

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Tharp R10478

f40GA/NC

Transcribed 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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 5]

State of Alabama Franklin County

On this the 8 day of March 1842 personally appeared before G. M. Hargett -- a justice of the peace acting in and for the said County Robert Tharp a private soldier of the Revolution now a resident of the State County above now near 100 years of age, 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 the 7th 1832, that he entered the service of the United States at Saulsbury [sic, Salisbury] in the State of North Carolina by contract with Captain William Tempel Cole [sic, William Temple Cole] a penguinal [? regular?] Officer and agree to serve three months I served that term of time fully out at that place while Captain Cole was engaged in recruiting Soldiers at the commencement of the Revolution war and when my term of three months expired I was paid off by the paymaster at that place. I then returned to my father's house near Wilcockses Iron works [Wilcox's Iron Works] on Deep River in the State of North Carolina. After my return I Robert Tharp entered my second tower [tour] of Duty a Substitute in the room of Daniel Methany who was drafted and ordered to serve three months in a station in the settlement known by the name of the Pleasant Gardens at that time for guard against the Indians at that station I served my tower of three months fully out under Captain Culpepper [John Culpepper] who discharged me and paid me off my monthly wages this station was in Burke County North Carolina near Blue Ridge on the head of the Cautauba [sic, Catawba] River during the time I was in service at this station the Indians killed a Citizen near that station and I Robert Tharp was one of the men who brought this Dead man in and buried him he was by the name of Battel some time after I was discharged from this tower of Duty I went to the State of Georgia and there I again entered the service of the United States and was under the command of Colonel Duley [sic, probably John Dooly] and Captain John Clark these officers had full command of the frontier parts of the State of Georgia at that time and organized all the rules of spying against the Indians, and I Robert Tharp engaged with these officers and did serve a spying against the Indians whenever called on by either of these officers until Siege at Savannah¹ when a Call was made for men to reinforce the Army at Savannah and these officers ordered out a portion of choice men of that purpose, and I Robert Tharp was one of that detachment of men, and when we joined the Army at Savannah this Detachment of men were placed under the immediate command of French officers in separate Companies where I Robert Tharp was put to hard labor and was kept at hard labor for the space of nine weeks preparing ways and means to blow up the enemy's Fort and near the end of this nine weeks a counsel was held by the French and American officers prescribing the way by which they would attack the Enemy's Fort when it

¹ Siege of Savannah September 16-October 9, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

was agreed upon that the French officers on their part that they would march in front up to the King's gate and the Americans were to attack in other parts of the Fort this attack was made in my presence although this plan failed in consequence of the great number of the French Army being slain in attempting to storm their enemy's Fort, the American Officers which I can recollect in part at this late hour is the following way General Morgan in chief as I believe and I do know that an officer by the name of Montgomery had the command of the Regulars at that attack Colonel Washington [William Washington] commanded a Regiment of horsemen on that day General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] also commanded men on horses that day, some time before this attack was made at a time when a French officer by the name of Count gillaspey² was exercising his men on horses in full view of the enemy's Fort this officer was killed by a ball shot from the enemy's Fort this case of Count gillaspey was done in my presence, after this defeat at Savannah I Robert Tharp then returned to Dooly and Clark and still pursued my engagement with these officers, and again ordered out a spying of the frontiers for Indians and was Kept in actual service doing Duty of that kind according to the special orders of these officers until the death of Colonel Dooly and after the death of Dooly who had been promoted to General and after the death of this same General Dooly John Clark was then promoted and became General and I Robert Tharp was still continued in actual service a spying on the frontiers of Georgia and sheltered at Captain kars fort [sic, Carr's Fort or Kerr's fort?] near the line of the white settlement and while I Robert Tharp was at that Fort kept by Captain kar a party of British attacked the Fort when I Robert Tharp was made a prisoner of war with eight other soldiers with me and all were taken off to the British Army at augustine [Saint Augustine] where I was kept a prisoner of war so that I never got back to my former place of service until after a final pacification[?] of peace was made the term of time which I was in actual service under Colonel Dooly and Clark and after the death of General Dooly then under Clark alone until I was made a prisoner of war and the length of time which I was a prisoner of war was not less than five months in the whole of the time of my services on the frontiers of Georgia and the time I was a prisoner of war I do know is not less than 3 years and for the whole of this time last mentioned which I served I never received a Discharge nor pay neither and part nor in whole, this Declarant further states that when he got back from the enemy he settled in Rutherford County and State of North Carolina and I then moved to Tennessee Wilson County and from there I moved this where I now live and was living at the passage of the act of 1832 which made provision for officers of the Revolution also the Surviving Soldiers and Indian spies of the revolution of which I am one, this Declarant further states that the Discharges which I received for the twenty-three months towers is lost or destroyed many years since and that I actually do not know of any officer or soldier by which I can prove any part of my service and the reason why I have delayed making application for a pension [indecipherable word or words] is for want of a form and proper understanding how to show to make out a Declaration according to law until the present.

S/ Robert Tharp, X his mark

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace Robert Tharp who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of the service but according to the best of my recollection I served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades

Date	Years	Months	Days	Soldier	Officers
1776	0	3	0	privat	Capt. Wm Tempel Cole
	0	3	0	ditto	Capt. Culpepper
	3	0	0	ditto	Coln. Duley and Clark and imprisoned
Total	3	6			and for such services I claim a pension

² This MAY be a reference to Count Casimir Pulaski.

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 whatever.

S/ Robert Tharp, X his mark

[Theophilus Skinner, a clergyman, and Charles Brooks Mattock gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

[p 30]

State of Alabama Franklin County September the 5 1842

On this the 5 day of September 1842 personally appeared Robert Tharp a Citizen of the said State & County before me George Hargett one of the acting justices of the peace of our County Court held at Russellville in Franklin County it being a Court of record note B., 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 the 7th 1832 that he is now near one hundred years of age note C. and is now a citizen of the State and County above mentioned & has been for the last twenty-five years past, and that I Robert Tharp did serve in the Army of the revolution against the common enemy of the United States at that time, and in the following manner, In the year 1776 I Robert Tharp engaged with Captain William Tempel Cole to serve under him a private Soldier for three months, Captain Cole was at that time recruiting Soldiers to serve in the Army and every way he could get them to engage his recruits were kept at Salisbury North Carolina where I continued to serve until my term of three months expired when Captain Cole this regular officer paid me my monthly wages and discharged me from service, then I Robert Tharp returned to my father's house near a well known place Wilcoxes Iron Works Deep River North Carolina. Some short time after my return home to my father's house the place where I first started from, I substituted and served a three months tower in the room of Daniel Metheney who was Drafted and ordered to serve three months, I was called into service by Captain Culpepper and ordered to a station kept in a settlement known by the name of the Pleasant Gardens on the Catawba River in Burke County North Carolina where I continued in actual service guarding the Indians off of that station, and while I was does engaged in service the Indians killed a citizen who lived near that Station and his name was William Battle, six men were ordered out by Captain Culpepper to bury this man & I Robert Tharp was one of the six, I then was discharged by Captain Culpepper and paid off my monthly wages at the Expiration of the three months time, I Robert Tharp then left North Carolina and went to Georgia where I this same Robert Tharp volunteered to serve a spying against the hostile Indians under General Dooly and Colonel Clark these officers at that time seemed to have full power to command all the forces on the frontiers of Georgia and by their orders I was stationed at Captain Robert McNabb's Fort and rendered services at Captain karrs Fort these forts were both on the Extreme frontier parts of the State of Georgia the subaltern officers whose names I perfectly recollect at present were David Phelps [sic, David Phelps?] Lieutenant and William Hammett Lieutenant these officers were in actual service with me both in winter and summer the manner of way these soldiers were kept in service by orders of General Dooly himself were as follows from six to twelve men were ordered out from each Fort at one time the balance kept Garrison, general Dooly was killed at his own house by some unknown Enemy and after General Dooly's death Colonel Clark took full command ordered out a party of choice men to take a rought [raft?] along the Oconee River I Robert Tharp was one of the party and while on that expedition the British surrendered up to the Americans the town of Augusta and shortly after my return from my tour on the Oconee River General Clark ordered a party of choice men to a place called the White Bluff in South Carolina below Augusta on Savannah River where I was kept for three months guarding the River to keep the British from passing up or down the said River the British forces was then in possession of Savannah town at that time and after my return to my station at

Captain McNabb's Fort General Clark was called on for choice men out of his command to reinforce the American Army who had Contemplated to besiege the British Fort at Savannah town these men were to be chosen by the General himself and of this selection I Robert Tharp was one of the number who were marched to the Main Army by General Clarke himself to the siege and at our arrival at that place General Clarke's men were put under the immediate command of French officers in different places of the Army separate from each other where I Robert R. was put to hard labor and kept at hard labor for 9 weeks in succession in preparing ways and means to blowup the enemy Fort and while I was so engaged at hard labor a French officer by the name of Laneagellasy was exercising his men on horseback a ball was shot from the enemy's Fort and killed the same officer, I was there in full view of this parade, General Clarke's men were considered to be chosen volunteers for the special purpose of completing the siege then on hand, near three days before the attack was made to storm the Fort a counsel of war was held by the French and the American Officers and officers on their part agreed to march in front up to the King's gate the attempt was made were mostly cut off which caused the retreat, General Morgan commanded the regular troops on that day and was ordered to attack the enemy's Fort at a different quarter of the Fort. Colonel Washington who commanded a Regiment of horse men on that day was kept in a reserved party, General Wayne was engaged in the attack on the enemies forces on the day, and in preparing they the American Army for their attack on that day I Robert Tharp with some hundreds of other Americans were ordered out on guard and placed around the French magazine where I remained during the whole time of the Battle and after this Defeat I Robert Tharp returned to General Clark's command at Captain karrs Fort and Captain McNabb's Fort and some time after my return to my Station a British officer by the name of hammelton [sic, Hamilton?] with a party of soldiers far superior to the number of Captain karrs Fort there being but 9 in number on our part and consequence thereof we were all made prisoners of war and were taken on board of a watercraft and carried off to Saint Augustine and there kept a prisoner of war so that I Robert Tharp never got back to my station until final peace was made with old England, this being my unfortunate case near the end of the Revolutionary Struggle has finally deprived me from obtaining any part of my Monthly pay for the whole of my services which I rendered a private soldier after my engagement made voluntarily with General Dooly and Clark, the term of time was in actual service under the above mentioned officers I am sure is over three years as to my two discharges given by Captain Cole and Captain Culpepper they are lost long since I have being entirely without learning which has deprived me of keeping any record of anything whatever nor have I any knowledge of any person now living by whom I can make proof of my services or any part thereof, and for the three years service while under Dooly and Clark and for the six months I served under Captain Cole and Culpepper making in the whole three years and six months I now claim a pension under the acts above noted and in consequence of the want of evidence and proper understanding how to procure a proper form by which I could enable myself to make out a Declaration suitable to present to the Honorable department till the present. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except what is contained in the present Declaration, and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatsoever note E. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Robert Tharp, X his mark

[On July 8, 1852 in Franklin County Alabama, John Tharp, administrator of the estate of Robert Tharp, deceased, executed a power of attorney by making his mark. His relationship to the veteran is not stated