

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Hughes W7825 Sarah Hughes VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 May 2014.

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

On this 14th day of November, 1839, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Sarah Hughes, a resident of said County and State, aged 79 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 7th 1838, entitled “an Act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows”

That she is the Widow of William Hughes (sometimes called “Billy Hughes”) deceased, late of the said County and State, who was a private in the Virginia Continental line, and afterwards, a Sergeant in the Virginia Militia service, in the War of the Revolution. She declares, that she does not pretend to know any thing as coming within her personal knowledge respecting the service of her late husband, having married him subsequent to the last period of his service. She has a most distinct recollection of his repeatedly stating, and heard the same from others who served with him, that in the early part of 1777, he enlisted in the Virginia Continental line, for the term of three years under Captain [Edward] Garland in Lunenburg and served that term faithfully. She also recollects very distinctly of his saying in his life time, and of others who served with him, of his afterwards serving three tours of duty in the Militia, each of three months duration, in the Revolutionary War: to wit: one tour of three months in the South in 1780, and was engaged in the battle near Camden [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]: one tour of three months in North Carolina in 1781, and was at the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]: and the last tour of three months, in 1781, and was at the siege of Yorktown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] – That in these several tours of duty in the Militia, he always acted in the capacity of Sergeant. All of which she honestly believes to be true. that from bodily infirmity, old age, and the consequent loss of memory, she cannot at this time call to recollection the names of the several officers under whom he served in the Militia, and the particulars of his service as related by him on various occasions: She therefore depends in a great measure on the Records of the Army, and the statement of surviving soldiers for more particular information, whose certificates accompany this Declaration. That she honestly believes her said husband in the whole served as private and Sergeant as aforesaid longer than two years; for which length of time she claims a pension. In support of her claim she refers to the Army Records and accompanying certificates.

She further declares that at the time of marriage she resided in Cumberland County, Virginia, and was named Sarah Murray; and that she was married to the said William Hughes, otherwise called “Billy Hughes” by parson McRae on the 25th day of December 1782. That her husband the said William Hughes died on the [blank] day of August 1810 – that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January, Seventeen hundred and ninety four: to wit, at the time above stated – as will appear from evidence filed Sarah herXmark Hughes

Virginia: Charlotte County to wit: [20 Nov 1839]

I [Ambrose Haley, pension application S8689] do hereby certify, that I was intimately acquainted with William Hughes, late of Lunenburg County, in the War of the Revolution; and recollect distinctly, that he and myself were drafted in the Militia from Lunenburg County, in 1780, under Capt [Sylvanus] Walker, and marched to the south, and were engaged in the battle near Camden in August 1780. We were drafted for three months, and served accordingly. I farther certify, that in the early part of 1781, we were drafted again for three months, under same officers and marched to North Carolina, and were engaged in the battle at Guilford. He served the said time faithfully. He was also at the Siege of Yorktown, but under whom he served, or how long, I am unable to say. When I served with him, he acted as Sergeant the

whole time. I am in the 81st year of my age, and was a soldier of the Revolution. He served, also, in Continental line.

[signed] Ambrose Haley

Virginia: Charlotte County to wit: [22 May 1840]

I Seth Farley of Charlotte County, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Wm. Hughes, deceased, in the War of the Revolution, and have a distinct recollection that in the year, 1776, he enlisted as well as my memory now serves me, under Capt Garland, in what was called the Virginia Minute service, or Continental line, for the term of Three years – which term he faithfully served. I farther certify, that he has been dead for a great many years, and that he left a widow, who is still living, according to the latest intelligence I had of her. The said Wm. Hughes after joining the army might have been transferred to some other company – I know he served three years.

[signed] Seth Farley

State of Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit: [20 Jul 1840]

I Robert Mitchell [pension application W3441] do hereby certify, that I was intimately acquainted with William Hughes in the War of the Revolution, and recollect that in the latter part of 1776, he and myself enlisted under Capt Garland, for the term of three years in the Virginia Continental line, and was attached to the 14th Virginia Regiment commanded by Col Charles Lewis. He served the said term faithfully, and was honorably discharged. His widow Sarah Hughes, I know is living in Charlotte, being well acquainted with her. They were married in Cumberland County. I am in the 85th year of my age, and a Pensioner of the United States.

Robert hisXmark Mitchell

State of Virginia Charlotte County to wit [27 Jul 1841]

I [William Paylor, pension application S41941] do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with William Hughes formerly of Lunenburg and late of Charlotte in the war of the Revolution and recollect most distinctly before I entered the service he inlisted under Cap Garland for 3 years in the Virginia continental army. I entered the service in 1777 and joined the main army at Valley Forge. Their I met with said William Hughes who was transfered to cap Nathan Reads [sic: Nathan Reid's] Company. We marched from Valley Forge to the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778]. After the battle the British marched to New york and we to the White planes [sic: White Plains]. From the white plans we marched to West Pointes [sic: West Point] whear I was taken sick and sent to the Hospittal and never afterwards saw said William Hughs in the army. He served to my knolledge upwards of 3 years. His widdow is now living in Charlotte. I am in the 86th year of my age and a pentioner of the united states

William hisXmark Paylor

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

To his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia: [2 March 1840]

The Memorial of the Heirs and legal representatives of William Hughes, deceased, who was a private of the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment in the War of the Revolution:

Respectfully sheweth:

That the said William Hughes, in the year 1776, enlisted under Captain Garland, to serve “for and during the term of three years” and was attached to the 14th Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, commanded by Colonel Lewis – That he served untill the close of his enlistment and served faithfully, and was honorably discharged from service – All of which, will more readily appear by reference to the Army Register of the Continental line, and the accompanying certificates of old and reputable soldiers who served with him in the War of the Revolution.

Your Memorialist further state, that in his life time, he never applied for or drew the Land Bounty promised by the State of Virginia to her continental officers and soldiers: nor have his heirs since his death, applied for or drawn the same.

Your Memorialist, therefore, humbly pray that your Excellency will grant them the [one or more lines missing from online image] and service “for three years” pursuant to the laws of Virginia in such case made and provided. And as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c

William hisXmark Hughes

Virginia: Charlotte County Court 21[?] March 1840

The within satisfactory evidence was adduced in Court to prove that William Hughes (late a Soldier of the Virginia Continental line) departed this life intestate subsequent to the 1st January 1787 leaving the following children who are his only heirs at law, towit, John M Hughes, Mary Hughes, Sarah [illegible], Rebecca Ward, Charity Mason & William Hughes all of whom are of legal age

Copy Winston Robinson

NOTES:

In the Virginia bounty-land file is a statement by Robert Mitchell similar to the one in the federal pension file.

The federal pension file includes a copy of the record of marriage of Billy Hughes and Sarah Murray of Littleton Parish by Rev. Christopher McRae in Cumberland County on 25 Dec 1782. A record in the file certifies that Sarah Hughes died in Charlotte County on 17 June 1845 leaving the following children: Charity Mason, Rebecca Ward, Sarah Thompson, Polly Hughes, and John M. Hughes.

On 6 Apr 1840 John Hughes stated that he knew that William Hughes enlisted under Capt. Garland for three years and that he knew that William Hughes had an aunt named Jane Hughes of whom he was particularly fond and to whom he may have given most of his pay as a soldier.