

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension app of Joseph Hughes S31764

fn53SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/8/08 & 1/12/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original on footnote.com and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.]

State of Alabama, Greene County

On this 20th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before Anderson Crenshaw, Judge of the circuit court of the County of Greene aforesaid now sitting, Joseph Hughes, a resident citizen of the County of Pickens in said state, aged 71 years sometime in October next, 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 was born in the year 1760 or 1761 in the place now called Chester district South Carolina; previous to his birth his parents removed there as refugees from some Indian invasion and about the time he was born he understood that General Francis Marion entered into a treaty of peace with those hostile Indians and his parents then removed back to their farm on Broad River in Union District South Carolina (then called 96 District). He was born in October and has a family register of his age. He entered the service in the militia of South Carolina at the commencement of the war between 14 and 15 years of age; attached himself to and was enrolled on Captain Joseph Jolly's company roll at that Seneca town on Seneca River having gone to that place with a detachment from that place for provisions for that place. He marched under Captain Jolly of Colonel John Thomas' Regiment, General Williamson's brigade, soon after his arrival to the middle settlements of the Cherokee Indians and thence down to the Tennessee valleys destroying and burning all of the towns we found. He recollects being present at the burning of Eastatoco, Qualatchee, Toxaway the valley towns and Tugalo on the River Tugalo. They were in but one engagement after he joined the brigade and the night before his brigade lay in sight of a brigade from North Carolina. He recollects that a Colonel Neal commanded a regiment, Colonel Thomas another and that there were two or three more regiments along. This expedition began and ended in the latter part of 1776 as well as he recollects and it was from the time he joined the Army on Seneca about 14 weeks. Soon after his return he was sometime in the service in Georgia without being in any engagement when General Williamson commanded an expedition to Florida. He thinks in that expedition Major Brandon commanded Colonel Thomas' Regiment and he is not positive whether Captain Jolly or Captain Palmer commanded the company that he went in. In that expedition though he believes Palmer did. In passing Georgia his militia joined Williamson and the only Georgia officer he recollects was Colonel Twigg who commanded in some way. This expedition was as well as he recollects in 1778 and lasted from early in the spring until late in the fall. The Army suffered much from heat, hunger and thirst; had no

engagement except one skirmish on the Satilles [Satilla River] with an infamous Tory (commonly known by the name of) Burntfoot Brown [Thomas Brown] and his party. In this expedition he recollects that Colonel Gooden commanded a regiment from Santee. After the return from the Florida expedition, he was stationed at Augusta Georgia under the same General Williamson and Brandon Colonel and same Captain. He remained there three months. The next instance of service was under General Lincoln from the North who commanded the expedition against a Stono in South Carolina. He was then that engagement, a desperate one. His regiment was commanded by Brandon, then a Colonel and his company by Captain Palmer. Many were killed in this engagement and neither side had the advantage. Not much good will was however done for our cause. After his return he was detached to Charleston and stationed two months at Ten Mile branch under Lt. Col. Steen who commanded Brandon's regiment at that place. There was also stationed here a regiment from Chester district South Carolina. At the expiration of his time, the troops were discharged and soon after he was called out to defend Charleston. But by the time Brandon's regiment reached Congaree River news came that Charleston was Defeated. This was in May 1780 about this time he received a commission from Governor J. Rutledge of first lieutenant in Capt. Benjamin Jolly's Company & in Brandon's Regiment, Spartan Reg., 2nd division which commission he lost by gelling his house burned some time in 1788 or /79 after the war & with it lost many valuable papers for at that time he was a sheriff for Union District So. Carolina this applicant here states that Capt. Joseph Jolly died some time previous to the fall of Charleston & Palmer succeeded him & as he now recollects some time in January or February 1780 Palmer resigned & Benj. Jolly was commissioned captain & this applicant Lieutenant rendered him about the middle of February 1780. Then after the news of the fall of Charleston reached Col. Brandon. He marched to Camden for the purpose of securing ammuniton & soon after was defeated by the Tories commanded by Bill Cunningham & one Nealy Tory Colonels. He was in the Battle & escaped the Tories with his Captain, Colonel & many of the soldiers—who immediately flew to North Carolina for refuge with all the Georgia & So. Carolina Troops who refused protection under the British & met on the Catawba River near Tuckaseegee ford & elected Thomas Sumter our General from thence we marched to Ramsour's (a Tory) for the purpose of Taking some Tories but before our arrival the Rowan militia of N. Carolina had defeated the Tories. He then continued under the command of Sumter & was in the engagement at Rocky Mount & at the hanging rock. In the engagement at Rocky Mount Col. Andrew Neille [Andrew Neel] was killed. He commanded on that day the same regiment from York district that had previously been commanded by his father. Also Capt. Burris fell of a regiment as well as he recollects called Hayes' regiment & at the Hanging Rock, Capt. McClure was killed & Major Richard Winn was wounded for this applicant & Capt. John McCool bore him from the field. Captain Otterson & Davidson both of Brandon's regiment were wounded of which Davidson Died. He was then soon after in the Battle at Musgrove's Mill & King's Mountain. Col. Clarke of Georgia commanded at Musgrove's & Capt. Shad Inman was killed. He received 7 shots from the Tories at King's Mountain. General Williams [James Williams] of S. Carolina was killed after the British raised then flag to surrender by a fire from some Tories. Col. Campbell then ordered a fire on the Tories & we killed near a hundred of them after the surrender of the British & could hardly be restrained from killing the whole of them. The next Battle he was in was at

Hammond's Old Store. Defeated the Tories & took 50 odd prisoner besides a good many killed & wounded. The next Battle he was in was under General Morgan at the Cowpens & that day he commanded as Captain Jolly having been attached to Col. Washington's Troop for some purpose. The events of that day are well known to the department & better to this applicant who bears the scars which he received from a stroke across his right hand from one of Tarleton's Troops soon after this He was commissioned Captain & continued in the service until the close of the war signed by Governor J. Rutledge of So. Carolina the next engagement of note that he was in was under General Greene at the Eutaw Springs in So. Carolina. This was the severest engagement he ever was in being a general engagement. At this engagement Col. Stewart Commanded the British & Tories & the command of the Americans devolved on General Greene, Cols. Lee & Washington commanded their Troop or horse—General Rutherford commanded the North Carolina militia as well as he recollects. General Pickens commanded the refugee militia of South Carolina (& Georgia probably) Major Benjamin Jolly (formerly this affiant's captain) commanded Brandon's Regiment. From this time to the close of the war he does not recollect any general engagement that he was in. He continued continually in the service against the Tories with whom he had many skirmishes he well recollects with them though he cannot refer to many of notoriety. He continued in the command as captain he thinks about two years & something over. He is certain his captain's commission bore date in 1781 but it was burnt with his house as before mentioned. He is certain he was Captain at the Eutaw Springs & continued so from that to the end of the war. Previous to his entering the service he resided with his father on the farm above alluded to and at the close of the service he returned to said farm where he lived until 1825. This farm fell to him after the war as the oldest son of his father who was murdered by the Tories in the latter end of the war. From that farm in 1825 he removed to Greene County in Alabama and settled near the line between Greene and Pickens [counties] and in the fall of 1829 he removed across the line into Pickens County where he now resides. He came to this for the purpose of obtaining the Testimony of Major Otterson & Henry Story who were frequently in the service with him in the revolution. In reference to going to Pickens [County] besides said Otterson and Story he believes that Jesse Gordon and Benjamin Anderson both knew of his services in the revolution. They were not old enough to be in the service. He states that he was in many different battles and skirmishes that he could not give a correct account of and many that he could besides what are enumerated if it were necessary to state them and in answer to further questions propounded to him by the court he states that he entered the Army and served as a volunteer all of the time. All the other interrogatories are answered in the foregoing statement except the question relating to his veracity. To that he answers that he thinks Parsons Kennedy, Gray and Haddon could testify as to his reputation as a man of truth for veracity and their belief of his services in 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 (in the Union).

S/ Jos. Hughes



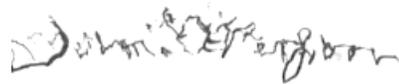
Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.
Attest: James Yeates, Clk.

[Robert W. B. Kennedy, a clergyman, and Isaac C. Snedecor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Samuel Otterson¹ being also duly sworn in open court according to law deposeth & saith that he knew Joseph Hughes whose name appears to the above application for a pension from the time he was a boy & that they were both in an engagement together against the Cherokee Indians near the Tennessee valleys & he thinks it was the first either of them ever was in he was with said Hughes at the ten mile Branch In the service as above stated & saw him while in the service at Augusta above mentioned he was with him at the Battle at Rocky Mount & at the Hanging rock where this affiant got wounded & also in many skirmishes with the British Indians & Tories in one of which this deponent got a slight wound in the chin & said Hughes was shot through the hair and someone else received a hurt on the cheek supposed to have been the same Ball & from this deponent's intimate acquaintance with said Hughes (his father Brothers & Uncles who were killed in defense of their country in the revolutionary war) he fully believes he was in all the engagements & rendered all the service he mentioned. I recollect distinctly that he commanded as a Lieutenant for some time & believes said Hughes was promoted & commanded as Captain but does not know how long -- he states that he has explicit confidence in all the statements of said Hughes & from his Knowledge of him & his reputation Generally for truth he believes him worthy of full faith & belief upon oath. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid,

Attest S/ James Yeats, Clerk

S/ Samuel Otterson

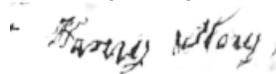


Captain Henry Story² Being duly sworn in open court according to law deposeth & saith that he recollects being with said Hughes a great deal in the revolutionary war & that he knows of his having rendered the most of the service in the up of declaration to which he has sworn & subscribed his name that he was with him in the Battle of King's Mountain & at the Battle at Musgrove's Mill & also at the Cowpens -- he was with said Hughes in many other Tours & skirmishes one at the ten mile Branch and one through the State of Georgia to the Oconee River which said Hughes has not mentioned he believes that said Hughes rendered all the services and his declaration mentioned from his long acquaintance as well as from his general reputation he believes him to be a man of perfect veracity & worthy of full Credit & belief upon oath he also states that said Hughes commanded as an officer a great portion of the time & part of the time as a Captain though he does not know how long as Captain or Lieutenant.

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

Attest S James Yates, Clerk

S/ Henry Story



¹ [Samuel Otterson S25344](#)

² [Henry Story S32537](#)

State of Alabama, Greene County

Personally appeared before me, the Undersigned, a justice of the peace in & for said County Joseph Hughes who being duly sworn deposed and saith that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades; for one year or 2 months & 20 days I served as a private; for one year or 7 months & 14 days I served as a Lieutenant and for 2 years and 6 months I served as a Captain and for such service I claim a pension. Sworn to & subscribed for me this 20 7th May A.D. 1833 S/ Jos. Hughes, Sr.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a Captain for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]