

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Hammons<sup>1</sup> W4978

Sarah fn54NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/5/11

[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.]

State of North Carolina County of Wilkes: SS

On this 5th day of February 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County of & State aforesaid now sitting Benjamin Hammons a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, aged seventy-seven years 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 7th, 1832.

That he was born on the 11th day of June 1756 in the County of Mecklenburg & State of Virginia, the record of which was made in a Prayer Book, left in the County of Charlotte & State of Virginia many years ago – while this deponent was an infant, his father removed into the County of Prince Edward, where he resided about three years and thence removed into the County of Charlotte in the State aforesaid, where he resided for a few years and thence removed into the County of Pittsylvania in the same State – where he deponent resided until [more than a page marked out and illegible] about the month of December 1777 when this deponent removed from the County of Pittsylvania to Wilkes County North Carolina where he has resided ever since – In a short time after this deponent settled in Wilkes County, he turned out as a volunteer under Captain Benjamin Cleveland to go against a body of Tories who had assembled on New River on the North West side of the Blue Ridge under the command of one Captain John Roberts – they marched direct to the place where the Tories had assembled, and immediately prepared for giving them battle, but upon ascertaining that their force was entirely too strong (there being about three hundred of them, and only forty of the Whigs) they relinquished their original purpose and retreated, not however without capturing some of their men, but which they were afterwards forced to surrender in consequence of being so closely pursued. After releasing the prisoners the Whigs returned to their respective homes – In this expedition this deponent served for five weeks. In the course of a few weeks after this deponent returned home, he again volunteered himself to go against the same body of Tories and was attached to the company

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt19509-160-55

commanded by Captain Larkin Cleveland, but was afterwards transferred to the command of Captain William Nall – they rendezvoused at Captain Cox's on New River on the North West side of the Blue Ridge, in what is now Ashe County North Carolina and thence marched down the New River to near Grayson C. H. and where they captured a Tory by the name of Oliver Roberts (a brother of the Tory Captain) whom they detained in custody for some time, and until he gave the most solemn assurances that he would from thence forth joined the Whigs, and that he would within a given time repair to Wilkes C. H. and join the standard of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland – which he afterwards did – After the release of Roberts, they crossed the Blue Ridge to the South side upon the waters of the Yadkin [River], where they captured two other Tories, but who afterwards made their escape – they then recrossed the Blue Ridge in the hope of meeting a body of Tories under the command of Colonel Bryan, but who had abandoned that part of the Country and took a direction towards the High Rock Ford on Haw River, where this deponent understood they were defeated by the Americans – After scouring the country around through Grayson in Virginia for some time, they proceeded up New River near to its source, and after having captured several other Tories, they recrossed the mountains to Wilkes C. H. and from thence were discharged and returned home – In this expedition, this deponent served for two months – Very soon after the return of the this deponent home, he again volunteered himself under Captain Benjamin Cleveland to go again against the Tories in the same section of Country, (they having become about this time very troublesome) and rendezvoused at the foot of the Blue Ridge on the South side, and thence marched to the New River in the north west side, where they captured several Tories who were denominated outliers, one of whom they killed – and after traversing the Country round about for a considerable time, without being able to meet with any other Tories, and considering that the Country was in a tolerable state of security they recrossed the mountains to Wilkes C. H. where Captain Cleveland gave his men a verbal discharge, and they repaired to their homes – In this expedition, this deponent served for one month. In a very few days after this deponent returned home he was again called upon by Captain Benjamin Cleveland; to march against the Tories who had again broken out on the waters of New River, and he accordingly turned out & joined Captain Benjamin Cleveland, at the place mentioned in the last foregoing tour, and marched to the North West side of the Blue Ridge to near the Point Lookout Mountain, where it was supposed a great many Tories had concealed themselves, and where Captain Benjamin Cleveland issued a proclamation stating that all the Tories who would come in & surrender themselves & enlist in the American cause during the war should be pardoned – A great many of the Tories availed themselves of this privilege, and came in & surrendered upon the terms of the proclamation – and after harmony was apparently restored to the surrounding Country, Captain Cleveland returned with his prisoners & man to Wilkes County when they again received verbal discharges and repaired to their homes. In this last expedition this deponent served at least one month. This deponent also performed another tour of two weeks against the Tories on New River under Captain Robert Allen, the particulars of which are not important, and not distinctly recollected – for proof of which he refers to the affidavit of Colonel Allen hereto annexed. About the time that information was received of Lord Cornwallis' approach to North Carolina, there was a general call for the Whig militia throughout the Western part of the State to march to oppose him. As soon as this deponent received information he turned out & joined the company of Captain Richard Allen near Wilkes Court House, and as soon as the company was organized they marched forthwith in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis – (he having by this time got in advance of Captain Allen's Company) they pursued the trail of Cornwallis towards Guilford, but they did not reach that place until after the battle had been

fought, and Lord Cornwallis had taken up the line of march for Wilmington – they accordingly turned about and marched for home, and upon arriving at Wilkes C. H. they received their discharges and dispersed – for proof of this tour, which was 4 weeks, this deponent also refers to the affidavit of Colonel Allen hereto appended.

This deponent has resided in the County of Wilkes ever since the Revolutionary War and resides there at this time. He further states that he received a discharge from Captain Jesse Ward for his first tour of twelve months, but which has long since [been] lost. For the remaining part of his services he never received any written discharges, nor has any documentary evidence by which to prove them. He refers however to the testimony of Joseph Pruit, and Colonel Richard Allen hereto annexed who served with him a part of the time for proof of a portion of them – and he also refers to the Reverend Thomas Fletcher & John Gambill as persons with whom he is well acquainted in his neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution –

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ R. Martin, Clk

S/ Benjamin Hammons, X his mark

On the day & year aforesaid, personally appeared in open Court before the Court aforesaid, Joseph Pruit,<sup>2</sup> a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith that he served two tours of duty during the Revolutionary War with Benjamin Hammons the above applicant. First under Captain Benjamin Cleveland for five weeks, and the second under Captain William Nall for two months, both of which were against the Tories – and further that the said two tours of duty as set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration were performed by the said Benjamin Hammons.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ R. Martin, Clk

S/ Joseph Pruit, X his mark

[Thomas Fletcher, a clergyman, and John Gambill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1833

On this first day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court Benjamin Hammons the foregoing applicant and made oath, that the foregoing declaration as amended by a racing or striking out the 12 months tour first set forth is just & true

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ R. Martin, Clk.

S/ Benjamin Hammons, X his mark

[fn p. 43]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: Colonel Richard Allen<sup>3</sup> came before me, one of the Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid, and being sworn in due form deposeth and saith that he the said Richard Allen was a Captain in the militia of said State during a considerable portion of the Revolutionary war and that Benjamin Hammonds [sic] of the County & State aforesaid served two tours of duty in his company; the first tour to New River in the Western part of North Carolina, in the year 1780 against the Tories: The second tour in the year 1781, while

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<sup>2</sup> [Joseph Pruit \(Pruett, Prewitt\) R8506](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Richard Allen S6490](#)

Cornwallis was marching through North Carolina, under Colonel Francis Locke; and that said Benjamin Hammonds was discharged a few days before the battle at Guilford court house. And he the said Richard Allen further deposeth and saith that he believes the length of the first tour which the said Benjamin Hammonds served under him was about two weeks and the second tour about four weeks.

And he the said Richard Allen further deposeth and saith that the said Benjamin Hammonds conducted himself as a good Soldier and a true friend to his country and has ever since been esteemed as an orderly good citizen and an honest up right man.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 30th day of August A.D. 1832.

Test: S/ R. Allen, JP

S/ Richard Allen, X his mark

[fn p. 15: On January 24, 1839 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Sarah Hammons, 70, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Hammons, a revolutionary pensioner; that she married him August 17, 1787; that her husband died March 7th, 1835; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 18: On April 7, 1855 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Sarah Hammons, 84, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Benjamin Hammons, a revolutionary war pensioner; in this petition she states that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah May.]

[facts in file: the widow stated that her only child was Mariah Hammons; fn p. 40, Archibald Lovelace, 80, and wife Jane, 74, gave testimony that they lived near Benjamin Hammons and his wife Sarah; that they (the Lovelaces) had a son born December 7<sup>th</sup> 1787 as recorded in their family Bible; that at the time of their son's birth, Sarah Hammons was confined at home having given birth to her daughter, Mariah, about two weeks prior to the birth of their son.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months & 17 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]