

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Hope W1612

Elizabeth Hope

f84VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/21/14

[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 16]

State of North Carolina County of Granville: Sc.

On this 11th day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, now sitting Benjamin Hope a resident of the County aforesaid, aged Seventy Six years 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 7, 1832.

That he was born in the year 1755 on the 10th day of September in the County of Gloucester State of Virginia – that he was living in Williamsburg at the commencement of the revolution & lived in Gloucester after Peace was made until about twenty-five years since, when he moved into this County – That whilst he was residing in Williamsburg in 1775 or 1776 he was called out in a company of militia under Captain Benjamin Waller to defend the shores of the Chesapeake from the incursions of the British who at that time were almost constantly in the Chesapeake & frequently marching into the County for the purposes of plunder. The manner of which he was called into service was this – It being necessary that guard should be constantly kept up, the forces of the County by companies were called out on tours of three months at a time, if the situation of the County demanded it. In this way, this affiant performed active duty between nine & twelve months principally under Captain Waller – Colonel Burwell commanded the Regiment to which this affiant belonged – one Captain Hackary [?] commanded a company – Colonel David Mason commanded the 15th Virginia Regiment stationed at Williamsburg – William Finney was quarter master & William Elliott was commissary – After this period this affiant a large portion of his time was engaged in carrying expresses to various parts of the United States, on which service he went as far north as Philadelphia, and South as far as Charleston.

When Virginia was indicated by General Arnold [Benedict Arnold], this affiant was living in Gloucester. His Company under Captain [first name written over and illegible] Hall was ordered out in January 1781. He joined the Regiment at a place called Woods Tavern in Gloucester under Colonel John Page – & Captain William Hall having been transferred he was placed under the Lieutenant William Pollard – Arnold being at this time at Richmond, the Regiment was marched in that direction to New Kent Court House where Major Batetip [? Perhaps James Baytop, Lieutenant Colonel of the Gloucester militia and formally a member of the Continental Army] who had been in the regular Army & Major Burwell took command – they continued to march to Holt's forge where they were placed under the command of General

Thomas Nelson – the only officer besides these already named that he recollects was Colonel William Nelson. After joining General Nelson they were marched to a place called Baton's Ordinary, after remaining at that station some time, the British forces having taken to their shipping at a place called Westover & sell down the James River, the American forces were marched back through Williamsburg to Little York. At this place he was taken sick, & was allowed to return home & before his recovery his company was discharged. In the service just detailed this affiant was engaged as nearly as he can recollect between two & three months. When Cornwallis came into Virginia in July as this affiant thinks, his company under the same Captain & Lieutenant was again called out & placed under Colonel John Page & served in Gloucester on the North side of York River until Cornwallis capitulated [October 19, 1781]. During this time & period of four or five months, he was engaged principally under one Matthew Anderson a Quarter Master in supplying the Army with provisions. The whole term of this affiant service he was actively engaged [indecipherable word]¹ about Fifteen months – & he thinks more – The only person now alive who knows anything of his services is John Smith whose deposition is hereto appended. There is but one clergyman residing in his neighborhood & he has not long resided there and is altogether unknown to this affiant.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Benjamin Hope



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State of North Carolina County of Granville: Sc.

On this 1st Monday of August A.D. 1832, personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Order Sessions for the court aforesaid, John Smith of said County who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth & saith that he is well acquainted with Benjamin Hope who makes the forgoing declaration; that he knew him from his boyhood, that he believes he is upwards of seventy-two years of age; that he knows that said Hope served in the Revolutionary war several tours as a soldier in the Militia, the number of tours, or the duration of his service he does not precisely recollect but he thinks he served at least two years, that at the time said Hope entered the service he & this deponent were both citizens of Gloucester County in the State of Virginia – that said Hope & this deponent were in different companies, but in the same Regiment during a part of their term of service in the Eastern part of Virginia – This deponent further saith that said Hope has always borne a fair character & that any declaration made by him is entitled to credit.

S/ John Smith²



[Spencer O'Brien gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

¹

² [John Smith S3937](#)

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State of North Carolina Granville County

On this 15th day of December A.D. 1832 personally appeared before me William M Sneed a Justice of the Peace in & for the County and State aforesaid Benjamin Hope, a citizen of the same who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following affidavit & declaration in addition to that heretofore made and forwarded to the War Department, for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. –

He was born as he has before stated in the County of Gloucester on the 10th September 1755 – that the public register kept by the Minister of the Parish in which he lived and which fell into his hands was brought by him into the County where he now lives upon his removal from Virginia about twenty-five years ago & has been destroyed: and there never was any other register of it that he knows of – That since making & subscribing his declaration aforesaid in August last, the several tours of duty in which he was engaged has been over & often revolved in his mind and he has been enabled to call to mind many facts, that escaped his memory and which have not been stated. In consequence he proceeds to the following recapitulation & statement.

In 1775 Governor Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last Royal Governor of Virginia] having taken the Public powder stored in the magazine at Williamsburg and placed it on board the British man of war "The Foy" then anchored at Burwell's ferry on James River, and having also called the Marines attached to that ship into that city to act as a guard to himself & family, had produced a lively and indignant sensation in the Community about that city and throughout the State generally. – The commissioners of the City were called upon to take measures to guard it, the Public Treasury and records then kept there as the Seat of Government of the State of Virginia. – In compliance with this demand the Militia of the town and immediate vicinity were forthwith called into service Captain Benjamin Waller who commanded the City Militia instantly had his men on duty and myself being one of his company among them. Our duty was to guard the Capital, the Treasury and the Magazine – our duty was strictly performed but my memory does not serve me to state the full time we were on duty here. The force in command was soon increased by arrival of troops from the Country. Governor Dunmore & his myrmidons from the British vessels stationed in the Chesapeake and the River that empties into it made frequent incursions into the country for the purpose of Plundering the Inhabitants of provisions. They however extended their object to more offensive & destructive operations and among other outrages the town of Norfolk was burnt by them – During the whole of these operations in 1775 and 1776 I was on duty, and after serving some considerable time in Williamsburg our company with many other troops were marched to Gwinns Island [Gwinn Island, July 8-10, 1776] at which place and the country around about we were kept on duty I think about perhaps three months or may be a little less – Upon the British ships leaving the Chesapeake our company was marched back to Williamsburg. Here we were stationed at the Guard House and a part by turns performed regular duty both night & day – those not on guard were permitted many privileges, but all were to assemble at the appointed signal – How long we continued on duty here I am unable to specify. It will be readily perceived that as some as the British shipping were almost always in the Chesapeake or York or James River, and never [the image of this page cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point but there is clearly some text that has been dropped]

[next page]

were of a diversified character. While on duty with my company, by order of my Captain I was dispatched as an Express to Philadelphia with a letter to General Nelson [Thomas Nelson] then a

member of Congress from Virginia. I was a light active man, well acquainted with the roads and routes, and had obtained a good opinion of my officers and these I suppose were the reasons why I was selected for this service and much of a like kind. In the same manner I was sent an express through New Bern & Wilmington in North Carolina to Charleston in South Carolina on business connected with the Army – In this long & tedious Journey I had much fatigue and not a little peril to encounter, the latter arising from the disaffection of a considerable portion of the Inhabitants residing in the South Eastern part of North Carolina and the adjoining parts of South Carolina. I was on one occasion sent by Governor Patrick Henry with dispatches to New Castle in Hanover County Virginia. I was at another time sent express to Amherst in Albemarle County on business connected with the Army – I was dispatched to Governor Caswell [Richard Caswell] of North Carolina and among other information I remember that the result of the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] was communicated to him. I was sent by General Scott [Charles Scott] on a perilous expedition to Hampton and had to perform the service in the night as the Enemy was stationed very near that town. I was several times sent with dispatches to Colonel Long of Halifax North Carolina and more frequently to Richmond & Petersburg. For all this Service I received no private compensation. I was furnished with a Horse and money to bear my expenses. On my return I rendered an account of my actions & do wings and returned to the body of my Company. During the whole period of this service I was under the command of Captain Waller and Colonel Burwell commanded the Regiment to which we were attached usually. As I have said in my declaration, I repeat that I am unable to state the length of time I was actually on duty during the period from 1775 to December 1779 as before stated, there was some intermissions of duty but none of long duration, for in the camp or guard House or on the route as express, I was almost constantly on duty, and I declare on my obligation that in the different portions of time I was actually in service, that I served as much as three full years and I think more –

In the latter part of the summer, or early in the fall of 1780 upon the appearance in the Chesapeake of a considerable force of British vessels, the whole country was called upon – I had now removed into the County of James City but was still within three miles of Williamsburg – I volunteered in a Company of Infantry to serve without any limitation. This company was commanded by Captain Hockaday – I was a private – we were forth with marched to Newport News at the mouth of James River where the enemy had often committed depredations – When arrived here our company was placed under the command of our old Commander Colonel Burwell. Our duty here was to guard the Shores up and down James River from the Enemy then at anchor opposite to us, to the number of seventeen or eighteen vessels of war. I cannot remember how long we were kept on duty here, but I think somewhere about two months from the time we marched from home until we were sent back and discharged, which did not take place until the enemy hoisted the Black flag and departed. –

In the month of December 1780 I left James City County and removed to Gloucester the County of my nativity. In the month of January 1781, I think it was, I was called upon and performed a Tour of near or quite three months duty under Captain William Hall in a company of Infantry as stated in my declaration heretofore sent to the War Department.

In the month of July 1781 hearing of the approach of Cornwallis, the Militia of all Eastern Virginia was called into service I volunteered again as a private in a Company of Infantry commanded by the same officers that commanded me in the tour in the latter part of the winter & Spring of the same year as just referred to. – We were stationed on the North side of York River in the County of Gloucester – Our duty was first up the River and we were stationed

at Hubbard's old field about 25 miles above Gloucester Town; – but as our force increased and we became strong enough to contend with our enemy, we advanced upon him, first to Ware Church, then to John Dickson's and thence to Sowell's old field which was within about two miles of Gloucester town which was then in the possession of the enemy under Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] & Simcoe [John Graves Simcoe] – This position we continued to retain & occupy until cessation of Hostilities subsequent upon the capture and surrender of Cornwallis on the 19th of October 1781 – How long the troops from Mathews, King & Queen and Gloucester Counties were kept on duty after the period I am unable to recollect, that the public stores – the sick & wounded of our own Army – as well as those of the enemy required attention and they were kept on duty so long as this service required. I think about 2 or 3 weeks after the militia from the interior and the Western part of the state had been discharged & sent home. From the time I entered the service in this tour, to the time of my Discharge I think I served fully 3 months & inclined to the opinion it was more than that. –

I am entirely ignorant of the persons who may be living in and about Williamsburg who may be able to prove my services in the Revolutionary War and if I did know I am unable on account of my decrepitude & extreme poverty to go in search of their testimony. The little exertion I am able to make a call for every moment of my time to provide a bare subsistence for an old & infirm wife and three maiden daughters, by whose united Exertion we do barely make out to live.

If I ever received a discharge for any part of this Service I do not recollect it, and they are lost or mislaid –

I must not my claim to the benevolence of my country upon the affidavit of my brother soldiers John Smith who fortunately for me is living and not more than 25 miles from my own residence – His affidavit is appended to my declaration. In addition to this I must rely upon the Certificate of my respectable acquaintance to give me a character for honesty & truth. I feel it due to myself to account for the real or apparent discrepancies between this affidavit & my original declaration.

My memory was very frail, and events of such ancient date scarcely ever being thought of by me, I had forgotten many important particulars and some few have been noted down erroneously – This was caused in part by my own ignorance & want of memory, but mainly by the precipitation of the young gentleman who drew it for me. He is a practicing attorney inconsiderable business – The court was then in Session and he was surrounded by persons wanting declarations for Pensions drawn each basking him to do his business for him and last, not least, he was in the full career of an Election Canvas, then waxing war in by the presence and great exertion of two rival Candidates.

I proceed to correct the Errors in my declaration – It is stated in my declaration that I performed active duty between 9 & 12 months under Captain Waller. I have herein stated that I served as much as 3 full years in that tour. From the time of the outrages of Governor Dunmore in 1775 I was the greater part of the time on duty, and when not in actual service I held myself ready at a moment's warning until the fall of the year 1779. And when it is recollected that I lived in one of the most exposed and accessible places on the Continent for the incursions of the enemy, it must be expected that as much Service was required of the Inhabitants of that part of the country as they could perform. – The Department will judge of my claim for services in riding express from the Statement I have made.

I have also stated that "during the time aforesaid of 4 or 5 months, I was engaged principally under one Matthew Anderson the Quarter Master in supplying the Army with

provisions" In explanation of this service I will state that while on regular duty with my company I was sent into the adjoining Country to receive from the Stores where provisions had been collected such as were necessary and to conduct the wagons to the camp some times when there was danger I had a detachment to ensure Safety –

In the Response to the 14th Question put to the Clerk he says that the Credibility of the witnesses are not certified by the Court. An inspection will show the mistake.

Sworn to and subscribed this 15th December 1832

S/ Benjn Hope

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State of North Carolina Granville County

Personally appeared before me William M Sneed a Justice of the Peace for said County & State, Benjamin Hope a citizen of the same age Seventy-Seven years in September last, who being duly qualified according to law deposes, testifies and declares as follows viz. That on the 11th of August last he made subscribed and swore to his Original Declaration for a pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832 –

That on the 15th day of December last he amended his said Original declaration & forwarded both to the War Department –

The Papers have been returned with the following remarks –

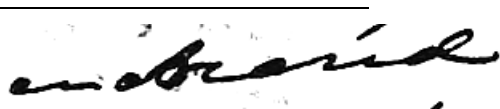
"The additional declaration of Benjamin Hope leaves it uncertain whether his services come within the Act of 7th of June or not. Only services performed in an embodied Corps, called into the field, camp, or Garrison are within its provisions. The general expressions in the Declaration afford no ground for supposing that Mr. Hope performed other than occasional duty in the Militia. The time actually spent in the service at that period should be distinctly set forth."

This Declarant is poor indeed but is not willing to stretch his conscience by making any statement that is not strictly warranted by the facts of the case as far as his recollection enables him to make it, even although his pension should thereby be [indecipherable word or words]³ ten fold to the limit of the Act of Congress. He is, however, willing to make such an estimate, for precision he cannot arrive at, of his services as he thinks correct and to remit much of the term of service that he actually performed.

This Declarant then reiterates the statement in the original & amended declaration –

That from 1775 to 1779 as stated in his amended Declaration he thinks he served for three years but he is willing to remit it to half that Term. He has stated & repeats that he was called upon in a regular manner, was duly mustered, organized and embodied & placed under the Company and field officers as he has before stated, – That while thus on regular duty, he was selected, and dispatched as an express to various parts of the country as he has stated – That he was assured by his officers and so understood, that the duty he thus performed as "Express" was to be considered and taken in the stead & lieu of the ordinary duty required of the other members of the company to which he belonged. That in truth, his situation in camp or Garrison or as Express was more safe than in the Country, exposed to the incursions of the enemy at almost all times from their ships and the shores of York & James Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay was seldom without some one or more in them.

His Services in Williamsburg after his return from Gwinns Island as before stated was in

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the manner & in every respect as required of ordinary militia on duty except one – He was regularly mustered, night & morning & performed all the usual exercises required – a regular Sentry was kept up night and day and those not on Sentry or other duty were permitted to go into town, but held bound at all times to be at the Barracks upon the Sound of the Drum – the Barracks were in the town – At night we were required to be at the Barracks & there remained all night –

In the first tour at Williamsburg and at Gwinns Island I think I served three full months from the time I was called into Service until I was marched back to Williamsburg after my return to Williamsburg I was repeatedly called upon but the length of Service I cannot State with precision – I was forty-two days on duty as express to Charleston South Carolina. I cannot remember the length of time I was on duty in the numerous expresses I was dispatched upon as I have stated them –

I served two months in the latter part of the summer or early in the fall of 1780 when I was marched to Newport News –

The next tour commencing in January 1781 I performed very nearly a full three months service – but let it be stated at two & a half months or let it be even reduced to two months.

The last tour commencing in July 1781 I think I was on duty more than three months but let it be stated at three months. But I feel a confidence that I was not discharged until the month of November of that year & my tour commenced as I have stated in July when it was ascertained that Cornwallis was making his way to Virginia –

If this estimate is not satisfactory I am content that the time shall be fixed in the Department even at a loss to me, as I presume from my inability to State with precision the length of service, it must be.

Subscribed & sworn this first day of April 1833

S/ BenJa Hope

[Willis Harris, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 81]

State of North Carolina Granville County

Personally appeared before me William M Sneed a Justice of the Peace for said County and State, Benjamin Hope a citizen of the same who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he was born in the County of Gloucester and State of Virginia on the 10th September 1755 and will now, according to the requisition of the Commissioner of Pensions, endeavor to state more distinctly and clearly the duration of each term of actual service in the order in which and the officers under whom, it was performed.

He must premise that he considers his lot a hard one, that he was regularly taken and mustered into service of his Country and after performing various service in field, & Garrison or Barracks, he was selected from the Ranks on account of his activity and acquaintance with the Country, and sent to carry expresses from one part of the country to another and as soon as this additional duty was performed he returned to his post, and he again ordered into the ranks again to shoulder his musket – and thus from time to time to perform various & perilous duty in like manner, & of a like character and then again to return to his post in the ranks of his Captain. He cannot but consider his case a hard one, that for all this service faithfully rendered & from which great advantage resulted to his Country's cause, that he should be deprived the bounty of his country; and particularly as his officers gave him every appearance at the time that his service as Express should be considered as duty in the Ranks. He cannot but believed that if a discharge

had been given to him it would have specified the full tour of duty for which he entered into service – Why then is he denied the Justice to which favor of a loan would have ensured him an undoubted claim. He must be permitted also to say, that his neighbor Colonel William recently deceased has been allowed a pension for performing similar service as he has been informed. He was sent as an express to the seacoast of North Carolina and perhaps to General Gates or Green [Nathanael Greene] in the State of South Carolina and his name has been inscribed on the list of Pensioners, when that of this declarant is refused. –

But enough of this – if penury and want must be his portion, he has endured it a long time & will endure it the small (the very small as he is assured) remnant of his days.

This declarant states on his oath that he served under Captain Waller as he has stated in his declaration amended of date the 15th of December 1832 that he served as much as 3 years but is willing it may be reduced one half (but it was not to that Extent) for his services as express, for which service, it seems he is to have no allowance.

While commanded by Captain Hockaday he stated, I think I served as much as to full months, but I am willing to state it at one month and a half –

Under Captain Hall in 1781 I performed a tour of almost if not quite 3 months but it be stated at 2 months and a half or even 2 months –

In the summer of 1781 under the same officers I perform a tour of about 4 months but I am willing to reduce the term to 3 months.

Recapitulation

Tours under Captain Waller say	2 1 years 6 months
1 Do under Hockaday say	1 ½ months
1 Do under [indecipherable] in 1781 Hall do	2 ½ months
Do summer of 1781 Do Do	3

This deponent repeats that he is term of service is correctly set forth & submits case to the adjudication of the proper office.

Subscribed & sworn to this 25th day of July A.D. 1833.

S/ BenJa Hope

[p 8: On January 31, 1844 in gravel County North Carolina, Elizabeth Hope, 79, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Hope, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Gloucester County Virginia September 10th [could be 11th] 1781; that they were married by the Reverend Thomas Hughes; that her husband died January 7, 1834 and that she remains his widow.



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[p 35: In an affidavit dated July 12, 1845 given in gravel County North Carolina, the widow states that her name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth New.]

[p 36: On July 12, 1845 in gravel County North Carolina, Maria B Hope, 42, gave testimony that she believes she is the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Hope; that in a book entitled "The Whole Duty of Man" printed in London in 1755, her father Benjamin Hope A record of the marriages, births and deaths in his family which book was kept among the family records.

Marion D Hope

[Note: pp 68-72 contains what appears to be yet another summary given by the veteran of his service, but this document bears no date and is not signed or attested. I elected not to transcribe it as a quick glance at it appears to indicate that it adds no significant details regarding the veteran's claimed services as set forth exhaustively in his attested applications and amendments thereto.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]