

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Thornton R10571

f21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/14/17

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

Georgia, Appling County

I Samuel Thornton of the State & County aforesaid who have applied for a pension as a Revolutionary Soldier, do solemnly swear that in regard to the first interrogatory under the Regulations of the Act of June 1832 to which the affidavit is attached, I was born in Mathis's Bluff [Matthew's Bluff] Savannah River in the State of South Carolina in June 1755.

2<sup>nd</sup>: That I had a Record of my age which was left in the lids of a Bible in Emanuel County & State of Georgia.

3<sup>Rd</sup>: That when I was called into Service I lived on the South fork of the Catawba River in the State of North Carolina and since the Revolutionary war, I lived in South Carolina on Savannah River and in State of Georgia in the Counties of Screven, Burke, Effingham, Chatham & Appling where I now live.

4<sup>Th</sup>: That I volunteered into Service.

5 That the names of some of the Regular officers of whom I now recollect were General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] & General Pulaski.

6<sup>Th</sup>: That I received a discharge from the service from Captain Ryans, which got burnt – in Burke County Georgia in my house which was also consumed at the same time about forty two years ago. And that I was not employed in any civil pursuit during the time of the Revolutionary war from the commencement thereof, and also served with an embodied corps called into service by competent authority in the field.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1834.

S/ Jno. Graham,

S/ Samuel Thornton, X his mark

Clk S & I Ct A. C. Ga.

Georgia, Appling County

It is the firm conviction of each of us the Justices of the Inferior court for said County that the claimant Samuel Thornton has served his Country as stated in his declaration for a pension & the above affidavit and also from his known character for veracity and we unhesitatingly say should be Government withhold his claim for want of evidence which is not in his power to give by loss of memory in consequence of old age &c he must only die a creditor to that which never will be paid. Given under our hands the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1834.

S/ Wilson Baxley, JIC

S/ Malcom Johnson, JIC

S/ Silas Quin, JIC

Test:  
S/ Jno Graham  
Clk S & I Ct A C Ga.

[p 8]  
State of Georgia, Appling County

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court Samuel Thornton a resident of Said County & State aforesaid, aged Seventy seven years in July last, 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 on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June last.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: viz., On the South fork of the Catawba River in the State of North Carolina he states that he volunteered under Captain Joe McDowell [Joseph McDowell] belonging to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell, from thence was marched to Stono in South Carolina to join the Main Army commanded by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. The Army at Stono, in which he fought, had an engagement [Battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779] with the enemy, which lasted 67 ½ minutes, and before the battle was ended 343 of the Americans were carried away wounded – he further states that this battle was called the Stono battle at which the Americans were defeated: and that General Pulaski was commander of the light Horse Company in that engagement. From Stono was marched to Orangeburg in the same state (S. C.) and stationed at what was called the old Ridge House as their Head Quarters, were at that place commanded by Captains Ryan & Turner, being at that time on Scouting parties and while at said place, had a pretty severe engagement, in which the enemy were defeated with a loss of more than 60 men; from thence he was marched to Hollow Creek in State last mentioned (S. C.), at which place, had an engagement which terminated in the loss of the whole enemy (with the exception of one) whose number was about equal to that of the Americans (about 18 each). In this engagement, his Captains were Butler & Turner.

This applicant further states that he was in the engagement at Ferguson's defeat at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] and several others the particulars of which he does not recall, but as he met with the misfortune of losing his house by fire with the papers in relation to his revolution [sic] services, about 40 years ago in Burke County of the State of Georgia, he can furnish no documentary evidence of his services in said war, further says he, that it is convenient for him to procure at this late period of his life, any persons testimony who can testify to that fact. And he moreover declares that he served as a volunteer soldier throughout the whole revolutionary war from the commencement thereof and 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 & year aforesaid, before us, the Justices of the Inferior Court, in & for the County of Appling & State first above mentioned, who declare our opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant, Samuel Thornton, was a revolutionary Soldier and served as he states.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings in the matter of the application of Samuel Thornton for a pension. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the day & year above written.

S/ William Alexander Studifant, Clk {L. S.}  
of said Court of Appling County, Georgia

S/ Samuel Thornton, X his mark

S/ Silas Quin, J.I.C.

S/ Samuel Tillman, J. I.C.

S/ Benjamin Ligget, J.I.C.

Georgia, Appling County

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Inferior Court in & for the said County Samuel Thornton who being duly Sworn, deposeth & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service as a volunteer Soldier in the revolution [sic] war but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than seven years as a private Soldier & received a wound from two small shots in that time.

Sworn to before me the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1833.

S/ Samuel Thornton, X his mark

S/ John C. Carter, J. I. C.

[Isham Peacock, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 6: an unsigned power of attorney dated August 2, 1852 filed in Appling County Georgia refers to Isaac Thornton as the son of Samuel Thornton a revolutionary war pensioner. This same document contains the statement that veteran died March 7, 1847 survived by Isaac Thornton, Redic Thornton, Ezekiel Thornton & Albert Thornton, as his only surviving children.]

[p 18: a power of attorney filed in Wayne County, GA and dated May 6, 1854 purporting to be signed by Samuel Thornton by which he authorized H. C. Spalding to pursue the pension due him for his services in the Revolutionary War.]