

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Henson W21301¹

Jane Henson f69NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

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[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 8th 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 23]

State of Indiana in Vanderburgh County: SS: To wit

In the Vanderburgh Circuit Court September Term A.D. 1829

On the 9th day of September A.D. 1829 – personally appeared in open Court (said court being a Court of Record in the County of Vanderburgh in the fourth Judicial Circuit for the State of Indiana) John Henson a resident of Vanderburgh County in said State of Indiana and being duly sworn according to law doth upon his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the act of Congress of the 18th day of March 1818 and the first day of May 1820: That he the said John Henson is about the age of 62 years (his exact age unknown) that on or about the first day of May 1781 he enlisted in Captain Mucklehanys [James McElhenny]² company of Dragoons or horse (Christian name not recollected) Nicholas Harvey³ being the Lieutenant of said Company, and who at this time this deponent enlisted commanded and did the business of the said Company – The place where this deponent enlisted was Rutherford County in the State of North Carolina and on or near Broad River. This deponent enlisted in the Continental Service and for the period of 10 months and continued in said service from the time of his enlistment until his discharge being a period of 10 months the term for which he enlisted. This deponent belonged to the Regiment of Colonel Hammond (Christian name not recollected) [Lt. Col. Samuel Hammond]⁴ whose Regiment near Augusta South Carolina [sic, Georgia] less than two months after his enlistment he joined and was attached to the same Regiment until his discharge. This deponent was in no battle nor severe skirmish unless a slight firing across Saluda River from the enemy may be deemed such. This deponent was discharged on Saluda River, but has lost his discharge not far from Augusta and this deponent doth hereby relinquish every claim to a pension except the present. That the reason why he has not applied as he now does, has been his reluctance to apply to his Country for a Support according to the laws of Congress while his age and held permitted him to support himself.

In Presence of C. J. Butttele

¹ BLT34933-160-55

² [James McElhenny SC5449](#)

³ [Nicholas Harvey SC3691](#)

⁴ Lt. Col. [Samuel Hammond S21807](#) was a militia and State Troops officer in South Carolina. He was never an officer in the Continental Army.

S/ John Henson, H [his mark]

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed and that I do further swear that my occupation is that of a farmer. That a considerable part of the year for the last 3 or 4 years in each year I have been unable to work and at no time within said period have I been able to perform a sound healthy man's labor in heavy work. That I have no family except my wife.

S/ John Henson, H [his mark]

The following is a Schedule of my property referred to in my declaration
To wit: 1 horse worth about \$30 – 2 cows & 3 calves & yearling heifer worth in all about \$15 a little stock of hogs worth \$7 – household furniture worth not exceeding \$30 – and a Drawing chain & a pair stretchers worth about \$4 – an axe 2 plows worth about \$6 – in all about \$82 and I rent a piece of ground of about 6 acres – I have no debts due me excepting a few not exceeding \$5 – excepting a contract for rent: 150 bushels – but I owe J. N. Robinson of Vanderburgh County about \$14 – Edward Riggs \$10 or upwards – to John Conner Esquire also about \$4 – to Abraham M Phelps \$1.50 & to widow Sloven \$8.50 and some other few debts not easily collected in all not exceeding \$5.

S/ John Henson, H [his mark]

[p 6]

State of Illinois Wayne County} On this 30th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable William Wilson Judge of the Wayne Circuit Court now sitting John Henson a resident of said Wayne County & State of Illinois aged 67 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 in the month of October as he now thinks 1778 he entered the service of the United States under Captain Evans Shelby as a substitute for ___ to go against the Indians. That he resided on the borders of the Holton [Holston] River in the State of Virginia at the time of entering the service and marched from his place of residence to the Ricove [?] Station on the North fork of the Holton and remained there about two months full that length of time, but cannot say that it was longer when they were discharged and returned home.

That after this discharge as above he removed into North Carolina and there on the first day of May 1781 he enlisted in the Continental service as he now supposes but it might possibly have been the State line in Colonel Hammond's Regiment of Dragoons or Cavalry Captain McIlhaney & Lieutenant Nicholas Harvey. That he resided when he entered the service in Rutherford County North Carolina and marched from thence to the Savannah River at Hammons Store above Augusta and there joined the Regiment and from thence marched to Beach Island from thence to Saluda River passing in the route Bull Swamp and then back to Hammonds old store and soon after the Regiment [marched] to the Eutaw Springs but I was not accompany [sic, in the company] being ordered back to take charge of Pardee [could be Pardu] one of the men

who had been crippled but again joined the Regiment at White hall and there saw some of the men who had been wounded in the battle at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] – that after joined the Regiment he remained with him until they were discharged on Saluda River on the first of March 1782. That he recollects Jesse Johnson, William Johnson & John Sorrels as members of the same company with himself. That most of the time he was out they were in pursuit of a Regiment of Tories said to be under the command of Colonel Cunningham [William “Bloody Bill” Cunningham]. That he received a written discharge when he left the service on this tour signed by Captain McIlhaney as he now thinks, but sold the discharge soon after in North Carolina. That he has no documentary evidence. That Jesse Henson⁵ will testify (whose affidavit is hereto attached) to his service for two months and in part confirm his statement relative to his ten months tour. And John Sorrels⁶ whose deposition is also here unto attached will testify as to his service during his 10 month tour.

That he was born in somewhere either in Virginia or North Carolina but in what part knows not. That he has no record of his age. That when called into service the first time he resided on Holston River in Virginia and the second time he resided in Rutherford County North Carolina. That he cannot recollect any regular officers or Continental regiments. That he received a discharge signed by Captain McIlhaney for his ten months tour & sold it soon after in North Carolina. That he resided in Rutherford County 7 or 8 years after the war. That he then removed to Kentucky resided there 18 years, he removed to Indiana resided there 17 or 18 years, then in this County where he has since resided. That John Berket, Matthew Worrin, & Phil Hinson all persons residing in his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court

Attest: S/ Saml. Leech, Clk

S/ John Henson, X his mark

[Philip Henson & Leonard Mellor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Commonwealth of Kentucky Calloway County: Sct.

Be it known that on this 25th day of March 1833 before William Craddock, William Jones, Samuel Watson Justices of the Callaway County Court, in open Court now sitting personally appeared Jesse Henson Senior who being duly sworn according to law deposeseth as follows to wit

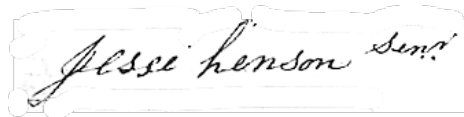
That he the said Jesse Henson is the elder brother of John Henson for whose benefit he now deposeseth That at the commencement of the Revolutionary war they lived with their father in the frontier of Virginia on the waters of Holson [Holston] River – That he and his brother John both entered the United States service together under Captain Evans Shelby as volunteers to go against the Indians who were then troublesome to the frontier of Virginia and North Carolina. This deponent cannot state at what time the said John and himself entered said service he thinks however that it was in the month of October 1778. He states that said John and himself marched under Captain Shelby to what was called the Ricove Station on the North fork of Holston River where they remained no less than 2 months and perhaps some longer when they were permitted

⁵ [Jesse Henson W8921](#)

⁶ [John Sorrels S3953](#)

to return home after which their father moved into North Carolina taking with him the said John Henson while this deponent returned to the service on Holston River. He states that whilst in said service the said John Henson joined a company of Horse for the term of 9 months to go against the British. This however he does not know to be the fact of his own knowledge (although he is conscious of it being the fact as if he did) said deponent not having seen his said brother John when he entered nor until after his return from the said tour of 9 months. One of the tours of this deponent being out he went to see a relation living in the frontier of North Carolina whilst there his said brother John return from the Army having served out said tour of 9 months in a company of Cavalry and hearing of this deponent called to see him and had own his regimentals at the time he states that said John then told him all about his said tour of service and the names of his Officers under whom he served but he cannot now recollect the particulars of said conversation – nor can he now recollect the former history of said tour of service. He seythe [scythe?] of time and the infirmities of age have swept from his memory many of the incidents of that day and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Jesse henson Senr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Henson Senr." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "Jesse" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, while "Henson Senr." is written in a smaller, more compact hand. The signature is enclosed in a simple rectangular border.

[p 37]

The deposition of John Sorrels taken in the town of Hartford in State of Kentucky on the 29th day of May 1833 to be laid before the Commissioner of Pensions in behalf of John Henson in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress of 7th of June 1832. This deponent being first duly sworn deposes as follows

Question how old are you?

Answer I am seventy-six years old passed

Question Did or did you not serve in the Army of the Revolution for ten months as a Dragoon and if so under whom you served.

Answer I did. About the 1st of May 1781 I enlisted for ten months as a Dragoon, in what I believed to be the Continental line but which may have been the State service. I then lived in Rutherford County North Carolina and served under Colonel Hammonds Captain McIlhaney, and Lieutenant Nicholas Harvey the full term of my enlistment and was discharged about the first of March 1782 on the Saluda River.

Question Were or were you not acquainted with John Henson and if so state what you know of his service

Answer. I was. He enlisted in the same Company with me and about the same time and served his full 10 months when he was discharged with me.

Question In of what grade did he serve

Answer as a private

Question are there any particular circumstances which enable you to recollect his services

Answer. Yes. I recollect distinctly of seeing him the day we rendezvoused and was never separated from him during the whole service only a few weeks and messed with him the greater part of the time and recollect distinctly that he received his discharge at the same time I did.

Question by John Henson do you or do you not know that I am the same person of whose services you speak.

Answer yes. I know that you are the same identical John Henson whose services I have mentioned in the foregoing Deposition.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Sorrels



[p 16: On May 18, 1842 in Wayne County Illinois, Jane Henson, 77 and upwards (say 3 months) filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Henson; that she married him in the spring of the year 1787; that her husband died July 25, 1835; that she has no documentary evidence of her marriage or the service of her husband. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 13: On September 1, 1855 in Wayne County Illinois, Jane Henson, 90, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of John Henson; she states that she married him in North Carolina [but does not give a date]; that her name prior to her marriage was Jane Goodbroad; that her husband died about the year 1833 in Wayne County Illinois and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 2 months service in the Infantry and 10 months service in the Cavalry in the Virginia [sic, South Carolina] and North Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁷ relating to John Henson pp32
Audited Account No. 3543A

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

7/7/22

[p 2 : Printed form of Indent No. 57 Book M dated first of October 1784 “delivered to Mr. John Henson late Private in Lieut. Col. Sam. Hammonds [Samuel Hammond’s] Regiment of State Troops this our INDENTED CERTIFICATE for the Sum of Ninety four pounds Sterling being the Ballance of Pay and Bounty due him for Services in that Regiment Together with Interest thereon from the first April 1782 to date hereof Agreeable to Resolution of General Assembly of the Eleventh March last &c.”⁸

[p 3: Reverse of the above Indent]

⁷ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person’s surname first in the “Full name” box followed by a comma and the person’s Christian name. The number behind the ‘pp’ indicates the number of pages in the file and the ‘Audited Account No.’ is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

⁸ Men who enlisted for ten months beginning in April 1781 in the SC 10-month State Troops of Light Dragoons under Hammond were promised a bounty and wages payable in slaves taken from the Tories. Such ‘pay’ was known as “Sumter’s Wages.” When that horrific form of payment could not be made because too few slaves were confiscated from the Tories, by act dated March 21, 1784, the SC Legislature authorized the payment in pounds Sterling deemed to equal the value of the slaves not delivered (to wit, £94 Sterling for one ‘grown Negro’ and £47 Sterling for one ‘small Negro.’) That act also exonerated Sumter and the troops under his command from liability due to plundering of the estates from which the slaves were taken.