

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Thomas Branch R1154

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, Prince Edward County:

On this 17th day of March 1845 personally appeared in Open Court, Thomas Branch a resident of the County of Prince Edward in the County of Prince Edward and State of Virginia, aged Eighty Eight years on the 20th day of July 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he was draughted in the Militia of Virginia, being then a resident of the County of Powhatan in said state, what year he was draughted it is now impossible for him to recollect, that he served under the following Officers to wit: Under William Mayo of Powhatan, who declarant believes was then a Captain, declarant is not certain whether Mayo or Hughes Woodson was the first officer under whom he served, which last was also a Captain, the first term of service, declarant met with the force which was to march at Mannikin Town Ferry [sic: Manakin Town Ferry] & the troops marched down the north side of James River & marched to Williamsburg, Little York [Yorktown] and Hampton, during this trip or term of service he was not engaged in any battle, though the army was constantly on the lookout expecting an engagement. The declarant also served at a subsequent time under Capt Geo Williamson [George Williamson] of Powhatan, he also went to Yorktown during the Seige of that place [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] on the 9th day of the month, though he has forgotten the year and was there at the surrender of Cornwallis. That he was draughted as often as six times in the Virginia Malitia and served always the length of time for which he was draughted, under the before mentioned officers, and under Col Beverly Randolph [sic: Beverley Randolph], & Col. Dennis [probably James Innes] though he finds it impossible to bring to mind, at his advanced age, when memory has nearly forsaken him the dates at which he was draughted, or the times when he was serving under any particular leader, as he was very often shifted from one Officer to another. He fought throughout the whole Seige of Yorktown. He never left the state of Virginia and his whole service was rendered in the Eastern part of said state. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present; and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state whatever [signed] Thomas Branch

Interrogatories propounded to Thomas Branch Senr of the County of Prince Edward to wit:

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born near Mannakin Town in the County of Powhatan in the State of Virginia, on the 20th day of July 1757.

2. Have you any record of your age: and if so where is it?

Ans. I have not that I can now find, it has been mislaid & I cannot find it;

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. When called into the War, I lived in the upper part of Powhatan County; Since the Revolutionary War I have lived a short time in the County of Powhatan, but chiefly in the County of Prince Edward where I now live & have lived for upwards of Forty years. I think I came here in 1897 [sic].

4. How were you called into service; were you draughted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute; and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was draughted always

5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Malitia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. Hughes Woodson Capt. Bernard Markham Capt. William Mayo Capt. George Williamson Capt. I recollect serving under these officers, but it so long since I served & my memory has so failed that I scarcely remember any thing, I think Col. [Robert] Goode & also Col. Ennis or Dennis was with the troops where I served. I think Col. Goode commanded a militia regiment, but I cant speak positively. I was at Williamsburg twice and at Hampton one and we marched to the Siege of on the 9th of October and was there at the surrender of "Cornwallis."

6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of?

Ans. Yes I received a discharge, which I have long since lost and I cannot at this time remember who gave it.

7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution?

Ans. Anderson P. Miller, Williamson Dickerson, Vincent Phillips, Richard Marshall, Joseph Phillips, Moses Overton, Wm White, Sam'l D Burke, Col. Thomas Clark, John Foster, and indeed the whole neighbourhood including the Rev'd. Daniel Witt, Rev'd. Matthew Danel & Capt Henry E. Watkins. [signed] Thomas Branch

Prince Edward County to wit:

Personally appeared before us, the undersigned, justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Branch, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age, being now in his 89 year, 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 six tours some as long as six months and some two & some maybe a year, but I cannot pretend to remember the dates [see endnote]. I served as a soldier all the time, and for such service I claim a pension. I am compelled to rely upon the deposition of James Hall [pension application S5492] with whom I served apart of my time for such particulars as he can furnish & we further certify that each of us have been well acquainted with Mr. Thomas Branch since the year 1810, we believe he is in his 89th year, the age he represents himself to be and that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood to have been a Revolutionary Soldier and we concur in that opinion & we also certify that Thomas branch is unable from Bodily infirmity and old age to attend Court.

Sam'l. D. Burke J.P.

Thomas Clark J.P.

The deposition of James Hall of the County of Powhatan (who is now a pentioner) taken before me William Old, a justice of the peace, in the said county of Powhatan, who being first duly sworn to tell the truth, deposeth and saith, that during the Revolutionary War, he served several tours of militia duty, in the same companies, with a certain Thomas Branch now of Prince Edward County, but then a Resident of the county of Powhatan; that he first became acquainted with Mr. Branch while they were members of Capt. Bernard Markham's company and stationed at Babbs Old field near the Nansemond River [sic: Nansemond River], that they both served several tours of duty under the said Capt. Markham; that they afterwards both served under Capt. Stephen Pankey, Capt. George Williamson, and also under Capt. Edward Moseley of Chesterfield, and that in fact the said Branch was with him the whole of his Revolutionary services, except the first tour, during which he the deponent was at Gates's defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780].

[28 Jul 1845]

James hisXmark Hall

The applicant Thomas Branch assigns as his reason for not having before applied for a pension the following reason, that he thought the regular Soldiers were paid for their services when they rendered them & he had for a long time been opposed to the appropriation of money by the Government for that

purpose, but finding that all his associates in arms had been pensioners during their lives & being himself now old & needy, he concluded to avail himself of the bounty of his government, being advised by his friends & acquaintances that it was right that he should do so. And we the undersigned believe said statement to be correct, having been made in our presence this 21 Nov'r. 1845

Sam'l. D. Burke J.P./ Thomas Clark J.P.

NOTES:

By law, drafts in the Virginia militia were limited to three months, although tours were sometimes extended by several weeks.

On 26 June 1856 Nancy Branch, 87, assigned power of attorney to obtain the pension that her late husband never received. She stated that as Nancy Clements she married Thomas Branch in Amelia County on 31 Dec 1789, and he died on 22 Sep 1850. In the file is a copy of a bond signed in Amelia County on 26 Dec 1789 by Thomas Branch and William Clements for the marriage of Branch to Nancy Clements.