

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Houser W9650

Hannah Shamel¹

fn26NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/12/11

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina County of Stokes: SS

On this 27th day of February 1838 personally appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Hannah widow of John Shamel, Deceased, at her own place of Residence in the County aforesaid, aged eighty-one years the 13th day of July 1837, 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 4th, 1836, in the act explanatory passed March 3rd 1837, saith that from bodily infirmity she is unable to attend the County Court to make her declaration, that she was first married to a certain John Houser now dead who she has just reason to believe served as a private soldier in the Army of the United States, in the following expeditions (to wit) first that he entered the service as a volunteer private in the militia under Captain Henry Smith in Surry County North Carolina in the last of July or first of August 1776 & rendezvoused near Richmond Surry old Court house and organize & then marched westwardly a long route to the Cherokee Nation of Indians, burned and destroyed several of their Towns, capitulated [sic] with their Chiefs & returned on their march home; in this expedition he served 4 months & was discharged, this was in Colonel Joseph Williams' Regiment which returned in the last of December 1776 and the next service he informed her he was drafted for 3 months and was placed as a minute man to range after Tories & be ready at a moment's warning in the County of Surry aforesaid in the spring of the year 1778 and at different periods was called out on a scout after Tories at one time under Captain William Shepperd & another under Captain Meredith & other officers she does not remember, all of which services was after she was married & he told her he had been out in service the most of his time on his own horse more than 3 months for which he first engaged for & that afterwards her husband John Houser went with the Soldiers that started from old Richmond she does not know the Captain's name, but it was the soldiers that went to the Battle of Kings Mountain and he told her that the commanding officer sent her husband back from a place called Ramsour's with an express to Colonel Armstrong of Surry County & then her husband returned home & remained a few days, then started & went to the Army and joined the same with the Kings Mountain prisoners at or near the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River & carried them to the old Moravian Town in the then Surry County (now Stokes) at which place he was discharged for a 3 month Tour – and afterwards she believes in the month of January 1781 before Cornwallis with his Army came through Bethany in the then Surry County, John Houser her husband then volunteered himself or was drafted she does not recollect which, to guard the Our wagons, she calls it, from Salem in said County to Henry County in Virginia to keep said

¹ Former widow

magazine from the British in this service her husband was gone exactly 5 weeks all of which services makes 11 months & a few days for which she claims a pension. She has already the testimony of Joseph Banner & Lewis Woolf² to prove the services rendered as above stated.

She further declares that her maiden name was Hannah Miller daughter of Jacob Miller Deceased that she was married to the aforesaid John Houser at her father's house in the then County of Surry in North Carolina by Doctor Jacob Bond a justice of the peace on the 26th day of December 1777, that her husband John Houser aforesaid died on the 24th day of January 1784, that she afterwards married to John Shamel in Stokes County North Carolina on the 30th day of Me 1799, and that he died on the 22nd day of February 1813, and that she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836, and still remains a widow as will more fully appear by the proof hereunto annexed. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first above mentioned before me
S/ C. Banner, JP
S/ Hannah Shamel, X her mark

State of North Carolina County of Stokes: An Amendatory declaration of the widow Hannah Sahmel taken at her own place of Residence in the County aforesaid on the 26th day of June 1838 agreeable to an order of the County Court, it being made at the old woman from bodily infirmity was unable to attend court whereupon the Court made in order that I as one of said Court [member] should attend at her house or residence & examined her in the case of her declaration for a Pension agreeable thereto I Charles Banner one of the justices of the said [court] attended at her place of residence on the day above mentioned and the said Hannah Shamel being first sworn according to law saith that her former Declaration which she made on oath before me on the 27th of February 1838 was just & true, which declaration Depositions is here unto annexed. This applicant further stated on oath that ages & names of her children that was born of her body during the time her husband lived which appeared in a Bible when their family Record was written as I saw & read them thus that John Houser & Hannah Miller was married by Jacob Bond a justice of the peace on the 26 day of December 1777, and Anna Elizabeth their eldest child was born the 19th of September 1778, Anna Margaret was born the 13th of April 1780 – now dead, Mary Susanna was born the 5th of January 1782 – dead, John the son was born the 7th of December 1783 – dead, Hannah the last born the 18th September 1785 – dead there being only Anna Elizabeth now living who is now the widow of William Eldridge Deceased – that she has no documentary evidence of her said husband John Houser Services, except from her own knowledge together with the proof hereunto affixed. Sworn and subscribed the day & year first above mentioned before me
S/ C. Banner, JP
S/ Hannah Shamel, X her mark

Be it known that George Kregar³ who is a Pensioner and a man of veracity for truth being sworn declares on oath that he was intimately acquainted with John Houser the former husband of the above named widow Hannah Shamel both before & after their marriage together which marriage happened about a year after said Houser returned from the Cherokee Expedition, & that Jacob Bond who solemnized the rites of matrimony between them was an acting justice of the peace at that time, that said Deponent saw & served with said Houser as a minute soldier under Captain H. Smith at sundry times after Tories, in Colonel William Shepperd & Captain Joseph Phillips to the Brushy Mountains & to Catawba River from thence John Houser was sent with an express to Colonel Armstrong in this route together when he joined our company he served at least 6

² [Lewis Wolf \(Wolff\) W4403](#)

³ [George Kregar \(Kregor, Krieger\) W3696](#)

months in different directions from Richmond Surry old Court house marched to Salisbury then to Anson County & to Rocky River & at Colson's old fields where we had a Battle in July 1780, then returned to & was discharged. We first started from this place in the spring of 1780, say in March he believes to the best of his recollection & was discharged in October 1780.

Sworn & subscribed this his Deposition this 26 day of June 1838 before me
S/ C. Banner, JP S/ George Kregar, X his mark

[fn p. 9: Elizabeth Ketner,⁴ widow, testified on February 27, 1838 in Stokes County North Carolina that Hannah Shamel is her sister; that she was present at the marriage of her sister to John John Houser by Doctor Jacob Bond on December 26, 1777 at the home of her father, Jacob Miller and then Surry County North Carolina near Bethany.]

[fn p. 21]

State of North Carolina County of Stokes: SS: Be it known that on the 15th day of February 1838 before me Charles Banner a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Joseph Banner Senior⁵ who is a Pensioner on the Pension Roll of the United States, and he being duly sworn according to law, to depose & say what he may remember of the services rendered by a certain John Houser Deceased in the Army of the United States in time of the Revolutionary War; – Deposeth & saith that he was well acquainted with said John Houser, that he served a Tour of duty of 4 months & more in the year 1776 with said John Houser and Colonel Jo Williams Regiment of militia in Captain Smith's & Captain Goode's Companies to the Cherokee Nation of Indians, and this deponent further declares that he saw said Houser in service several times as a minute man or Ranger after the Tories, & saw him & was serving with him guarding the prisoners which was taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain, at the old Moravian Town in the then Surry County (now Stokes) that sometime during the Revolutionary War, the said John Houser was married to a young woman by the name of Hannah Miller he died & his widow the said Hannah married again to John Shamel & he died upwards of 20 years past & she the said Hannah is now & has been a widow ever since the death of John Shamel. Sworn and subscribed the day & year first above mentioned before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Joseph Banner, X his mark

[fn p. 22]

North Carolina County of Stokes: SS: Be it known that on the 16th of February 1838 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace for said County personally appeared Lewis Wolff a Pensioner & being duly sworn according to law to declare what he remembers of the late John Houser's service as a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, declares on his oath that he was well acquainted with said John Houser, that he this deponent did not go to the Cherokee Nation, but hired a Substitute and said John Houser started with the Army as a private Soldier in Captain Henry Smith's Company & returned in the winter of 1776 about Christmas, and afterwards this deponent states that said John Houser served in a company of Horse men commanded by Captain Philips on the route to the Battle of Kings Mountain and said Houser was sent back with an express to Colonel Armstrong and after the Battle said Houser fell in & joined the company somewhere about or near the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River] & guarded the prisoners to the old Town, But previous to this last service said John Houser was in actual service in ranging after

⁴ [Francis \(Franz\) Kitner \(Kittner, Ketner\) W20322](#)

⁵ [Joseph Banner W9716](#)

Tories under Captain Shepperd & Meredith and on one occasion happened in skirmish with a Company of Tories at Richmond (Surry old Court house) where the Tories being too numerous, put our men to flight only wounded one of our men a Captain John Krouse as this deponent & said John Houser were neighbors in Surry County & well acquainted he believes his statement was correct, he recollects that said Houser was married to Hannah Miller at her Father's Joseph Miller's by Jacob Bond a justice of the peace in time of the Revolutionary War, & he served often after they were married, he thinks he was called on as one of the soldiers & was gone to guard the magazine from Salem to some place in Virginia upwards of a month not over to or 3 months before the Guilford Battle in 1781. This Deponent further saith that the widow Hannah Shamel who intends petitioning for a pension has been a widow at least 20 years past and was the widow of the above named John Houser Deceased before she married Shamel. Sworn and subscribed the day & year first above mentioned before me
 S/ C. Banner, JP S/ Lewis Wolff, W his mark

[fn p2.: is a certificate dated October 2nd, 1839 from Julius Fh Beckler [Julius Beckler], Pastor of the Moravian church at Bethania Stokes County North Carolina certifying that the birth dates of the 5 children born to John Houser and Hannah Miller is contained in the church records

Stokes Cty
State of Maryland } It appears on the records of the church at
 Bethania, Stokes Cty. Md. that John Houser
 was married to Hannah Miller towards the close of
 the year 1776 & that during their union, the
 following children were born in their family; to wit:

1. Anna Elisabeth Houser, born Sept 19th 1777
2. Anna Margareth " " " Apr 13th 1779
3. Mary Susanna " " " May 5th 1781
4. John Houser " " " Dec 7th 1782
5. Hannah Susanna " " " Sept 18th 1784.

It further appears on the records of the church at
 Bethania, Stokes Cty. Md. that the above connexion between
 John Houser & his wife Hannah, was put an end to by
 the death of the said John Houser on the 26th Jan^y 1784

Witness my hand & Seal
 Julius Fh Beckler
 Pastor of Moravian Church at
 Bethania Stokes Cty. Md.

Bethania Oct 2^d 1839

[Veteran's former widow was pensioned at the rate of \$27.21 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her former husband's service as a private for 8 months and 5 days in the North Carolina militia.]