

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Tharp R10480

f20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/22/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Illinois Edgar County: SS

On this 4th day of March in the year of our Lord 1846 personally appeared in open Court, before the County commissioners court, in and for the County of Edgar and State of Illinois, now Judicially sitting (said court being a court of record) Wilson Tharp a resident of the said County of Edgar in the state of Illinois aged fifty-nine years past, 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 is the son of James Tharp who entered the service of the United States under the officers of the Virginia Continental Line: or State Troops, and served as herein stated: That the said James Tharp was a private in the Army of the Revolution and resided in Amherst or Augusta County in the State of Virginia at the commencement of the Revolutionary war and first volunteered and served his time out & immediately afterwards viz. on or about the \_\_ day of \_\_ in the year 1776 or 1777 or perhaps in the year 1778 (the precise time is not known by this declarant) enlisted for the term of years (perhaps about three years) in that war in the said County of Amherst or Augusta; That the said James Tharp served his time out under that enlistment as he continued in that service as well as he recollects up to about the time of the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis: This declarant cannot state the name of the Captain, Colonel or other officers under whom he served, nor the name or No. Of the Regiment to which he belonged; But that the said James Tharp his father, enlisted in and served under the officers of the troop that went from, and belonged to the said County of Amherst or Augusta, in the Virginia Continental line or State troop; and that the said James Tharp was the only person of that name that belonged to said troop from those counties, or of the officers who commanded him, or the troop from either of them: And that if the name of James Tharp is to be found upon the rolls or [indecipherable word] of the troops from either of those counties, it is the same identical name & person, of his said father: the said James Tharp lived before and after the war in the counties of Amherst and Augusta in the State of Virginia, and that the said James Tharp died in the County of Amherst and State of Virginia on the 8th day of October in the year 1842; as he is informed and believes. At the said James Tharp left no widow that his wife died several years before his death, and that this declarant Wilson Tharp is the only child of said James Tharp Deceased who is now known to be living or that has been heard of for the last ten years or more upon diligent inquiry being made for them: That there were other children of the said James Tharp but are now unknown as aforesaid: That this declarant has no documentary evidence in his possession or knowledge to establish said service, nor does he know of any person now living, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to the service of the said James Tharp, now deceased. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, for and on account of the Revolutionary services of the said James Tharp Deceased except the present; and declares that

the name of the said James Tharp Deceased nor of this declarant, is not upon the pension Roll of the agency of any state or Territory, neither of them ever having before applied for a pension or a bounty in the land for said services. And that he now resides in Edgar County in the State of Illinois and has resided there for the space of seven years past, and that previous thereto he resided in Mercer County in the State of Kentucky, and previous thereto he resided in Amherst & Augusta counties in the state of Virginia:

S/ Wilson Tharp, X his mark

Interrogatories propounded by the court

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you & your father Born?

Ans. I was born in Augusta County Virginia in the year 1786 and my father was born in London County in Great Britain in the year 1756 & removed to the US in the year 1768, as well as he recollects

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age, or that of your father's, and, if so, where is it?

Ans. I have not, of either, nor do I believe there is any in existence at this time;

3<sup>rd</sup> Where was your father living when he was called into service, where have you & your father lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Ans. My father was living in Amherst Augusta County Virginia when he was called into service & he lived after the war in the same counties, until his death as stated in the declaration just made: and I have lived in Amherst or Augusta counties in Virginia, next in Mercer County Kentucky & I now live in Edgar County Illinois.

4<sup>th</sup> How was your father called into service; was you drafted; did you volunteer, or was he a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Ans. He first volunteered for a short time & served his tour out, and immediately afterwards enlisted.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where your father served; such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect; and the general circumstances of his service?

Ans. I do not know the names of his officers, nor of those who were with the troops where he served, only from my recollection, that he was with the troops from Amherst & Augusta County in the Virginia Continental line or State troop; nor do I know the regiments to which he belonged, further than he was in the Regiment of troop from Amherst & Augusta counties in Virginia in the Continental line, or state troops; and that the general circumstances of his service was as related in my declaration just sworn to, excepting, that he was at the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], and at the taking or surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], as I have heard my father often tell, where I lived with him in Virginia, but owing to the length of time since I saw & heard my father speak of it, I cannot recollect these particulars, as I have not saw him since about the year 1806

6<sup>th</sup> Did your father ever receive a discharge from the service and, if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Ans. My father did, I believe receive a discharge, which was given him by the commanding officer, which I have no knowledge of. I think it has been lost or destroyed for many years. But I never saved it, as I recollect of I have been blind for thirty-eight years past & have no recollection of it within that period.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of the services of your father's James Or, now deceased, as a soldier of the Revolution?

Ans. I can state the names of John W McReynolds, as a clergyman and Stephen Mullins & George Jones who have known me for the last 25 years past.

[John W McReynolds, a clergyman, and Stephen Mullins & George Jones gave a supporting affidavit.]

[f p 18: On December 13, 1845 in Edgar County Illinois, Wilson Tharp, 59, filed a claim under both the March 18, 1818 act and the act of June 7th 1832 in which he states he is the son of James Tharp; his statements pretty much mirror the same statements he made in his claim transcribed above; in this document he states his father died October 8, 1842 as he has been informed and believes.]

[f p 11: On October 18, 1852 in Edgar County Illinois, Wilson Tharp, 66, gave testimony that his father died in the year 1824 and that his mother' name was Elizabeth; that he does not know the time of her death but that she is dead and has been dead several years; that he does not know the date of marriage of his parents; that they were married before I his father entered the service in the revolution; that both his parents died in the state of Tennessee.]

[Note: no explanation is offered for the discrepancy between the dates of death of his father set forth in the various documents filed by this claimant.]