

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Hitt W7732 Hannah Hitt VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 1 June 2015.

Fauquier County Court October the 27th 1841.

“On the motion of Hannah Hitt, widow of Peter Hitt deceased, the Court doth certify, that it has been satisfactorily proven in open Court, that the said Hannah Hitt is by reason of bodily infirmity unable to attend this Court; and that the said Hannah Hitt hath in due form of law made the following declaration on oath before Jaquelin A. Marshall, one of the Justices of this court, which is ordered to be entered of record, viz: “Fauquier County, to wit:

“On the seventh day of September, 1841, Hannah Hitt personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace for said County in the State of Virginia, and being first duly sworn according to law, on her oath makes the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July the 7th 1838, entitled ‘An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows’: that she is a resident of Leeds Manor in the County and State aforesaid; that she is as near as she can state, aged about seventy-eight years; that she is the widow of Peter Hitt, who was a private soldier in the army during the revolutionary war; that he, the said Peter Hitt, enlisted for seven years under Captain Elias Edmonds [of the Virginia Artillery Regiment]; that his enlistment took place in the year seventeen hundred and seventyseven; and that he remained either in the army or as a prisoner of war until its close, when he was released by an exchange of prisoners; that at the time of his entering the service, he resided in the County of Fauquier; that he was engaged in the battle at Camden [SC] in the month of August 1780 [16 Aug 1780], where he was taken prisoner, after being badly wounded and detained as a prisoner until the exchange aforesaid; that she has often heard her husband, in his lifetime, say, that if General [Horatio] Gates had taken Baron De Kalb’s advice, and retreated the evening before the battle of Camden to Ruggler’s Mills [sic: Rugeley’s Mill, a few miles to the north], that he would not have been defeated; that he, Peter Hitt and his comrades fought over Baron De Kalb until the cavalry came on them, when they were compelled to leave the dead body of their commander [sic: see endnote]; that he, the said Hitt, owed his life to the chance of getting under a bending tree when the cavalry charged on them, in which posture he was slashed by sword cuts on each of his arms and sides, when he fell, and was afterwards carried, faint and sick, to the enemy’s prison ship, where it was a long time, before he was able to do any thing for himself, but as soon as he got able to do any thing, they set him to picking ropes[?]. And the said Hannah Hitt saith, that she has no documentary evidence in her possession in support of this declaration.

“The said Hannah Hitt further declares, that she was married to the said Peter Hitt, on the [blank] day of April, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty three; that her husband, the aforesaid Peter Hitt died on the 31st day of August 1802; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but shortly thereafter; and that the marriage took place previous to the 1st day of January seventeen hundred and ninety-four, viz; at the time above stated; that she was married in Turkey Run Church, in the County of Fauquier, by old Parson Craig, and hath lived in the said County ever since.

“Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year written above in County and State aforesaid
Hannah herXmark Hitt”

NOTE: Baron DeKalb died three days after being wounded at the Battle of Camden.