

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Hamilton W155 Jane fn44NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 4/3/11

[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 Tennessee Carroll County

On this 4th day of March 1841 personally appeared before me William H. Carson an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County Jane Hamilton now near seventy-eight years of age and a citizen of said County the surviving Widow of James Hamilton Deceased – who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836 and the act explanatory of said act passed March 3rd 1837. That she was married to James Hamilton who was a soldier and served in the Army of the Revolution a volunteer at several different towers [tours] a term of time not less than three years during the time the Revolution war lasted and he the said James Hamilton was twice wounded while engaged in Battle with Disaffected men who were Enemies to the Cause of Liberty he was a citizen of Guilford [Guilford] County and State of North Carolina and his Service was pendered [sic, rendered?] in North & South Carolina. She further states that this Statement is to the best of her recollection of the words spoken by her husband in his Lifetime. She also knows that he was called out to serve for short towers after her Marriage and did Served he being engaged in a quator [sic ? "quarter"?] of men called by name Minet men [minute men] ordered to be ready to march at a minutes warning – She further declares that she is not in possession of any Discharge or other papers of the Army to which he can prove any part of his Service.

She further declares that she was married to the said James Hamilton on the 7th day of February 1782 in Orange Guilford [sic] County & State of North Carolina that her husband the aforesaid James Hamilton Died on the 27th day of April 1831 and that she was a widow on the 4th day of July 1836 and still remains a widow as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before
S/ Wm H. Carson. JP S/ Jane Hamilton, X her mark

[fn p. 8: family record:

James Hamilton Born May 1th [sic] Day 1757

Jane Hamilton february 18th 1762

Any [Annie or Anny] Hamilton March th 1 1783

Jane Hamilton October 1th [sic] 1784

Elizabeth [Elizabeth] Hamilton Decmbr 27 1786

Thomas Hamilton April 10th 1789

Polly Hamilton June 13th 1792

James Hamilton November 22th [sic] 1794

Robert S Hamilton Jany [could be June] 5th 1796

Elexander [Alexander] Hamilton October 20th 1798

John Hamilton March 1th [sic] 1803

Sally Hamilton february 22th [sic] 1806

[fn p. 25: Actual text with deciphered text interlined and offset in italics]

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it is correct and if anyone draws a pension I would think
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She ought [to draw one]. I am 78 years of age and get a pension for my service
in the guler army
in the regular army.*

S/ B Starritt¹

Sworn to & Subscribed before me this 25th April 1840
S/ J. Williams, JP



[fn p. 37]

State of Tennessee Carroll County: Viz.

On this 16th day of March in the year A.D. 1841 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of record in and for the State aforesaid, Jane Hamilton, a resident of said County of Carroll, aged seventy-nine years. – Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision and 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 James Hamilton who was a private soldier in the War of the Revolution, and who died the 27th day of April 1831 in the County of Carroll. The declarant cannot ascertain, now, with distinctness, the different troops, companies, regiments or Corps he served in. She has understood from her deceased husband that he served some time under Edward Gwin [Edward Gwinn] as his Captain, but she thinks this portion of the service was a volunteer independent company whose name and object was to act against the Tories, this company she thinks was raised in Orange & Guilford counties North Carolina. She does not remember if she ever heard her husband declare the date or the duration of service under Captain Gwin – Otherwise than that it was in the revolutionary war. She states that she learned from her said husband that he was in the Army at the time of General Gates defeat and was at that time a soldier under his command but that he was not in the action having been detailed to guard some prisoners at that time in possession of the American Army which were however released immediately after General Gates defeat some of the guard being killed some taken and others dispersed, if she ever learned from her husband she does not now remember the other officers under whose command her husband at that time served nor does she remember if she ever knew the duration of that term of service, nor its date otherwise than as it was at the time of General Gates defeat in the war of the revolution.

She states that at the time of the Battle of Guilford her said husband was in the Army as she has often heard him say, and she thinks it likely that he served there under a Captain whose name was Forbis of this however she is not certain & thinks it possible the impression may be on her mind from the fact that a person known as Captain Forbis was wounded in that action.

¹ I am of the opinion that this man is probably Benjamin Starritt

She states that he served a tour against the Cherokee Indians, but she cannot now remember any of the officers commanding on that expedition – its duration she always understood from her husband was five months, her understanding was that this service was before the battle of Guilford and also before the defeat of General Gates – though her mind cannot fix the date –

She does not know that she has heard her husband say whether he served as a volunteer or as a drafted militia man but heard general impression is that his services were rendered in character of volunteer. And that those services altogether would cover a period of something like three years during the war of the revolution.

And for more particular proof of her deceased husband's service she refers to the proof transmitted to the Pension Officer – one of the witnesses whose deposition was transmitted is that officer having as she understands since died namely Mr. John Gwin.

She further declares that she was married to the said James Hamilton on the 7th of February in the year A.D. 1782. And that her husband the aforesaid James Hamilton died at the time therein before specified being the 29th of April 1831.

That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated, though her husband went on some scouts after the marriage in pursuit of the Tories – But such trips were irregular & in frequent and formed no part of the general service directed by the country. And she hereby releases all claim & pretension of claim to a pension or part of a pension for services or supposed services performed after said marriage.

She further states that there is not now and that there has not been in her possession for years nor does she remember that there ever was any record evidence of the marriage in her possession.

She further states that the said James Hamilton was the father by her of 10 children – Ann, Jane, Elizabeth, Thomas, Polly, James, Robert S, Alexander, John, Sally of whom all are living except Elizabeth, Alexander and John. That there is no family record of the ages of said children which has been kept in such manner as to make it capable of proof – they were born however as follows Ann 1st March 1783, Jane 1st of October 1784, Elizabeth 27th of December 1786, Thomas 10th of April 1789, Polly June 13th 1792, James 22nd of November 1794, Robert S. 5th June 1796, Alexander 20th October 1798, John 1st March 1803, Sally 22nd of February 1806 – and that from the death of her said husband James Hamilton she has remained up to this time & now is a widow single and unmarried.

S/ Jane Hamilton, X her mark

[fn p. 41]

The Deposition of John Gwin² a Citizen of Dyer County and State of Tennessee being now near seventy-six years of age and of strong and sound mind that he the said John Gwin was a soldier in the Army of the revolution and served in the North Carolina Militia and for his service he was entered on the United States pension list of West Tennessee that he was well acquainted with James Hamilton while in active service in the Army of the Revolution

Question 1st What way he did James Hamilton served in the revolution and how long did he serve

² [John Gwin S3393](#)

Answer – he served as a volunteer sometimes on foot and sometimes on horseback we served together from Gates defeat until the Surrender of Cornwallis I do not recollect the length of time.

Question Second. State the Regiment and the names of your officers.

Colonel Moore of Caswell County North Carolina was our Colonel, David Grisham was our Captain, Ferguson was Lieutenant R. Lesly was our Ensign I have forgotten the No. of our Regiment but I think it was the second.

State the part of Country through which you marched

We marched from Orange County to Pedee River then to Lynches Creek then to Rugeley's mill where we parted.

State what Battles he was in

Gates defeat was the first,³ Whitsells Mill⁴ the next, Lindley's Mill⁵ the next and the next day at Colonel Piles defeat⁶ We were together the whole time we were in the Battle of Guilford we were in several Skirmishes with the Tories.

State whether or not he was wounded.

He was wounded through the calf of his leg and in the hand at the same battle all done at Lynches Creek at the same time and in the same battle I received a wound in my shoulder the physician who attended us was from Wilmington I have forgotten his name though he was a Frenchman.

How many towers [tours] did you served with him

We were out all the time from the first time we volunteered until the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis. Colonel William O'Neal had the command of us for some time General Butler had the Command of us all the time we were under My brother Edward Gwin who was our Captain for some time.

State what part of the Country he lived in when he went into service.

He lived in Guilford County North Carolina. I lived in Orange though we lived close together.

State the time and place of the marriage of James and Jane Hamilton

Sometime in February 1782 in Guilford County North Carolina I [word obliterated and illegible] see them married and they were legally married and that I was well acquainted with James Hamilton from the time of his marriage until his death which happened on or near the 27th day of April 1831 and that Jane Hamilton was a widow on the 4th day of July 1836 and still remains a widow.

S/ John Gwin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Gwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

³ August 15-16, 1780 <http://battleofcamden.org/index.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

⁴ Weitzell's Mill March 6, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/weitzell.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html

⁵ September 13, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/lindleysmill.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html

⁶ Pyle's Defeat February 25, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/pyles.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_haw_river.html

[fn p. 43: Benjamin Starritt gave testimony dated May 19th, 1847 substantially identical to that given in his original deposition set forth above except that he states he and James Hamilton entered service initially in 1778, not 1779 as set forth in his first deposition. The grammar and spelling in this version of his deposition is considerably more consistent with modern usage than is set forth in the above version of his deposition.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband's service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]