

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph (Jose) Hillsman W7854
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The United States of America } On this 8th day of June in the year, one thousand eight hundred
State of Alabama, Ss. } and forty three, personally appeared before the undersigned
Judge of the Circuit Court of the State aforesaid in and for the fifth Judicial Circuit of said State, Elizabeth Hillsman, a resident of the County of Madison in the State of Alabama, as aforesaid and in the Judicial Circuit aforesaid, aged about seventy-four years, who being 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 7 1838, entitled "An Act granting half-pay and pensions to certain widows:" that she is the widow of Jose Hillsman, deceased, who served in the Revolutionary Army of the United States, that she is unable to state the rank her husband held in the Army or to specify the service performed or the duration of his service, but she refers to her said husbands declaration long since made for the purpose of enabling him to receive a pension, if the same can be found and also to the paper and proofs accompanying her Petition for a pension to Congress [dated 21 Mar 1842] which now are as she is informed and believes in the Pension Office, in Washington City.
She further declares that she was married to the aforesaid Jose Hillsman on the twenty-fifth day of December in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-two, that her husband, the aforesaid Jose Hillsman died on the twentieth day of August, eighteen hundred and eighteen, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and and ninety four, viz; at the time above stated. Elizabeth herXmark Hillsman

I Certify that Joseph Hillsman (now a Resident of the State of Tennessee) was a Regular Soldier in the Revolutionary War, that he entered the service early, from the County of Amelia, State of Virginia in the Regular Continental Army, for two years, which term he served faithfully; That after the expiration of that term, he again enlisted as a substitute, and served as a regular substitute, the greater part of the War. That before he left Virginia his pecuniary circumstances rendered him a fit object for the bounty of the late Congressional Law remunerating Continental Soldiers for their revolutionary services — Given under my hand in the State of Virg'a. this 27 August 1818
W. Bentley [William Bentley, pension application S37745] late a
Capt. of Virg'a. Line during the Revol'y War.

I Peyton Powell [pension application S46407] late a Captain in the Army of the Revolution and now a Pensioner of the united States of America, residing in the County of Madison and State of Alabama, do hereby make on oath the following statement. To Wit, That Jose Hillsman who died in Madison County State of Alabama in the year eighteen hundred and eighteen was a regular soldier in the Revolutionary War. That he went from the eleventh Regiment, in Amelia County State of Virginia, in the regular Continental Army under Captain William Johnson and joined Colonel [Daniel] Morgan, but shortly afterwards he was placed under Major General William Heath [sic: William Heth] where he remained for three years which term he served faithfully, he was in the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and also in the Battle at Germantown [4 Oct 1777], to my certain knowledge.
I further certify that since he (Jose Hillsman) came to this state (Ala.) he had all the necessary certificates prepared and sent to Congress for the purpose of establishing his claim as pensioner, but before the business was acted on, he (Jose Hillsman) died, which put a stop to the whole business given under my hand and seal this 21st day of May Eighteen hundred and thirty nine
[signed] Peyton Powell

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Joseph Hillsman/ aged 24/ height 5 3½/ planter/ born and residing in Amelia County/ red hair/ hazel eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 11 Sep 1780 for 18 months.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed 17 Dec 1792 in Amelia County by Jose Hillsman and Blackburn Hughes for the marriage of Hillsman to Elizabeth More, as well as permission for the marriage signed by her parents, Joseph and Susannah More. Elizabeth Hillsman applied again for a pension on 2 Aug 1848, giving her age as about 77. On an application for bounty land dated 4 Apr 1855, her age is given as 83. The file contains letters dated 12 July 1843 and 15 Feb 1847 by Matthew M. Hillsman inquiring about his mother's application.