

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hughs W8964

Mary Hughs

f91VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/14/14

[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 2]

The soldier's declaration for pension was missing when the claim was opened to be placed in flat files.

I have searched the claims of all soldiers of that name under any spelling and cannot find it.

February 6, 1911 Sent to Secretary of War January 9, 1839, & perhaps were never returned for filing. See letter of that date to him

(J. R. Poinsett)

[Note: Because this file does not contain the application filed by the veteran and because the widow never filed a claim on her behalf (her pension having been granted based on petitions filed by her heirs), I have elected to transcribe the letter in the file summarizing its contents.]

[pp 23-24]

February 2, 1839

BA-J/AWF

William Hughs

W. 8964

Mrs. H. E. Byrer

Bourbon

Indiana

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War records of William Hughes, born in Culpepper County, Virginia, died in Bourbon County, Kentucky, and of James Parks, born 1736, died in 1815 in Kentucky.

The Revolutionary War records of this office have been searched and no claim for pension found based upon service of a James Parks, as described by you. The server name was searched under similar spellings.

The Revolutionary War record of William Hughs is furnished herein as found in papers on file in claim for pension, W. 8964, based on his service in that war. This is the record of the only William Hughs (Hughes) who served in the Virginia troops, and later lived in Kentucky, found on file in the Revolutionary War records of this office.

The date and place of birth of William Hughs (as the name is shown in the claim) and names of his parents are not stated.

William Hughs was pensioned for two-year service as private, Sergeant and Captain, part of the time in Colonel Thornton's Virginia Regiment. This petition was at the rate of \$405.00 per annum, under the act of June 7, 1832, at which time the said William Hughs was a resident of Lincoln County, Kentucky.

William Hughs married prior to the year 1770, (definite date not given), Mary; her maiden name is not given, nor was it stated where they were married, nor when and where she was born.

William Hughs died November 14, 1834 in Lincoln County, Kentucky, then in the 84th year of his age. The widow, Mary Hughs, died October 19, 1845. William Hughs stated a few years prior to his death, that he and his wife, Mary, had lived "together sixty-five Christmases".

The following data relative to the children of William Hughes, and wife, Mary, are shown in the claim

Burkett born about the year 1769;
Reuben, no data in regard to him;
Betsy or Elizabeth married, when she was upwards of twenty years of age,
Thomas Young in Lincoln County, Kentucky, marriage bond dated May 18, 1795;
Mary or Polly married her cousin, Francis Hughs, date of marriage not given;
Sarah or Sally born about the year 1780;
William born July 5, 1783, married Mary (Polly), daughter of Joseph Russele (Russell), license dated July 3, 1810, in Lincoln County, Kentucky, said Mary was born September 18, 1786;
Judy or Judith married Joseph Russell, date not given;
Fanny married Silas Russele (Russell), date not shown;
Tharp born October 25, __;
John S born June 9, 1791;
Thomas, no data concerning him;
Lotty married Tharp Hall, date not shown;
Pratt, no data relative to him;
Sophia, no data in regard to her.

The widow, Mary Hughs, was survived by the following children, and were allowed the pension due her; they were residing in 1850 as follows –

Judith Russell of Adair County, Kentucky; Sarah Hughs of Stanford, Kentucky; John S Hughs of Stanford, Kentucky; Thomas Hughs of Marion County, Kentucky; Mary Hughs, her place of residence not shown.

One James M Russell was of Adair County, Kentucky in 1850; it was not stated that he was related to the family.

John S Hughs, son of William Hughs and wife, Mary, served in the War of 1812, and was at the battle of "Dudley's Defeat".

The papers on file in this claim contain no further discernible data in regard to family.

Very truly yours
A. D. Hiller
Executive Assistant
to the Administrator

[Note: Insight into the contents of the veteran's petition can be gleaned from the following letter in the handwriting of James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions addressed to Hon. J. R.

Poinsett, Sec. of War]
[pp 27-30]

War Department
Pension Office
January 9, 1839

Sir,

In the case of Mrs. Polly Hughs, widow of William Hughs, referred to in the enclosed letter from the Honorable James Harlan, I make the following report:

The claim of William Hughs under the act of 7 June 1832 was admitted in January 1833 upon his own affidavit and the testimony of several persons who alleged that they had seen his commission. He stated that he received a commission from the Governor of Virginia, and that under that instrument he was employed twenty months in the impressment of supplies for the Army and militia. The witnesses do not know when nor by whom the commission was granted, and they have no knowledge of his service, except from report. If he had been regularly appointed as a militia officer, he could not have served so long as he alleges, nor could he have been engaged in furnishing supplies for the Army and militia as he states. The militia were called out but for two or three months at a time, and if he was engaged in procuring supplies, such employment must have been under a civil contract. He is also alleged that he served three months as a private soldier in the militia, and that he turned out upon another call of the militia, for which he was credited for three months service. In a conversation which I held with Mr. Harlan, I observed to him that it was probable that he might have been a militia Soldier for six months, and that for such service his widow might perhaps have some claim; but upon a further consideration of the case, my opinion is that the last tour was not for so long a period as three months, and therefore his whole service could not have amounted to six months. I neither offered nor promised a pension for six months service.

The question is asked whether it is competent for the Commissioner of pensions to nullify the decision of your predecessor in office. The answer to this question is that in a case where the Head of the Department had upon a personal examination of any particular case, and upon a representation of all the facts, adjudged the case, it would not comport with the uniform practice of the Department to reverse the decision. But the principle for which Mr. Harlan contends, and which is admitted by everyone, does not apply to the case of Hughs. It is well known that in 1832 and in the beginning of 1833, when the claims were so numerous as to render a supervision of them in practicable either by the head of this office, or the Secretary of War, many claims were allowed which should have been rejected. In 1835 a re-examination of these cases was directed, and it will be seen by the appropriation of that year that \$3400 was appropriated by law to pay clerks for such service. Under those re-examinations many were reduced, in the amount of pensions they received, and others were dropped from the roll. Hughs died in November 1834. Had he survived till after the re-examination took place, he would unquestionably have been dropped from the roll.

Mr. Harlan is mistaken in saying that I had intimated that the Department is now better informed as to the history of the Revolution than it was during the administration of Governor Cass. I said to Mr. H. that the department was better informed in relation to militia service some months after Hughs' claim was allowed than it was before he was pensioned. The papers in the case are here with enclosed. As they belong to the files of this Office, I respectfully ask a return of them.

I have &c

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$405 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private, Sergeant & Captain in the Virginia service for two years. His widow's heirs were pensioned in a like amount commencing November 14, 1834 and ending October 19 1845 when she died.]