

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of James Houston S1914

f47VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/13/11 rev'd 5/1/14

[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 Tennessee Blount County Second Judicial Circuit

On this 10th day of August 1832 personally appeared in Open Court, being a Circuit Court in and for said County before the Honorable Edward Scott one of the Circuit Judges of the State of Tennessee now presiding in said Court in said County of Blount James Houston a resident of said County of Blount in the State aforesaid aged nearly seventy-five years having been born on the 12th day of November 1757 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 in the spring season as well as recollected in the year 1776 under Captain William Buchanan as a volunteer in a patrolling Company, – that Declarant resided in the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia at the time he entered the service, that he does not recollect the Lieutenant and – Ensign in said company. – Declarant cannot recollect the precise time he served as a volunteer in said Company, but supposes it to be not more than one month, when he was discharged and returned home. Declarant has certificate of discharge, – Said Company during said time patrolled in the County of Augusta as a company of discovery to protect the frontiers and guard against the incursions of the hostile Indians. Declarant removed from Augusta County where he was born & had before always resided to Washington County in Western Virginia in the month of September 1777 [?], and in the month of February 1778 again entered the Service in said County of Washington, Virginia as a volunteer in a volunteer Company commanded by Captain Aaron Lewis whose subaltern officers in said Company were Lieutenant Robert Edmonson¹ [sic, Robert Edmondson] and Ensign not recollected. Said Company belonged to a Regiment of Infantry who embodied at Long Island on Holston River commanded by Colonel Evan Shelby – from Long Island on Holston the Army proceeded in canoes down Holston River to its junction with the Tennessee, then down the Tennessee River to the Mouth of Chickamauga Creek, where we proceeded to destroy the encampments and provisions of a party of the Cherokee Indians, called Chickamaugas, but had no encounter with the Indians – The Infantry then separated from a Company or Regiment of Regulars by whom they had been accompanied under the command of Colonel Montgomery destined for the Illinois Country, and returned home. Declarant was discharged in the month of May of the said year of 1778, but obtained no certificate of discharge. Declarant about the first day of October 1778 again entered the service as a volunteer in the Company commanded by Captain Nathaniel Williams being a Company of Guards to reconnoiter the frontiers, and marched to Powels Valley [Powell's Valley] in Kentucky and continued in service on the frontiers of Kentucky protecting the interior from the incursions of the hostile Indians until the month of January 1779 when the Company returned home to Washington County Virginia and in the latter part of said months, having been discharged as Declarant believes in Powell's Valley –

¹ This name is spelled in several variations including: Edminston, Edmundson, Edmondson. I have adopted the spelling "Edmondson" since that appears to be the most commonly used variant of the name.

Declarant again about the first of April 1779 entered the service in Washington County Virginia as an Ensign in the Volunteer Company commanded by Captain William Edmondson, Robert Edmondson was Lieutenant and Declarant Ensign now the subaltern officers of said company who held themselves ready & equipped as mounted Riflemen and volunteers to march at a minute's warning wherever their services might be required, that from the time Declarant entered the service as aforesaid in the month of April 1779 until the month of October of the same year, said company reconnoitered as a company of discovery and guards on the frontiers of Washington, Virginia and on the head of New River, for the purpose of suppressing the disaffected and Tories.

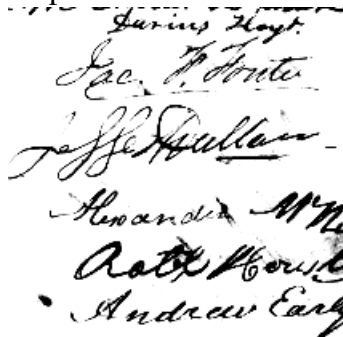
In the month of October 1779 [sic, 1780],² said Company joined the Regiment of volunteers commanded by Colonel William Campbell at Watauga River in what is now Carter or Sullivan County in the State of Tennessee – then North Carolina – from thence the Army were marched under the command of Colonel Campbell into the State of South Carolina. That Declarant commanded as an Ensign of Captain Edmondson's company at the defeat of the British and Tories at King's Mountain under the command of Colonel Furgason [sic, Patrick Ferguson]. In the Battle Captain Edmondson & Lieutenant Edmondson were both killed, when the command of the Company devolved on the 2nd Lieutenant Patrick Campbell – from King's Mountain said Regiment returned home to Washington County and were discharged about the first of December 1779 [sic, 1780], having been in service from the month of April preceding as aforesaid. Declarant states that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service – declarant removed from the County of Washington, Virginia in the year 1782, to Green County, then North Carolina now Tennessee, where he resided three or four years when he removed to what is now Blount County in the State of Tennessee where he at present resides and was a member of the Convention from the County of Blount in 1796 which formed the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, and was also a member of the first General Assembly of the State of Tennessee.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Houston



We, Davis Hart a Clergyman residing in Maryville and the County of month in the State of Tennessee, and Jacob F. Forte, Jesse Wallace, Alexander McNutt, Robert Houston, Andrew Early residing in the County and State aforesaid hereby certify that we are well acquainted with James Houston who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration, that we believe him to be seventy-five years of age, that he is reputed and believed to have been a soldier and officer of the Revolution in the neighborhood in which he resides and that we concur in that opinion.



² Sic, declarant is clearly referring here to events that occurred in 1780, not 1779.

State of Tennessee Blount County: SS: Amended Declaration

On this 25th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court being the County Court about County aforesaid, and being a Court of record, before the justices thereof presiding in said Court, James Houston a resident of said County of Blount in the State of Tennessee aforesaid aged seventy-five years on the 12th day of November last past having been born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia on the 12th day of November 1757, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832, – That he entered the service in the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia as a volunteer Soldier under Captain William Buchanan in a patrolling company of volunteers in the spring of the year 1776 (but being aged, from defect of memory cannot be more precise as to the time) – Declarant cannot recollect the names of the subaltern Officers of said Company nor the precise time he served in said company, but believes it was not less than 25 days, when he was discharged in said County of Augusta, and returned home. – Declarant received no certificate of discharge, – Said Company during said time patrolled in said County of Augusta, as a company of discovery to protect the frontiers, and guard against the incursion of the hostile Indians. Declarant removed from Augusta County Virginia where he was born, and had always before resided to Washington County in Western Virginia in the month of September 1778 and in the month of February, as near declarant can recollect on the 15th day of the month 1778 he again entered the service in the County of Washington Virginia as a volunteer soldier in a volunteer Company commanded by Captain Aaron Lewis, Robert Edmondson Lieutenant, the name of the other subaltern officers not recollected. Said Company belonged to a Regiment of Infantry commanded by Colonel Evan Shelby, which embodied at Long Island on Holston River. From Long Island on Holston River, the Army proceeded in canoes down the River to its junction with the Tennessee, then down the Tennessee River to the mouth of Chickamauga Creek, and then proceeded to destroy the encampments and provisions of a hospital party of the Cherokee Indians, called Chickamaugas, but had no rencounter with the Indians, – The Infantry then separated from a company or Regiment of Regulars by whom they had been accompanied, under the command of Colonel Montgomery, and destined for the Illinois country, and returned home. Declarant was discharged as near as declarant can recollect on the 14th or 15th of May 1779 having been 3 months in service. Declarant received no certificate of discharge. On the first day of October 1779 as near as recollected declarant again entered the service in Washington County Virginia as a volunteer in the company commanded by Captain Nathaniel Henderson (instead of Williams as stated by mistake in the original declaration) – the names of the subaltern officers in said company not recollected being a Company of guards to reconnoiter on the frontiers, and marched to Powells Valley in Kentucky, and continued on the frontiers of Kentucky protecting the frontiers from the incursion of the hostile Indians until the first of January 1780 as well as declarant can recollect, when declarant was discharged, as he believes in Powells Valley, and returned home having been 3 months at least in service. Declarant received no certificate of discharge. Declarant again as near as he can recollect on the first of April 1780 entered the service in Washington County Virginia as an Ensign in a volunteer Company commanded by Captain William Edmondson, Robert Edmondson Lieutenant, with declarant Ensign were subaltern officers of said Company, who held themselves ready and equipped as mounted volunteer rifleman to march at a minute's warning wheresoever their services might be required – that from the said declarant entering the service as an Ensign as aforesaid on the first of April 1780 until the month of October in the same year, said Company reconnoitered as a company of discovery and guards on the frontiers of Washington County Virginia and on the head of the New River for the purpose of suppressing the disaffected and Tories. In the month of October (declarant cannot recollect the day of the month) 1780 said company joined a volunteer Regiment commanded by Colonel William Campbell at Watauga River in what is now Carter or Sullivan County in the State of Tennessee – then North Carolina. From thence the Army was marched under the command of Colonel Campbell into the State of South Carolina. That declarant commanded as an Ensign in Captain Edmonson's Company, at the

defeat of the British and Tories commanded by Colonel Ferguson at Kings Mountain. In the battle Captain Edmondson and Lieutenant Edmondson were both killed, when the command of the Company devolved on Patrick Campbell the 2nd Lieutenant of said company. From Kings Mountain said Regiment returned home to Washington County Virginia and were discharged, as well as declarant can recollect on the first of December 1780, having been in service as an Ensign as aforesaid 8 months. Declarant received no certificate of discharge. Declarant further states, that he was elected Ensign by the company in which he served, as was then the custom in volunteer Companies, and never was commissioned as an Ensign, but held his appointment, and acted as such under and by virtue of his election by said Company. Declarant has no documentary evidence of his services aforesaid, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service except John Houston, whose affidavit is hereto annexed. The only record evidence declarant has of his age is an entry thereof in an old family Bible now in his possession & reentered in a new Bible. Declarant removed from the County of Washington Virginia in the year 1782 to Green County, then North Carolina now Tennessee where he resided 3 or 4 years, after which time he removed to what is now Blount County in the State of Tennessee, where he at present resides. He was a member of the convention from the County of Blount, which framed the Constitution of the State of Tennessee in 1796, and was also a member of the first General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. Declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any State or Territory. Declarant further states that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned in this his amended declaration being 6 months and 25 days as a private soldier and 8 months as an Ensign, and for such service he claims a pension. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in Open Court.

S/ Jac. F. Foute, Clerk

S/ J. Houston

We, Isaac Anderson a clergyman residing in Maryville in the County of Blount in the State of Tennessee states that I verily believe the facts set forth in the foregoing declaration and we, Jesse Thompson, Andrew Cowan, P. H. Fitzgerald & Samuel Gold residing in the County and State aforesaid hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with James Houston, who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration, that we believe him to be upwards of 74 years of age as he states; that he is reputed and believed to have been a soldier and officer of the revolution in the neighborhood in which he resides and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn to and subscribed the 25th day of December 1832.

S/ Jesse Thompson

S/ And Cowan

S/ Pat. H. Fitzgerald

S/ Samuel Goule [sic]

Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court the 25th December 1832

S/ Jac F Foute [?], Clerk

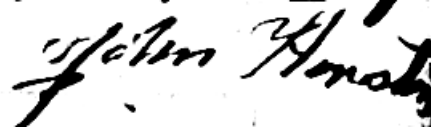
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John Houston³ makes oath that he has been acquainted with the foregoing declarant, James Houston, from his infancy, that he believes the facts set forth in the foregoing declaration of his services during the revolution are true – that affiant knows that said declarant served some time in Augusta County Georgia as a Ranger, but cannot recollect the precise time, but believes it was at the time & during the period stated by declarant. Affiant lived at declarant's fathers (the uncle of affiant) at the time declarant returned home from his expedition down the River against the Chickamauga in the month of May 1779 having as affiant understood and believes been in service three months. Affiant was with declarant &

³ [John Houston S1832](#)

served with him in the campaign to Powell's Valley from the first of October 1779 until the first of January 1780. Affiant was in the neighborhood at the time on or about the first of December 1780 when Declarant returned home from the battle at King's Mountain having been in service as an Ensign in Captain Edmondson's company eight months as affiant believes, it being so understood & believed in the neighborhood at the time and also understood & believed in the neighborhood that Declarant had been in the battle at King's Mountain & served as an Ensign in that engagement. Sworn to & subscribed the 25th day of December 1832.

S/ John Houston

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Houston", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name "S/ John Houston".

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court 25 December 1832
S/Jac F. Forte, clerk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$102.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months and 25 days service as a private & Ensign in the Virginia militia.]