

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Huston (Houston) S8717

f30NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

8/24/10: rev'd 11/5/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 6]

State of North Carolina Rowan County

On this 19th day of November 1832, Personally appeared in open Court before the Magistrates, Judges of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Rowan County the same being a Court of Record, now sitting, James Houston a resident of said County aged Eighty One 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 7th 1832.

That he has a Record of his age in an old family Bible at home which states that he was born in the month of January 1751.

That he entered the service of the United States as a common soldier being drafted at Captain Young's [Joseph Young's] in Rowan County for three months in the company of Captain Young and marched in what was called the Cherokee expedition<sup>1</sup> to the mountains of North Carolina in the Regiment of Colonel, afterwards General, Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], and continued on this tour about four months was again drafted for three months and marched in Captain Huggins [William Huggins'] Company to South Carolina under General Rutherford and was at Gates [Horatio Gates'] defeat<sup>2</sup> near Camden [Battle of Camden].

That he was again drafted for three months and marched in Captain William Bell's company under Colonel Graham [sic, then Major Joseph Graham] & General Rutherford to Wilmington in North Carolina.

That he was one of what was called Minute men which was to go instantly when called upon by any of the officers for any purpose for an uncertain time, that he was out as a soldier in the irregular military excursions several times which being added together he believes would make the time of them to four months.

He refers to James Graham<sup>3</sup> and James Bell<sup>4</sup> his neighbors now living who served with him most of the time and are able to testify to his services and character. He further declares that he never applied for a pension before and that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State within his knowledge.

Subscribed and sworn to in open court the day and year aforesaid.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

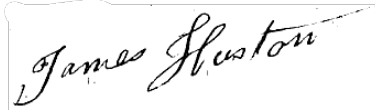
<sup>2</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

<sup>3</sup> [James Graham S8623](#)

<sup>4</sup> [James Bell S2971](#)

S/ Jno. Giles, Clk

S/ James Huston



We James Graham and James Bell residing in her Rowan County do 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 Eighty one years of age, that each of us served with him in the Army at most of the tours and places stated by him, and having full confidence in his integrity and veracity believe that he served as he states.

The Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court

S/ Jno. Giles, Clk

S/ Jas. Graham

S/ James Bell



[p 8; image no. 577 on Ancestry version]

The foregoing declaration and certificates having been returned by the Commissioner of Pensions for the United States with objections; the said James Houston [sic] appeared before Thomas S. Cowan, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for Rowan County N.C. and on oath offers the following amendment and explanation of his declaration. That said first tour of militia service as a private soldier was as he believes for three months in the year 1776 at or near Fayetteville. That his second tour as a private soldier was in the summer of the year 1776 in the Cherokee expedition which he is informed and believes continued the period of four months and he is confident that he was on duty all the time it lasted.

That his third tour of private militia service was in the summer of the year 1780 which continued three months during which time Gate's defeat [sic] took place near Camden S.C. That his fourth tour as private militia service was in the fall of the year 1781 and continued three months and terminated at Wilmington North Carolina in November of that year. That his services as a minute man private soldier was at least three months. That no clergyman acquainted with him lives in a reasonable distance of him or of the Court House and he was advised that the direct testimony of his two neighbors nearly of his own age who served with him part of the time in the war and whose affidavit he procured superseded the necessity of procuring the certificate of a clergyman. That it is impossible for him to prove the duration or length of his service with greater certainty than the affidavit of James Graham and James Bell, aforesaid proves it, That he is now unable to attend Court and does hereby relinquish all and every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present.

Sworn and subscribed before me the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May AD 1833

S/ Thos. L. Cowan, JP

S/ James Huston

[image no. 586 in Ancestry]

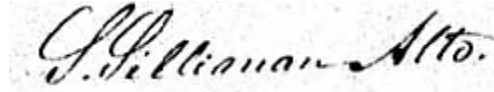
State of North Carolina  
Rowan County}

James Houston [sic] by whom the enclosed certificate belongs respectfully represents to the Commissioner of Pensions of the United States that he believes there was error in apportioning the amount of his pension to the length of his service in the Revolutionary war: his declaration set forth that he served 13 months in regular tours of Militia duty – to wit 1<sup>st</sup> 4 months in the Cherokee expedition under General Rutherford in the summer of the year 1776 and subsequently 3 of the tours of 3 months each; besides 3 months at various times as a Minuteman making in all the time of 16 months and he conceives that his pension should be more than is mentioned in his certificate. Should the commissioners not think proper to make any alteration in the certificate it can be returned, and if he should issue a new one, in either case he is requested to send it to S. Silliaman at Salisbury N. C.

S/ James Huston

Note. James Houston [sic] has not drawn any part of his pension from the Bank September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1833

S/ S. Silliman Alto. [Attorney]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Silliman Alto." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 13 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]