

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Hancock (Handcock) W359

Transcribed by Will Graves

Mary B. Hancock f34NC

rev'd 4/23/09 & 12/13/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Anderson County: SS

On the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before me Edward Scott one of the Judges of law and Equity in and for the State of Tennessee and for the second Judicial Circuit in the Circuit Court now sitting in and for said County of Anderson Joseph Hancock a resident of the said County of Anderson and State aforesaid and the said County and State aged 70 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<sup>th</sup>, 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated he lived in Wilks [sic, Wilkes] County North Carolina. In the Spring in March as he thinks in the year Charleston was taken by the British<sup>1</sup> he volunteered for three months under Captain James Henderson. He rendezvoused at a place called Hamblin's Old Store Marched to McCord's ferry crossed the Santee River there we were met by an express informing us of the defeat of Charleston we turned back and crossed the River and marched to Cross Creek [modern-day Fayetteville North Carolina]. Lay there until our time was out, we then marched back into Wilkes County and there was discharged his discharge was signed by Captain James Henderson which discharge is lost he served at this time three months.

Again while living at the same place in said Wilkes County in September as he thinks in the year 1780 he volunteered under Captain William Lenore [sic, William Lenoir]<sup>2</sup> in Col. Benjamin Cleveland's Regiment of infantry Rendezvoused at Wilkes Courthouse Marched into the edge of South Carolina then turned and followed Furguson [sic, Patrick Ferguson] and his Company of Tories and British to Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]. The Company in which he was did not get there till the day after the battle we then took charge of the prisoners and guarded them to the Moravian town in North Carolina where we delivered them to the Virginia troops and we were honorably but verbally discharged Served at this time three months.

Again he removed to Burk [sic, Burke] County North Carolina in the year \_\_ in the month of September as he believes he volunteered under Captain James T. White in Colonel Charles McDowell's Regiment of riflemen Rendezvoused at Burke Courthouse Marched down to Wilmington on Cape Fear [River] we were stationed there opposite Wilmington till we got the information that Cornwallis was taken<sup>3</sup> the British then evacuated Wilmington<sup>4</sup> and we crossed the River and took possession of the town and the stores that was left by the British or guarded the British plunder up to Salisbury we were then and there honorably but verbally discharged we served three months we marched under the Command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] from Wilmington to Salisbury.

Again while living in said Burke County in March 1782 as he believes he volunteered under

<sup>1</sup> Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780

<sup>2</sup> [William Lenoir S7137](#)

<sup>3</sup> Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown October 19, 1781

<sup>4</sup> November 18, 1781 [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_evacuation\\_of\\_wilmington.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_evacuation_of_wilmington.html)

Captain James T. White in Major Joseph McDowell's Regiment we had no Colonel Rendezvoused at Davison's [sic, Davidson's?] fort on the head of Catawba River We marched into the Cherokee nation to Tuckallear [?] here had a Skirmish with the Indians we killed five of them we then returned back to Burke to said Davidson's fort was then and there honorably but verbally discharged Served one month and a half. He may be mistaken as to dates but is certain he served the full length of time and in the manner above stated which amounts in the whole to ten months and a half.

He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his actual service.

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 to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid and that there is no Clergyman living immediately in his neighborhood by whom he can prove the repute of his Service.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court 28<sup>th</sup> of August 1832.

S/ Joseph Hancock, X his mark

S/ A. Crozier, Clk

[Samuel C. Young and John Chiles gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee Anderson County: SS

On this 8th day of April 1833 Personally appeared before me A. Crozier an acting Justice of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for said County Stephen Hancock [sic] a resident of said County and State in the said County of Anderson and State of Tennessee who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment of his declaration for a pension, which said declaration was made in the Circuit Court for said County and bears date the August 28th 1832 and was in numbered in the war department No. 5933 and sent back for amendment. He was born in the State of Virginia either in Charlotte or Halifax County he is not certain which on the 2nd day of May 1762 as he was informed by his parents. He has no record of his age. He does not recollect the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served nor the names nor numbers of any militia or Continental Regiment nor the general circumstances of his service farther than he has stated in his first declaration. He did receive one written discharge from the service which was written by James Henderson and was lost long since he does not recollect how he never did receive a commission. He is acquainted in his present neighborhood with John H. Chapman, Hardy Marshall Major John Childs, Samuel Young and Wiley Young all of whom he believes would testify that they believe him to be a man of veracity and that they believe he served as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.

S/ A. Crozier, JP

S/ John Hancock, X his mark

[p 10: On October 7th, 1839, in Anderson County Tennessee, Mary Handcock [sic], 70, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Hancock; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Burchfield; that she was married in the County of Halifax, state of Virginia in the month of November 1784 day of the month not recollected; that she has no record of her marriage her husband being without education; that they were married by the Rev. Tollison; that her husband died November 27 1835; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 11 ½ months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]