

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abraham Hankins W363 Sally f50VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 2/2/12

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

State of Tennessee Knox County: County Court January Sessions 1833

On this 9th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court at a court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the said County, being a Court of record, and now sitting, Abraham Hankins a citizen of said County aged 69 years, who having been duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – That he was born in October 1783 in Frederick County Virginia where he lived about 8 or 9 years when he moved to New River, now Montgomery County Virginia where he continued to live the whole time of the Revolutionary war, and afterwards until sometime in the year 1778 – Applicant states that sometime in the fall of 1780 as well as he now recollects he entered the Army of the United States as a substitute for Thomas Sperry who had been drafted for a two months tour – that he rendezvoused at Colonel Cloyd's [probably Joseph Cloyd] in Montgomery County Virginia and was enrolled as the substitute of the said Thomas Sperry into a Company commanded by Ensign Francis Charlton of Montgomery County – applicant states that his company was put under the command of some man as Captain from above Fort Chisel [Fort Chiswell], whose name he does not now recollect – Under the command of his said Captain and Ensign applicant marched to a place called Cumpton's Station on the head of Bluestone, one of the head waters of Sandy River, where he remained guarding the said stationed in ranging about until the 2 months for which his company had been called out, had expired – the same evening that the 2 months expired, a certain Lieutenant William Davis with about twenty men arrived at the said Station on his way to Guyandotte —he requested as many of our men as saw proper to join him – Applicant states that he with eight or ten others of those who were at the station, volunteered and enrolled themselves under the command of the said Lieutenant Davis, and marched with him to a place called Gueyandotte on New River. Applicant states that the object of this expedition was to detect some deserters which were understood to be concealed somewhere in that part of the Country – they ranged about down the Santee River, and Continually hunting about, and by some mistake in their guide and the weather being wet, they got lost and were unable for some time to find their way home. Applicant states that it was about 6 weeks from the time he left the station under Davis before he marched home, and that he they did not succeeded in getting any of the deserters. Applicant states that sometime in the latter part of the year 1780 or the 1st of the year 1781 his Father, Richard Hankins was drafted in Montgomery County, Virginia for a tour of 3 months – upon his unwillingness to go and with the consent of the Colonel applicant enrolled himself as the substitute for the said Richard Hankins into a Company commanded by Captain James Burns, which company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Frank Preston. Applicant states that his company and the others of his Regiment, rendezvoused at Fort Chissel applicant marched with his Regiment to the

Moravian Towns, where we remained one or 2 weeks, and then marched directly to Guilford Courthouse. At Guilford Preston made his headquarters for some time, but his men were constantly out foraging and scouting and sometimes came in contact with Colonel Washington's light horse, from whom Preston received his orders – Applicant states that in one of these scouts he and his Regiment with some of Washington's light-horse came into contact with a company of Tories under Colonel Pyles [Dr. John Pyle] – the Tories were for some time under the impression that our men were a part of Tarleton's men, and conducted themselves accordingly – Owing to the prevalence of this false impression the Americans were enabled to contend so successfully with their enemies that they were totally defeated¹ and many of them killed – not long after this engagement we met the enemy again at Haw River where we had a scrimmage and were defeated. Applicant states that in this skirmish his Captain, Burnes was wounded in the hip – after this we marched to Guilford and joined the main body of the militia there – this was before the battle there Applicant states that he and his Regiment were engaged in frequent scouts about Guilford before the battle was fought there – shortly before that event applicant's Regiment, which was horseman, were ordered to send off their horses and joined the main Army on foot, at Guilford – Applicant was sent off a few miles to take charge of some horses, and with some others was stationed a few miles off at the time the battle of Guilford was fought – After the battle of the men came out after their horses and after applicant and his Regiment had marched a short distance up the Country they were all dismissed and returned home – Applicant states that he was more than three months out in this campaign. Applicant states that before this last campaign he volunteered and went out on a scouting party under Captain Israel Lartan [?], of Montgomery County and was in service 3 weeks at one time and at another was 2 weeks in service. In the scouts they were in pursuit of the Tories who were very numerous in Montgomery County. Applicant states that at no time was the Incorporated with any of the Continental Army – he recollects of seeing the regular troops under Generals Greene and Morgan, encamped near Guilford, but he never was with them so as to know their officers or the number of their regiments. Applicant states that he has served in the Revolutionary war 2 months as a substitute for Thomas Sperry, one months and 15 days as a volunteer in the same campaign, 5 weeks as a volunteer into different scouts, and 3 months as a substitute for his Father Richard Hankins, and in every instance as a private – making in all seven months and twenty days for which he claims a pension. He states that he has no record of his age but believes from the information which he has from his family that he is as old as above stated. He states that the individuals to whom he is known in his neighborhood, who can testify to his veracity and his reputation for military services are Edward Hankins, Samuel Sharp, Wyatt Warwick and Eli Skeggs – he states that he lived in Montgomery County Virginia at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, during his whole continuance and afterwards until about the year 1787, when he moved to Jefferson County Tennessee, where he lived about 8 years, when he moved to Knox County Tennessee where he has continued to live ever since and now lives – he states that he got written discharges as he believes for each of his campaigns, but he has long since lost them, and now has none of them, nor has he any documentary evidence whatever of his services, nor does he know of any person, except those who hereto certify, whose

¹ The engagement the applicant describes occurred on February 25, 1781. William Washington and his corps were not participants in that engagement. Rather, the Whig forces were led by Col. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee. Lee's Legion worn green coats, the same color of uniform as worn by members of Banastre Tarleton's corps, thus leading to the mistaken identification by Pyle and his men who seeing the green coated horsemen thought they were Tarleton's force.

testimony he can procure who can testify to his services – he hereby relinquishes every claim 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 to and subscribed in open Court this 9th January 1833

S/ Abraham Hankins, X his mark

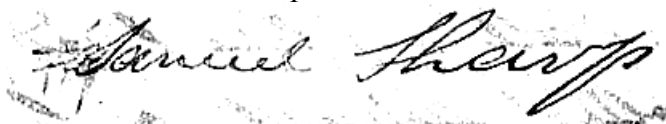
S/ Wm Swan, D. C.

[f p. 47: On January 9, 1833, Edward Hankins 67 gave testimony in Knox County Tennessee that he is the brother of Abraham Hankins and distinctly remembers his brother going on a tour of duty in the revolutionary war as a substitute for Thomas Sperry and another tour as a substitute for their father Richard Hankins. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[f p. 47]

State of Tennessee Knox County: I Samuel Sharp² a citizen of said County aged 76 years do hereby certify that I have been acquainted with Abraham Hankins who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing declaration from his infancy, and have lived in the same neighborhood with him the greater part of his life. I certify that I served with him in the same Regiment, but in a different company, in the campaign to Guilford, and from my own knowledge he did serve as he has stated in that campaign, and from his uniform declarations and the general reputation of his neighborhood I have no doubt that he served as he states. I believe him to be [words obliterated by ink blot] old and he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he lives to have been a soldier of the Revolution. I further certify that there is no resident clergyman in the neighborhood where declarant resides.

S/ Samuel Sharp

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Sharp". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[f p. 9: On July 7, 1843 in Knox County Tennessee, Sally Hankins, 71, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Abraham Hankins a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$25.55 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him December 1, 1791 and that he died December 1, 1840. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 12: family record:

Abraham Hankins son of Richard Hankins and Deborah his wife was born January the 20th day 1763

Sary Skaggs daughter of James Skaggs and Susanny his wife was born Febrewary the 16 day 1772

James Hankins son of Abraham Hankins and Sary his wife was born August the 31st day 1792

Richard Hankins son of Abraham Hankins and Sary his wife was born January the 24 day 1794

David Hankins son of Abraham Hankins and Sary his wife was born December the 10 day 1795

Tillindy Hankins daughter of Abraham Hankins and Sary his wife was born October the 23 day 1797

² [Samuel Sharp S3888](#)

[f p. 32: On August 5, 1844, in Knox County Tennessee, Eli Hankins, gave testimony that he is the son of Sally Hankins; that he knows his mother kept a family record in her possession from his earliest recollection.

Eli Hankins]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25.55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 7 2/3 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]