

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Melsops (Millsaps) R7173 Barsheba Melsops f27NC

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.]

State of North Carolina Macon County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions December Term 1832

On this 25 day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Coute [Court] of pleas & quarter Sessions now sitting Thomas Melsops a resident of the County of Macon & State aforesaid aged 80 [could be 86]¹ who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 I was born in Roan [sic, Rowan] County N Carolina which is now Randolph and was living there when I entered the services of the United States as a volunteer under the command of Capt. Aron Hill [Arron Hill] Lieut. Elego Williams [probably Elijah Williams] & Col. Belford [Andrew Belfour] as minute man & continued in the service about 12 months the time I entered was about 12 months before peace was made with Great Britain. Commenced these services as a light horseman in a troop but was frequently on foot for I was engaged in following the Tories who was commanded by a Mr. Fannon [sic, David Fanning?] a Tory officer we had two engagements with for or [?] & the Tories one at night and I think it was in the month of March or last of February making 12 months and I never got no discharge for upon the news of peace being made we were permitted to go home until further orders and about the same time my Col. was killed by Fanning in his own house on the East side of Whuwarr and a [probably Uwharrie River] or the road that leads to Cross Creek now Fayetteville I never received any discharge & there is no person now living that I know by whom I can prove my services by I moved from Rowan to the State of Tennessee in Carter County then to Greene County then to Macon County North Carolina and I do hereby relinquish any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Patham, JP

S/ Thomas Melsops, X his mark

Question 1.

1. Where and in what year were you born
2. Have you any record for your age and if so where is it
3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live
4. How were you called into service were you drafted did you Volunteer or were you a

Substitute and if a Substitute for whom

5. State the names of Sum [sic] of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

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

7. I am acquainted with Humphrey Pocy [sic] & Amos Curtis who lives in my neighbor hood and who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier in the revolution.

[Humphrey Posey & Amos Curtis, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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An Amendment to the Declaration of Thomas Milsaps made in order to obtain the benefit of Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832

North Carolina Macon County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for said County Thomas Milsaps 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 his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. I entered into the services of the Army of the United States in the year 1782 in the month of March or April and remained in the Army of the United States in North Carolina until sometime in the month of March or April 1783 when I was in the Army when the cessation of hostilities took place and I believe at the conclusion of peace between the two governments but being an unlettered man I have no dates by which I can fit the time by but have to speak from memory. I was under the command of Capt. Aaron Hill Lieut. Eligo Williams and Col. and served not less than 12 months or one year as a private with the militia corps in North Carolina and was in 2 engagements with the Tories that was commanded by a Tory officer whose name was Fannon. I performed my services as a volunteer and part of the time found my own horse as I was some time a horseman but that was owing to the direction of my officers for the principal part of the time was after the Tories and for these services I claim a pension. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15 day of September 1833

S/ Thomas Melsops, X his mark

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North Carolina Macon County: This day personally appeared Thomas Melsops before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County and after being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades (to wit) I was living in North Carolina Rowan County when I first entered into the Services of the United States in the year 1780 in the month of October I believe I volunteered under the command of Capt. Hill Col. Belford I am not certain & cannot [say] who was General this service I was a horseman & marched from Rowan to Uwharrie in Randolph County & from there down in Chatham County below Deep River and there we caught a Tory hiding in a fodder stack we then returned with him above Deep River and delivered him up to the head officers at what was called headquarters I got no discharge and am certain that this term of service was not less than 20 days in which I was not engaged in any civil

pursuit.

My 2 tower [tour] when I entered into the Services I was living in Randolph County NC on Uwharrie I volunteered in the year 1781 I was under the command of Lieut. Eliga Williams the Capt. did not go Col. Belford and the last service marched from Uwharrie to one John Needham who lived on the Main the road leading from Salisbury to Cross Creek now Fayetteville and there we had an engagement with the Tories & Fanning I was informed was the head commander -- but I do not recollect who was our head commander after a short engagement the Tories retreated we had none killed & the [Tories?] had one man by the name of Smith killed as I was informed & we marched in pursuit of them & came up with them again & fired upon them wounded one we then returned home and I am certain I served not less than 2 months this tour I forgot to mention in the first place my first tour was in 1780 living in Rowan under the command of Capt. Cole [William Cole] and Col. Cole [probably Col. John Collier] I believe & Gel. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] I was a volunteer and marched from Rowan down near pee Dee River [Pedee River] and then across to towards Cross Creek & the Cape Fear River and back to Rowan by the way of Deep River the Col. under whose command I was placed lived down by the cross roads on the South side of Deep River the road leading from Salisbury to Hillsboro & from Hillsboro to Cross Creek which is now Fayetteville I got no discharge this term of active service that I was not engaged in any civil pursuit together with the time that I was in Garrison was not less than 6 months this service was performed as a horseman & in no battles.

When I entered into the service the 4 towers I was living in Randolph County as a volunteer under the command of Capt. Hill there was no Col. for Col. Belford was killed about the time we were rendezvousing & we had no Col. that I recollect of now I entered in the year 1782 in the month of March marched from Randolph to [indecipherable word]² and there was stationed for 6 or 7 days and then returned home serving not less than 10 days this time in no battles.

The six months service as given above as a volunteer but the circumstances attending the service had better be more fully explained I was drafted for the 6 months in 1780 to go a foot to march to the West end of North Carolina & the East end of Georgia and I was in [one or more indecipherable words] thought by General Rutherford not to be due able to perform the service in the Rough Country I was to go into against the Indians & Tories and he gave me the chance of finding my own horse & performing the service in the [indecipherable word, perhaps 'settled']³ parts of the State and my place was filled by a man whose name I do not now recollect and I took his & performed the six months service agreeable to General Rutherford's directions my belief is my Col.'s name was Cole. Thus [?] the fall [?] of my service was performed as a private & that the whole of my service which was performed while in Garrison & marching was 9 months in which I was not engaged in any civil pursuit and for which service I claim a pension. Sworn to and subscribed before me the 28th day of October 1834.

S/ J. N. Siler, JP

S/ Thomas Melsops, X his mark

Thomas Melsops further swears that he never has been since it was forwarded to the war department after being made by him in the court of pleas & quarter sessions for Macon County.

² *Hudson*

³ *settled*

Sworn to before me this 28 October 1834

S/ J. N. Siles, JP

S/ Thomas Melsops, X his mark

[p 6: On July 15, 1844 in Sevier County Tennessee, Barsheba Millsaps, 85, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act saying she is the widow of Thomas Millsaps; that she married him some time and May 1777 by a minister of the gospel by the name of Shackelford, although she has no evidence or family record thereof; that he died April 1, 1837; and that she remains his widow. The widow's account of her husband's services reads as follows: "... that when he entered the service he resided in Randolph County North Carolina about the Commencement of the Revolutionary War, and volunteered in Capt. Isaac Taylor's Company the first three months tour, and I recollect to have heard him say after his return that he served under Col. Belford, and marched from Randolph County to Deep River, and she believes that he was drafted the second three months tour, and recollects of his marching to Pine fork and being there stationed to guard the Fort but does not recollect the officers names at that place, but some time after his return, he was drafted a third time for three months more, and marched to a place called the Hanging Rock, and she believes at that time he was under the command of Col. or Gen'l Crump, and another time she recollects of his marching to the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River, and was stationed there for some time to await the arrival of 500 British which was expected to pass that way, and after 2 months service that tour, he returned home, making in all 11 months." She signed her application with her mark.]

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State of Tennessee Sevier County

Personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the Peace for said County Solomon Millsaps and made oath according to law, that he has been well acquainted with Thomas Millsaps, who was the husband of Barsheba Millsaps whose name appears to the foregoing declaration, and that he has often, and at divers times heard the said Thomas Millsaps say in my presence, and in the presence of others in his neighborhood, that he served in the Revolution, as stated in the above said declaration, and that due credit should be given to his statements in said case, and that she is the widow of the identical Thomas Millsaps aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of July 1844

S/ Solomon Millsaps



[his relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated]

[p 10: On March 25, 1857 in Fannin County Georgia, David Millsaps of said County filed a power of attorney in which he states that he is the son and heir at law of Bishaba Millsaps [sic] war soldier he does not state that the date of his mother's death in this document. He signed the document with his mark.]