

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hansbrough ¹W3808

Sarah Hansbrough f95VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/11/14

[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.]

State of Virginia County of Culpeper: SS

On this 18th day of September in the year of Christ 1845 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of Culpeper a court of record now in session, Mrs. Sarah Hansbrough a resident of Stevensburg in the County of Culpeper aged Seventy-Seven years 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 7th of July 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows," That she is the widow of William Hansbrough of Culpeper County in the State of Virginia who was a private soldier in the regular service in the war of the Revolution in the second Regiment of the state of Virginia as she verily believes & in Captain Fontaine's [William Fontaine's]² Company the same Captain Fontaine, who was afterwards Colonel William Fontaine of the said 2nd Regiment, that the said Hansbrough enlisted & served two years in the first & second regiments of the state of Virginia – that his said enlistment was in the year 1775 and among the very first that did enlist for that service under the first ordinance of convention or other acts of the legislative power then in being, for raising & enlisting troops. That she has often heard her husband speak of that enlistment, of his father's hesitation in giving him leave to enlist, of the perilous service & many hardships he endured of his being engaged in the battle with the British on the great bridge [December 9, 1775], where Fordyce [Charles Fordyce] was killed in December 1775, of his ill health, of his service a while in Green's Company in his discharge after serving out his time according to enlistment & of his written discharge by the said Colonel William Fontaine of the second Regiment, which discharge he kept carefully to his death, often showed it to his friends & which she frequently saw – and saw him show others. The same discharge was put into the hands of her late husband's Executor, Peter Hansbrough Esquire of Cole's Hill, Culpeper County, after her husband's death in January 1816 – which discharge the said P. Hansbrough said was of no value or account at that time – And what has gone with it, she cannot now tell, having made diligent exertions to obtain it without effect, the said P Hansbrough being some years ago dead & all her efforts to obtain the discharge being unavailing she believes it lost, or destroyed, she well remembers Mr. Peter Hansbrough saying "that it was of no account" when he took it with the other papers. This declarant also believes that her deceased husband served one year in addition to his first two years – in the irregular & occasional service otherwise as a militia soldier. And she has proof of the said service and of the two years regular service taken in the depositions of

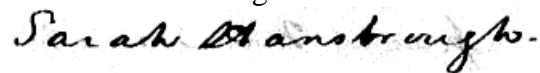
¹ BLWt28518-160-55

² [William Fontaine W7319](#)

John Hansbrough, his brother, of Thomas & Peter Vaughan,³ of Almond Vaughan,⁴ who were with him in the service, or new to their knowledge of his service with the regular & militia in the war of the revolution, that in the year 1835 or 36, she sent those papers to Mr. John S Barbour who she has known from his infancy & requested him to let her know if she could get a pension as the widow of the said W. Hansbrough & he replied that she could not get a pension, but could get land for his three years service proved by that evidence. And now Mr. Barbour informs her that he has mislaid or lost the evidence. She further declares that she was married to the said William Hansbrough the five day of November in the year 1786, that her husband the aforesaid William Hansbrough died on the __ day of January 1816, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1784, viz. at the time above stated (November 5, 1786).

Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year above written in open court, before the Justices of the County Court of Culpeper now in session.

S/ Sarah Hansbrough



[p 11: Mrs. Patsey Wale, "a daughter of the said Hansbrough" gave testimony that she is now 57 years old; that she distinctly recollects her father often spoke with his friends and others about his services and suffering in the revolution; that he showed her his discharge by Colonel Fontaine.]

[p 16: On may 16, 1855 in Culpeper County Virginia, Sarah Hansbrough, 86, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Hansbrough; that she was married to him in November 1786 by John Woodville, a Protestant minister; that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Vaughan; that her husband died in Stevensburg, Culpeper County in October 1815 she signed this document with her mark.]

[p 18]

State of Virginia in Nelson County

This day Samuel Hansbrough, an aged Citizen of the State and County aforesaid, made oath before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia, that he is now in the seventy sixth year of his age, that he is the Brother of the late William Hansbrough of Culpeper County, who died about thirty years ago, leaving a widow who still lives as he believes (and which widow before marriage was Sarah Vaughan, and now Sarah Hansbrough) that he was too young himself to be a Soldier in the War of the Revolution, but does verily believe that his said brother William engaged and enlisted early in the War as a Soldier, under Captain (afterwards Colonel) Fountaine and served out the term of his enlistment for two years or more. That the fact of his brother's enlistment and service with Fountaine is as well known to him by tradition and early infantile recollection as any other fact of his family history and as firmly believed by him. And many years ago he obtained for his Sister-in-law the said Mrs. Sarah Hansbrough, the affidavits or sworn certificates of Mr. Bransford West and Mr. George Purvis, two aged and highly respected Citizens of the same County of Nelson, always reputed, esteemed and believed to have been Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, and they both declared on their

³ Possibly the same man as [Thomas Vaughan S6298](#)

⁴ Probably the same man as [Almond Vaughan W6342](#)

oath before a Magistrate who administered the oath, that they served with the said William Hansbrough in the said service under Fountaine. The said Samuel Hansbrough further maketh oath that the affidavits of Messrs. West and Purvis aforesaid were taken before a Justice of the peace in said County (but from the lapse of time, he does not now recollect his name) at this (Affiant's) instance and they were forted (he thinks) to Major Broddus I know Culpeper by mail. He further made oath that from his own knowledge and recollection, by tradition and circumstances deeply in pressing themselves into his firm belief, that he the said William Hansbrough was a Soldier of the Regular State line under Colonel Fountaine, and that he (William Hansbrough) Bransford West and George Purvis are all now dead. Given under my hand and seal in my Official capacity as a Justice of the peace this 17th day of December 1845.

S/ Frederick G Peters

[p. 6: Copy of a marriage bond dated November 2, 1786 issued in Culpeper County Virginia to William Hansbrough and William Vaughan conditioned upon the marriage of William Hansbrough to Sally Vaughan Spinster daughter of William Vaughan of Culpeper County.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836 for her husband service in the revolution; her pension was later increased to \$80 per annum.]