

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Higgins W365 Mary Higgins VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 May 2020.

State of Tennessee }
Wilson County } SS.

On this 25th day of September 1832, personally appeared before the justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County of Wilson now sitting, John Higgins a resident of Wilson County & State of Tennessee, aged Seventy four years in the month of June last past who being duly sworn, according to law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777 between the 1st & 10th of August of that year with Elias Edmunds [Elias Edmunds VAS2004] who was then Captain & Samuel Blackwell [VAS2173] Lieutenant and served in the 2nd Regiment, to his best recollection, of the Virginia line, under the following named officers: From the time of his enlistment for perhaps two years the Company to which he belonged was under the Command of Capt. Edmunds and believes that he was not attached to any regiment until we marched to the South – he was duly and regularly discharged by Maj'r [blank] with whom he was not well acquainted, but he well remembers that he was discharged about the 20th of August 1780 which was about four days after Gen'l. Gates defeat [Battle of Camden SC where Horatio Gates was defeated, 16 Aug 1780]. And he recollects that his discharge was signed and given him by an officer of the Regular Army who was stationed at Hillsborough [NC] as he understood for that purpose. he enlisted with Capt. Edmunds for the term of three years & his time was out about six days previous to the battle at Camden or Gates' defeat; and in consequence of the entreaties of his messmates he was induced to take the place of Dan'l. Cornwell [Daniel Cornwell] for about ten days & for which Dan'l. Cornwell gave him a new pair of leather breeches at the time they left Hillsborough for Camden. He enlisted in Faurquar [sic: Fauquier] County, State of Virginia for three years, about six miles from the Courthouse, marched from thence to little York, thence to Hampton, thence Norfolk & Portsmouth then returned again to Little York & to Hillsborough, & from Hillsborough to the Battle near Camden. the services during this time rendered were in guarding & for the purpose of defending the places above mentioned and the military stores – for he belonged to the artillery and was on duty in the artillery Corps when Gates was defeated. He knew Baron De Kalb & saw him frequently whilst in the service believes he knew Gen'l. Stevens [Edward Stevens VAS1922] at least he recollects of hearing of such an officer he knew Col Porterfield [Charles Porterfield BLWt1145-450] and saw him immediately after he was [mortally] wounded in the battle. He knew Gen'l. Gates well as their Commanding General and saw him on his Retreat, when he ordered every man to shift for himself. He was not in any other battle except Gates defeat.

After he got his discharge at Hillsborough, having served about three years & ten days, he returned home and in the Spring or first of the summer in the year 1781 he was drafted and served a tour of 3 months in the Militia – he was mustered in service at Faurquar Court house and marched immediately down below Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] against Lord Cornwallis' forces' and returned home after the expiration of his time of service. and recollects that the militia who succeeded him were at the seige of Little York when Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781].

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

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. John hisXmark Higgins

Tennessee }
Wilson County } Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said
County of Wilson, John Higgins, who being duly sworn, deposeseth and saith; that
by reason of old age, and the Consequent loss of memory, he does not remember the names of all his

officers and cannot swear positively upon that point – But he states again that Capt. Edwards [sic] commanded the company when he first entered the service; he was then promoted first to the office of Major & then [April 1780] to the office of Col. Commandant of the 2nd Virginia Regiment, Lieutenant Blackwell took the command of the Company under the rank of Captain, when Capt. Edmund was promoted to the office of Major in the said Regiment & when Major Edmunds was appointed Colonel Capt. Blackwell was advanced to the Rank of Major. Hanly Moore [possibly Henly Moore VAS728] was our Ensign, but whether he or some other officer took the command as captain he cannot now remember for it has been a long time, and he has not thought much upon the subject of late years until since the year 1832.

Gen'l. Gates was Commander in chief when he was in the United States [edge of page]

Whilst he was in the Militia service he was under the command of officers with whom he had no personal acquaintance being from different counties from that of his residence – and his services in the Militia was not of such importance as to fix the recollection of their names upon his memory – he was not in any engagement whilst in the Militia service– When he made his original Application at Court he was advised that the regular soldiers were not required to produce the testimony of a minister of the Gospel or other testimony & he lives about twenty five miles from the seat of Justice & there was no Clergyman then present nor can he now procure the testimony of a Clergyman for the same reason (his distance from his own residence)– He does not know of any living witness by whom he can prove his services – nor has he any documentary evidence to establish the same – for he did not take care of his discharge from the regular army & did not receive one when his service or tour of duty was terminated in the Militia. He was a private soldier during the whole of his services in the United States services. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th June 1833–

John hisXmark Higgins

State of Tennessee } on this seventeenth day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and
Cannon County } thirty nine, personally appeared before the Honorable the Circuit Court for said
Cannon County, Mary Higgins, a resident of Cannon County and state of Tennessee, aged seventy two
years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on her oath, make the following declaration in
order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is
the widow of John Higgins who was a private of Artillery in the revolutionary war: and the evidence of
whose services are on file in the war department – the same having been sent there by the said John
Higgins in his lifetime for the purpose of obtaining a pension under act of 7 June 1832, which said
pension certificate is herewith filed marked A. She further declares that he said deceased husband served a
tour of three months after her marriage with him. She further declares that she was married to the said
John Higgins on the twenty second day of December in the year seventeen hundred and eighty one. as
soon as corn was planted in the Spring after said marriage, her said husband went on his said tour of three
months; and this declarant had to cultivate the corn with her own hands. said John Higgins did not, on
account of a wound on his foot, return at the end of three months, but it was fall before he reached home;
that her husband the aforesaid John Higgins died on the eleventh day of April eighteen hundred and thirty
eight; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by the annexed
proof.

Mary herXmark Higgins

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files.]

I do hereby certify that John Higgins serv'd three years in the State Artillery as a Soldier agreeable
to inlistment Given under my hand this 20th of April 1783 E's Edmonds Lt Colo SA

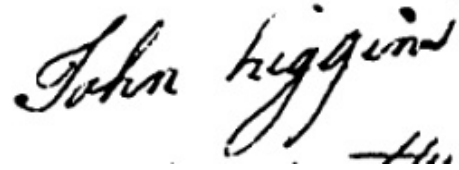
a Copy

This Soldier inlisted in September 77. Given under my hand this 20th April 1783

a copy J. Pendleton jr

E's Edmonds Lt Co SA

Sir Please Issue a Land Warrant in the name of Daniel Feagins for the amount of my claim as a
Soldier in the State Artillery Regiment three years as pr. Certificate I having received full satisfaction for
the same I am Your Mo Obt. Serv't./ John higgins
His Excellency Aug'st 22th 1783
Benj'a Harrison Esq'r
thest Hezekiah Hacklett

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Higgins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed text.

NOTE: The federal file contains a family record transcribed below, which was certified on 17 Jan 1839 by William Higgins, about 51. On 18 May 1842 Mary Higgins was said to be about 74, and on 16 May 1843 and also on 4 Dec 1843 she was said to be about 77.

Elezebeth Higgins was born in December 19th 1782
Salley Higgins was born Janauarey the 3rd 1784
Wesley Higgins was born March the 20th 1786
William Higgins was born March the 19th 1788
Alaxander Higgins was born September the 1st 1791
Peggey Higgis was born in November the 8th 1794
Elijah Higgins was born september the 27th 1797
John Higgins was born December the 13th 1799