy of a marriage bond issued in Rowan County North Carolina October 6 [?], 1784 to Archibald Houston & Andrew Snoddy to secure the marriage of Archibald Houston to Rosanna Cunningham.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$73.04 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months service as a private in the infantry and 6 1/3 months service as a private in the cavalry, both in the militia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]