

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Samuel Houston W7810 Martha fn96SC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 1/31/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 72]

For the purpose of [text torn and missing] benefit of an act for the Relief of certain Surviving officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved the 15th day of May 1828 I Samuel Houston of Henry County in the State of Georgia do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution in the year 1781 and continued in its service until its termination at which period I was a private in Captain Samuel Kneely's [sic, Samuel Neely's] Company in Colonel William Hill's Regiment of the South Carolina line and also declare that I afterwards received a certificate for the Reward of \$80 (as nigh as I can recollect to which I was entitled by the Resolve of Congress passed the 15th of May 1778 as nigh as I now recollect the date) and further declare that I was on the 15th day of March 1828 on the Pension list of the United States Signed the 28th of October 1828

S/ Saml. Houston

Sworn to before me the day and date above written
S/ Willis Barrington, JP

[James Love, Col, and Saml. Wells gave a supporting affidavit as to the reputation of the applicant as a soldier of the revolution.]

[fn p. 13]

State of Georgia: Fayette County

On May 6, 1833 personally appeared in open court before Finlay G. Stewart, Samuel Swanson, Edward P. Nixon, Wm. Pace & Jephtha Landrum, Justices of the Inferior Court of the County aforesaid, now sitting, Samuel Houston, a resident of the County of Fayette, and state of Georgia, aged Seventy One years (past) who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

[He served] In Captain Hugh Whiteside's company of which John McCaw was Lieutenant, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Goodwin of the South Carolina militia. That he entered the service toward the close of the year 1778, a short time previous to the fall of Savannah as a substitute in place of his father Thomas Houston with whom he then resided in Chester District in the State of South Carolina and who had

been drafted to serve as a private in said company under authority of the state or its officers. From which place he was marched to the Quarter house within 6 miles of Charleston and from thence was marched towards Savannah but before we reached that place it was taken by Colonel Campbell of the British Army; that he was then stationed at Purysburg and was there discharged after having served not less than three months.

In the spring of the next year 1779 he again entered the service of the United States as a private soldier (and as a system of classing the militia had been adopted, he is not absolutely certain whether he was drafted or belonged to the class which was called upon to perform this term of duty but is inclined to the opinion that he was of the class required to enter the service) in Captain Phillip Walker's company of these South Carolina militia which company Alexander Campbell was a lieutenant and which company belonged to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Lacey. That he entered the service in Chester District South Carolina. That he was marched thence to Charleston where he was stationed and discharged after having served not less than three months.

In the year 1780 and in the latter part of the month of April or the first of the month of May, he again entered the service of the United States as a private, and believes as a volunteer, in Chester District South Carolina, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Brown, who then had the command of Colonel Lacey's Regiment of the South Carolina militia, and Captain Frost's company of which Michael Gore was a Lieutenant, that he was marched to Camden and thence towards Charleston, but before we reached that place we were met by Governor Rutledge with the information that Charleston had fallen into the hands of the British and Lt. Col. Brown at the suggestion of Governor Rutledge returned with us to Camden where he was discharged by Colonel Brown having been in the service not less than two weeks.

Immediately after he returned to his father's [house] in Chester District South Carolina in the month of May 1780, he volunteered and joined the company of South Carolina militia commanded by Captain John McClure, of which Hugh McClure was first lieutenant, John McClure second lieutenant, and James Johnston third lieutenant, of Colonel Lacey's Regiment, as a private, and was marched to Mobley's Meeting House, where we had a skirmish with some Tories. Thence he was marched into North Carolina near Charlotte in Mecklenburg County at which place General Sumter joined us and was appointed to the command in chief, thence we marched to Phifer's where General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] of the North Carolina militia joined us. Captain Gore's company in which he was at Phifer's was detached by General Sumter to cross the Catawba River into Lincoln County against some Tories embodying in that county at Ramsour's Mill where we had a battle with and defeated the Tories. In this battle Captain Falls who commanded a company of Calvary was killed. From the battleground Ramsour's Mill, he was again marched across the Catawba River into the Catawba Indian Land and encamped for some time at a place called Clem's Branch in Lancaster District South Carolina. From thence in Captain McClure's company under the command of Colonel Lacey he was detached to cross the Catawba River into York District to meet some British and Tories, who we met and defeated at Colonel William Bratton's. Captain Hook [sic, Christian Huck], a British officer, and Colonel Ferguson, a Tory, were killed and a Captain Edmonson of the British infantry was taken prisoner. From Colonel Bratton's we were again marched across the Catawba [River] and joined General Sumter at Clem's branch. That's he was marched with General Sumter to Rocky Mount where

we had a battle with some British and Tories under the command of Colonel Turnbull of the British Army. From Rocky Mount we marched again across the river and on that day [one] week from the battle of Rocky Mount, had another Battle at a place called Hanging Rock, where Capt. McClure fell morally wounded, & his brother first Lieutenant Hugh McClure having been disabled by wounds in our first skirmish at Mobley's Meeting House, the Command of the Company devolved upon Lieutenant John Stuts [? could be "Steele"], the army again crossed the River, but he remained to take care of his brother William Houston who was wounded at the Battle of Hanging Rock, and attempted to Convey him on a Bier to the Hospital at Charlotte in the state of No. Carolina, before he arrived however his brother died of his wounds, and before he could meet the army again Genl. Gates & Genl. Sumpter were both defeated, & being informed that Genl. Sumter retreated toward Charlotte in No. Carolina, after interring the Corpse of his brother he joined Genl. Sumter and the remains of his defeated army near Charlotte—thence he was detached in Captain John Cunningham's Company of mounted men under the Command of Col. Edward Lacey & Col. Williams [James Williams] in pursuit of Colonel Ferguson who was on the other side of Broad River, & having been joined by Colonel Graham with his Regiment from Lincoln County No. Carolina, under the temporary Command in Chief of Col. Campbell and the subordinate Command of Colonels Sevier, Cleveland & Shelby, we attacked Col. Ferguson's army on Kings Mountain & defeated him, Col. Ferguson was killed, and we lost Col. Williams who shared in the Command on that day. On the day after the Battle of Kings Mountain, he left the army having taken his discharge for the purpose of returning home, but hearing that Lord Cornwallis was on his March or was about to March from Charlotte in North Carolina to Winnsboro in South Carolina on the fourth or fifth day after he was discharged at King's mountain in York District South Carolina he volunteered as a private in the company of South Carolina militia under the command of Captain Benjamin Garrison and was marched to the old Nation Ford on the Catawba River where it was expected Lord Cornwallis would either across or send a detachment to cross. From thence we joined General Sumter at Palmer's Fort York District South Carolina, that he was their detached by General Sumter and was kept reconnoitering between General Sumter's army at Fort Palmer and Lord Cornwallis army at Winnsboro until the battle at the Cowpens, which battle he believes was fought in January 1781, in the month of February. After the battle of the Cowpens, he was attacked by the smallpox with which he was confined in the hospital which was provided for sick soldiers until about the first of April 1781 and was discharged and left the Army in May afterwards, intending to make a crop in York District South Carolina and believes after having been in the Army a little more than one year deducting the days intervening between his discharge at King's Mountain and his entering Captain Garrison's company but for the sake of certainty will say not less than 11 months.

That instead of making a crop as was his intention when he left the Army before the end of the month of May 1781, believing that much remained undone in which he could render his country some service, and being known and marked as a victim by the Tories, he deemed it more glorious to fall in the army of his country than by the hands of those clandestine assassins of their Countrymen who had they dared to raise an arm for Liberty, he enlisted on the Captain Samuel Neely of whose company James McDowell was a lieutenant, which was a company of Calvary or Dragoons, as a private, and served in the Regiment of the South Carolina line commanded by Colonel William Hill and

Major Bluford [sic, William Buford] (does not remember any Lt. Col.). That he enlisted in York District where he had intended to reside. That from York District he was marched to the Ancrum's on Congaree River near where Columbia now stands and they are joined Colonel Hill, and drew the public arms, for the Cavalry service, under the command of Major Buford. He was marched thence to the Juniper Springs and thence to the lower part of Laurens District, and there joined General Greene. That he was in a skirmish at Pine log ford on Edisto River with a Captain Livingston of the British Army and who was killed by Major Buford. Afterwards he was in another skirmish near the same River with some Tories and in another at a place called old Church with a party of British and Tories, in which Major Buford was always victorious. That the term of his enlistment was for one year and that he continued in the service of the United States for the full term of his enlistment and was discharged at Orangeburg Courthouse state of South Carolina and May 1782.

That he now has no documentary evidence having lost all of his discharges. That he now knows of no person besides William Davis¹ and JosiahHouston (whose affidavits are herewith shown to the court, who is requested to attach them hereto, and who are in court further to answer any questions that may be asked them) whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services. That since the revolution he has resided in Pendleton District South Carolina until 1823. From that time to 1828 [he lived] in Henry County, State of Georgia, and since that time, [he has lived] at his present place of abode in Fayette County Georgia. That he was born in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina 1760. That he has no record of his age, and that the Reverend Thomas H. Cliatt [?] and Andrew McBride will testify to my character, the belief of the neighborhood and their own beliefs of my services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. S/ Saml Houston

NB Recapitulation of the terms of Service

1 st Term	3 months
3 rd do	½ month
4 th do	11 months
5 th do	<u>12 months</u>
	26 ½ months
2 nd term	<u>3</u>
total	29 ½ months

[Thomas H. Cliatt, a clergyman, and Andrew McBride gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 83: Samuel Houston filed another application, this one dated November 4, 1833 in Fayette County, Georgia. This application appears to be substantially identical to the one set out above. Why was it necessary? Did he think the prior one was lost? This application, however, did contain [fn p. 89-90] the answers to the 7 interrogatories as follows:

"The first Interrogatory he answers: in Mecklenburg County State of North Carolina in the year 1760.

¹ FPA S31641

To the 2nd he answers He have no record of his age.

To the 3rd he answers. N. Chester district state of South Carolina. He entered the service on his return home to Chester district and once when he had gone there for the purpose of making that his home, in York District South Carolina -- in Pendleton South Carolina, in Henry County Georgia and now in Fayette County Georgia.

To the 4th he answers -- Once as a Substitute for his father Thomas Houston -- once drafted -- once enlisted the remaining tours as a volunteer --

To the 5th interrogatory he answers. That he must refer to the body of his declaration which contains the answers at large to this interrogatory.

To the 6th he answers. He did by Colonel Goodwin, Captain Walker, Lieutenant Colonel Brown, Colonel Lacey, Captain Garrison Major Bluford each of which discharges have been lost or destroyed.

To the 7th he states. The Reverend Thomas H. Cliatt and Andrew McBride.

[Thomas H. Cliatt, a clergyman, and Andrew McBride gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 52]

Georgia Fayette County: Explanatory of that part of his declaration made in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 and which is now of file in the Pension Office, Department of War, wherein he alleges to have served eleven months and one tour. Samuel Houston after being duly sworn before me Jesse Ward a Justice of the Peace in & for the County aforesaid makes the following statement on oath, viz.

That from the time he entered the service of the United States, in the State of South Carolina & Chester District in Captain McClure's Company, which was in the month of May 1780 and immediately after the fall of Charleston until he was discharged after Battle of King's Mountain as stated in said Declaration, which he is present impression is, was on the 17th day of October following, it was five months, which time he served, and for the particulars of which he refers to his declaration, aforesaid.

That from the time he entered the service of the United States, in York District South Carolina, in Captain Garrison's Company, which was within four days after the Battle of Kings Mountain (and being so nearly a Continuation of the same service produced the idea of throwing both tours together, which composes the alleged service of the eleven months stated in his Declaration) until he was discharged in April following after his recovery from an attack of small pox, as stated in his said Declaration to which for the particulars of this service he refers, it was six months, making as aforesaid the alleged service of eleven months.

That his impression now is that they militia of South Carolina did serve tours of 6 months, and that he thinks about this period there were many individuals in General Sumpter's Army who whether they entered the service for 3 or 6 months, served more, and when the condition which the State of South Carolina was then after the fall of Charleston, overrun by the British, -- the Tories vindictive and triumphant -- Gates defeated & General Sumpter driven from the State -- is considered, he does not think it will be a matter of astonishment that in the militia service of that state the tours of duty performed were irregular.

And that he did truly and faithfully perform said service as stated in his said declaration and as herein explained.

Sworn to and subscribed this first day of January 1834 before me
S/ Jesse Ward, JP

S/ Samuel Houston

[fn p. 20]

George of Fayette County: Personally appeared before me Jesse Ward a Justice of the Peace in & for said County Josiah Houston who being duly sworn deposed & saith that he is a younger brother of Samuel Houston who has this day made oath to his declaration to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, that he was between the age of 12 & 14 years, when he saw his brother Samuel Houston at Clem's branch in General Sumpter's Army in the year 1780, that he has carefully examined said declaration & from his having frequently seen him under arms and at different places under arms as well as from his having always understood that he did serve as he has therein stated, & never having heard anything to the contrary does not hesitate on his oath to declare his full belief in the truth of his statement therein made.

S/ Josiah Houston

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 6th May 1833
S/ Jesse Ward, JP

Georgia Fayette County: Personally appeared before me Jesse Ward a Justice of the Peace in & for said County William Davis who being duly sworn deposed and saith that he was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution and that he saw Samuel Houston who has this day sworn to his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, in 1779 in the service of the United States under the command of Colonel Lacey, that he saw him at Ancrum's on Congaree paraded by Colonel Hill's Regiment of Cavalry in 1781, that he saw him frequently at other places during the war, (but does not now recollect owing to his memory being somewhat impaired by age) with sufficient accuracy any other places to state on oath, and that he carefully examined his declaration, and from his acquaintance with him (Samuel Houston) during the war & since, does not hesitate on his oath to declare his entire conviction of the truth of said declaration.

S/ William Davis

S/ Jesse Ward, JP

[fn p. 45]

Georgia Coweta County: Personally appeared this day before me William Nimmons a Justice of the peace for the State and County aforesaid Colonel John Dickson of the State and County aforesaid and after being duly sworn deposed and saith that he was personally acquainted with Samuel Houston formerly of South Carolina and now of the State of Georgia and saith that he was acquainted with the said Samuel Houston in time of the revolutionary war and as well as I now recollect and believe that some time in the year 1781 that the said Samuel Houston did enlist in Captain Samuel Kneely [sic, Neely's?] Company of the South Carolina Troops and believes the said Samuel Houston continued in its service till the end of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 5th of February 1829

S/ John Dickson

S/ William Nimmons, JP

[fn p. 49 is a letter dated February 7, 1829 in the handwriting and signed by Samuel Houston]

[fn p. 5: on November 22, 1841 in Fayette County Georgia, Martha Houston, 76, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Samuel Houston a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution; that she married him July one, 1778 & that her husband died September 25, 1840; and that she remains his widow; in proof of her marriage she offers the testimony of Susannah Simmons and Carter Houston both of whom witnessed the marriage.]