

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Sims R9610
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn26NC
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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. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Wilson County

On this 31st day of December 1832, personally appeared in open Court before George H. Huddleston, D.C. Hibbetts & Thomas Burke Esquires justices of the Court of pleas & Quarters for said County of Wilson now sitting, Thomas Sims a resident of said County of Wilson aged eighty-eight years, 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 entered the United States service under the following named officers and served as herein stated. On the 12th day of September 1780 he was called into service in his County as a Militia man & belonged to the Company Commanded by Captain William Gillum of Granville County in the State of North Carolina in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel William Moore & Major Moore his brother, was organized or mustered into the service at Granville Courthouse, on the day after we were organized we were marched up to Hillsboro where we were stationed until the rest of the Militia collected at that place – marched thence about 16 miles below Charlotte where we joined the troops commanded by General Davidson – part of the Army marched down into the State of South Carolina near Camden & took Rugeley, a Commander of a party of Tories, prisoner, with about 100 of his men, & marched them up to Salisbury, where we left them under guard – on our march, met General Greene's Army between Charlotte & Salisbury, about which time Lord Cornwallis had invaded that part of North Carolina; General Greene's force being insufficient to give the enemy battle, fled across the Roanoke into Virginia, and after being reinforced he returned & gave the enemy battle at Guilford Courthouse: he, this applicant, however had served out his Tour of three months and was discharged a few days before Christmas – he recollects well that General Butler would not suffer them to be discharged until after their full term of three months had expired & then ordered the officers to march them to their respective Counties before they should be discharged – so that he served at least five or six days over his first term.

In the spring of the year 1781 he was again called into the service of the militia line in Granville County North Carolina he does not recollect exactly what time he left home for the service, but believes it was about the first of March and went out into the service under Captain Thomas Rice and was employed this tour of three months principally in fishing & cleaning and salting fish for the Army – we called our fish at James Bilbo's fishing place, on the Roanoke River. He recollects that he was employed in fishing for the Army at the time of the battle of Guilford Court house was fought between General Greene's Army and Lord Cornwallis – and still continued in this service for some time after the battle of Guilford – after his term of service expired he was discharged, having served three months.

So that he served as a private soldier in the Revolutionary War six months & some few days

over. He had a written discharge for his first three months tour, but when he started or was preparing to move to this State, he threw that with many other papers which he considered useless, into the fire. He has no documentary evidence, but can prove his services, or that he went into the public service, by Chesley Sims -- & expects he can procure the testimony of Amos Bone who can testify to his veracity & the opinion of his neighbors upon this subject & also John Gunn & Richard Bryan.

He was born the first day of July 1744 (old style) according to his family Record which is in the possession of one of his Sons: & he was born in the County of Hanover in the State of Virginia -- moved from the County of his nativity to the County of Granville about the age of 21 years -- he continued to reside there until the year 1815 when he moved to Wilson County Tennessee where he has ever since resided.

He knew Generals Morgan, Smallwood, Davidson & Butler & Col. William Washington of the Troop of horse.

He 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.

Sworn to in open court.

S/ Thomas Sims, X his mark

Test: S/ J. S. McClain, Clerk

We Amos Bone, John Gunn & Chesley Sims residing in the County of Wilson & State of Tennessee hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with Thomas Sims, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 88 years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution -- and that the [sic, we] concur in that opinion.

And the said Chesley Sims further Certifies that he distinctly recollects that the above named Thomas Sims went into the public service as a soldier of the Revolution and he was frequently at Bilbo's fishing place on the Roanoke River he cannot undertake to state how long he served but knows he was twice out in the service, he was himself, then a boy about 10 or 11 years of age.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Amos Bone

S/ Chesley Sims

S/ James T. Sims

S/ John Gunn, X his mark

Test: S/ J. S. McClain, Clerk

Amended Declarations State of Tennessee, Wilson County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace within & for said County of Wilson, Thomas Sims, who being duly sworn, deposed and saith, that the militia Company to which he belonged was divided into four divisions & he belonged to the 4th division; he entered the service when it came to his service by turn and supposes it may be considered the same as if drafted for he did not volunteer the first tour nor was the a substitute his best recollection is that he volunteered for the service last mentioned in his declaration -- he was not in any battles during all his service, at the time the Tory prisoners were taken, no resistance was made by them. -- during the time he served in the Revolutionary war, he was a Citizen of Granville County North Carolina.

Sworn to before me this the 10th of June 1833.

S/ Thomas Sims, X his mark

S/ Elisha C. Stephens, JP

[fn p. 7: On October 23, 1852 in Wilson County Tennessee, Matthias Sims, 77, filed a power of attorney in which he states that he is the son of Thomas Sims; that his father died December 18, 1836 and his mother Mary Sims died in July 1848; that they were married "on or about the 1769 or in the

year 1770 and that they were residents of Warren County in the State of North Carolina and that they resided there until 1817."

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Matthias Sims

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[A note in the file indicates "the claim was rejected on the ground that soldier did not render 6 months military service as required by the Act of June 7 1832 under which he applied."]