

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Helm (John Helms) W3811 Anna Helms f58NC[VA]
Transcribed by Will Graves 5/5/07 rev'd 12/16/15

[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 8]

North Carolina, Lincoln County

On this 16th day of July personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Lincoln now sitting, John Helm, a resident Lincoln County and State of North Carolina, aged 72 years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth make the following declaration upon oath 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: He first entered the American Army as a substitute for his father, Jacob Helms, in the year 1774 or 1775 in the County of Bottertot [sic, Botetourt] State of Virginia, where he then lived, but does not remember the month, he being illiterate and very old, but thinks it was in the month of October of that year. That he was commanded by Captain William Briant [William Bryant?] & Colonel John Lewis. That he marched from there to the boels [?] bowels?] of Greenbrier in Virginia and from [there] through the wilderness to Fort Pitt. That he was in no engagement during this tour, that he was about 16 years of age when he entered the army at this time and he served six months in this tour, was discharged by Captain Briant according to his present recollection & has lost said discharge, if he ever had one in writing. That he does not know that he has any documentary evidence to prove this Term of his service & that he does not know of any person now in this state who can prove this term of his services.

That he moved from Botetourt County State of Virginia in to Rowan County North Carolina in the year 1780 and that he volunteered in August or September of said year and joined the American army at the Six Mile Creek in Rowan County North Carolina under Captain Smith, marched from there to Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, N. Carolina from thence to Rocky River, from thence he was marched to near the place now called Cheraw Hills, South Carolina, from thence he was marched towards the place where the Battle of the Cowpens (S. Carolina) [January 17, 1781] was fought to join Genl. Morgan's [Daniel Morgan's] army. But the battle was over before he arrived or met General Morgan & that he meet the prisoners who were taken at that battle between Charlotte N. Carolina and the battle ground. That he was then marched back to Salisbury, N. Carolina to build a stockade & to guard the prisoners, that he was then discharged. That this term of service lasted three months. Was discharged he thinks by Captain Smith but has lost his discharge. That he knew Generals Morgan & Green [sic, Nathanael Greene].

John Helms [sic] further states that he returned to the State of Virginia in the month of July or August in the year 1781 to Botetourt County. That he again volunteered in said county as an American Soldier in the U.S. Army in the month, he thinks, of August or July 1781, under

Captain John Swift & Col. Samuel Lewis. That he knew General Washington during this time & was under his command. That he was first marched to Richmond, State of Virginia & from thence to Williamsburg & from thence to Little York, was in several light engagements at that place or in its vicinity, that he served in this campaign three months, took sick, was put in the hospital & believes he was discharged by the Surgeon who attended him, whose name he does not now recollect & he lost his discharge & has no documentary evidence to prove this or any other part of his services in the Revolution & knows of no person in this state who can prove this term of his service. John Helm states further that he was born, he thinks, about the year 1761 -- in the County of Botetourt State of Virginia, as he has been informed, but has no record of his age, lived in Botetourt County Virginia where he first entered the Army of the U. States, has lived in the County of Lincoln, North Carolina ever since the close of the Revolution and still lives in said County.

He states that he is known to John Wacoster [?] and George Wacoster [?] who reside in his immediate neighborhood & who have known him for many years & know that he is generally reputed in his neighborhood to have been a soldier in the Revolution & that the Reverend Hugh Quin has known him for several years & knows that it is generally reputed in his neighborhood that he was a soldier in the Revolution & these men can also testify to his character & veracity & that they believe he was a soldier in the American army during the Revolution & served as herein stated. He the said Helms [sic] does hereby relinquish all & every claim whatsoever 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.

S/ John Helms, X his mark

Sworn to in Open Court

S/ V. McBee, C. C.

[p 47: Polly Whistenhunt [Polly Whisnant?], 64, and Hugh Quin, a clergyman, gave separate standard supporting affidavits.]

[p 5 & 24: On May 1, 1844, Anna Helm filed for widow's pension stating, that she is 80 years old, the widow of John Helm, that they were married Rowan County, NC in 1782 or 1783; that her husband died May 31, 1838; that she was married by Nicholas Lutherman, a Drunkard Preacher of the gospel. She signed her application with her mark.][Her maiden name was Ann Ockerman.]

[p 41: On June 21, 1844, in Davidson County North Carolina, Easter Painter, 83, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with John and Anna Helm; that they lived together as man and wife; that Anna's maiden name was Anna Ockerman. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 36: On January 10, 1845 in Cleveland County North Carolina, Polly Whisnant, 75, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with John and Anna Helm; that they were married in Rowan County North Carolina in 1782 or 3; that she, affiant, was married August 5th, 1788 at which time John and Anna had 2 or 3 children and had been married 5 or 6 years. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 20: On March 17, 1845 in Davidson County North Carolina, Susanna Eller, 81, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with John and Anna Helms; that they were married in

Rowan County North Carolina in 1782 or 3; that she, the affiant, was married in April 1783 or 4. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 22: On May 3, 1845, Jacob Helm, son of John and his wife, Anna, filed an affidavit in Catawba County, NC, on behalf of his mother, Anna Helm, widow of John, saying that he now possesses the old papers of the family in which the ages of the children of John and Anna are recorded as follows:

} Jacob Helms
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[p 15]

John Helms was born March the 1st day 1788

Jacob Hilums was born August 1 day 1793

Peter Helums was born May 29th day 1798

Any Helums was born February 15th day 1800

Eliza Helums was born August 25th day 1803

barbary Helums was born October 20th 1810.

John Helms was born March
the 1 day 1788

Jacob Helms was born August 1th day
the year of 1793

Peter Helms: Was born May 29th
day 1798

Any Helms was born february 15th
day 1800

Eliza Helms was born august the
25 day 1803

barbary Helms was born october
the 20 day 1810

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the North Carolina and Virginia militias. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]