

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Gilead Thigpen (Thigphen) R10492

Elizabeth Thigpen f40NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/26/17

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

[p 5]

State of North Carolina, Edgecombe County} Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

On this 27th of August 1832 personally appeared before the worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Gilead Thigphen [sic] aged 72, a resident of the County of Edgecombe State of North Carolina, who being duly sworn, according to law doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated in the capacity of substitute.

The Regiment was under command of Colonel John Shepard [John Sheppard] with ___ Lowrie [John Lowry] Lieut. Colonel. The company was under command of Thomas Shute as Captain and R. Hodge [probably Richard Hodges] 1st Lieutenant. He entered about 1st December 1779 and was discharged or rather his term expired about the last of March 1780. He resided at the time in the County of Dobbs North Carolina. The Regiment was embodied at Kingston [sic, Kinston] and was marched from thence to Wilmington. After resting a few days, the Regiment proceeded to Georgetown South Carolina – thence to Charleston.

His original term having expired at Charleston he volunteered for the siege – and remained in Charleston during its continuance¹ under Captain Alexander Harvey – Nathaniel Bilbry [sic, Nathaniel Bilbry]² Lieutenant. This company belonged to a volunteer Regiment commanded by William Lytle. After the siege he came back to North Carolina on parole.

A resolution being passed by the legislature of North Carolina to raise troops for protection against the Tories &c – he entered the service as a Substitute in the month of October 1781 – the Regiment was under command of Major Bennet Crafton [Bennett Crafton] -- and the company was commanded by Swan Trouton as Captain. The Regiment was organized in the County of Granville and remaining at Durham Halls through the heart of the winter in Camp, he proceeded for in the spring to Hillsborough where the legislature were then in session. He remained in this place near three months protecting the legislature and being engaged in such other duty as the nature of the times required. After going to Deep River and other places in the neighborhood he returned to Hillsborough and was discharged. The whole being a period of twelve months.

He hereby relinquishes all 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.

1 Charleston fell on May 12, 1780.

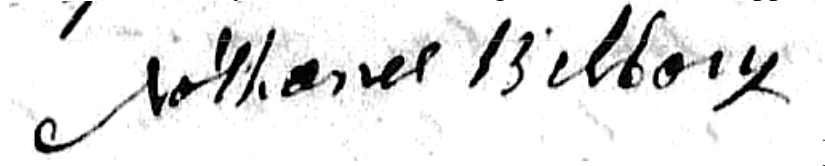
2 [Nathaniel Bilbry \(Bilbory\) S6645](#)

S/ Giliad Thigpen, X his mark [sic]

I Nathaniel Bilbary of the County of Edgecombe do hereby certify that I was in the Service of the United States with Giliad Thigpen and believe the facts stated in this declaration to be correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

S/ Nathaniel Bilbry

[Nathaniel Bilbary and John W. Potts gave the standard supporting affidavit.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathaniel Bilbary". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The first letter 'N' is large and loops around. The signature ends with a small flourish.

[p 10]

I Richard Jordan³ of the County of Pitt and State of North Carolina Hereby Certify that I was in the Revolutionary war and I was at Charleston during the Siege. Received my discharge a short time before the Surrender of that place into the hands of the British and whereas am now called on to testify concerning the services of Gilliad Thigpen at that time and place I therefore say that I saw & heard his name Frequently called at that time and place and that I believe that Gilliad Thigpen of Edgecombe County is the Same person who I saw at that place during the said war. To which I swear and subscribe my name this 4th day of August 1832

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date above.

S/ John Thigpen, JP

S/ Richard Jordan, X his mark

[p 11]

State of North Carolina, Edgecombe County} April 21, 1833

Personally appeared before me Charles G. Hunter a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Gilead Thigpen who being duly sworn deposeth and saith--

That he was born in the County of Dobbs North Carolina (Dobbs County has been subsequently divided into several others and the name of Dobbs has not been preserved). He is now in his 73rd year. That is a record of age in possession of his son in Georgia. He saw it about nine years since.

In addition to what is stated in the first section of the declaration to which this is appended, he declares that the term for which he served as stated in the section referred to embraced a period of four months from 1st December 1779 the last of March 1780 – that after his discharge at Charleston for which discharge he has no written evidence, he volunteered as stated under Captain Harvey and served three months – that his service as stated in last clause of his declaration embraced twelve months – that during this time he was employed in the State of North Carolina and besides his own deposition as to the facts, he refers to certificate of Nathaniel Bilbry who served with him, which said certificate was regularly proven before a court in August last and is embraced in the body of the declaration and is marked thus.*

He has not produced the Certificate of a Clergyman for the reason that it was not convenient to do so –There is no Clergyman resident in Tarboro – and to have obtained one would have subjected him too much inconvenience. His advanced age and its infirmities render traveling exceedingly inconvenience indeed painful.

He refers to the Certificate of Nathaniel Bilbry (the same who signed a first Certificate) and John W. Potts embraced in the body of his declaration as to his character for veracity and the

³ [Richard Jordan S7087](#)

general belief as to his services.

The Certificate of Richard Jordan which is attached to his declaration and to which he also refers proves that said Jordan knew him at Charleston both under the latter part of his service with Captain Shute and the first of that under Captain Harvey.

Sworn to & subscribed.

S/ Gilead Thigpen, X his mark

S/ Chas. G. Hunter, JP

[p 15]

State of North Carolina, Edgecombe County

The Declaration of Jacob Byrum the Administrator of the late Elizabeth Thigpen of said County.

The declarant Jacob Byrum saith that one Gilead Thigpen late of the County of Edgecombe was (as he has been informed and believes) a private in the War of the Revolution and as such received from the Government of the United States a pension of \$63.33 per annum from the 4th day of March 1831 until a short time before his death which was as he has been informed and believes around in the early part of the year 1838 – that he the said Gilead Thigpen died leaving a widow him surviving by the name of Elizabeth Thigpen to whom the said Gilead was married (as the declarant of has been informed and believes) in the year 1785, or at a period previous to the first day of January 1794 – that the said Elizabeth Thigpen hast since died intestate without having received a Pension from the Government as the widow of the said Gilead – that her death took place as he had been informed, during the latter part of the year 1840 – that the said Elizabeth died leaving two children only, whose names are John Thigpen and Sarah Gay, the wife of Burrell Gay, and some grandchildren whose names are unknown, the said grandchildren being the children of a deceased son and daughter of the said Elizabeth who were both dead at the time of her death – and that the names of the deceased son and daughter were Reading Thigpen and Viny Eason.

That he is the administrator of the said Elizabeth Thigpen, duly appointed and qualified as such at May Term 1851 of the Edgecombe County court, and that he makes this declaration in order to obtain a pension for the children of the said Elizabeth, from the 4th day of March 1836 to the date of their Mother's death – or to whatever they may be entitled under the act or Acts of Congress passed for the benefit of the widows of Revolutionary Soldiers.

The declarant knows nothing about the service of the said Gilead Thigpen in the War of the Revolution nor has he any proof of his service, but he relies on the Testimony now on file in the War Department upon which a pension Certificate was issued to the said Gilead as sufficient proof of the service.

Declarant saith further that the said Elizabeth Thigpen did not marry again after the death of her husband the said Gilead, and that she remained a widow till her death.

Witness: S/ Kinchen H. Lewis

S/ Jacob Byrum

[Facts in file: Elizabeth's maiden name was Elizabeth Hemby.

A copy of Gilead Thigpen's will dated Nov. 24, 1831 appears at p 30. In it he names, in addition to those already named in Byrum's petition, grandson George Washington Thigpen.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$63.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 19 months in the North Carolina militia.]