

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Ravenscraft S1248

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 Nov 2018.

State of Kentucky Sct.

On this 12th day of August 1818 before me the subscriber one of the circuit Judges for the commonwealth aforesaid personally appeared Thomas Ravenscraft Sen aged about 64 years resident in Harrison County in said state who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval services of the United States in the revolutionary war” That he enlisted at Pittsburgh in the State of Pennsylvania in the company commanded by Capt John Stevenson of the 8th Virginia Regiment commonly called the German Regiment because it was commanded by Genl. Muhlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850] on the Continental establishment. That the period of his first enlistment in said company was in the year 1775 where he remained for about one year & then joined the 13th Regiment under a Captain Bell [sic: Robert Beall BLWt431-300] which was also of the Virginia Continental line, in which latter company he remained a private soldier for about three years, & then was promoted to an Ensign, & that he continued in the american service as an Ensign for about four months when he received the promotion of a Lieutenant in the Light horse service under Gen George Rogers Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269], and came on under Gen'l. Clarke to the falls of the Ohio [at present Louisville KY] in the year 1781 when he was taken prisoner by the Indians at the Battle usually called Floyds Defeat [defeat of Col. John Floyd at Long Run Creek, 14 Sep 1781] That after being so captured he was taken by the British & Indians to Detroit where he remained a prisoner of war for about two years and then released at the general exchange of prisoners at the close of the war. That during his whole period of service aforesaid he was in the Battle at Sullivans Island [28 - 29 Jun 1776, probably at Breach Inlet] & afterwards in the battle at Guiahawga on Big Beaver near Pittsburgh in Capt. Bells Comp’y of the 13th Virginia Reg’t. during which time he received several wounds & at Floyds defeat was tomahawked by the Indians on the head of the effects of which latter wound he has never since recovered. That from his reduced circumstances in life he stands in need of assistance from his Country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

State of Kentucky Harrison County January Court 1825.

The following Declaration and Schedule was Produced and Sworn to in Open Court and ordered to be recorded in the words and figures following Towit Commonwealth of Kentucky Harrison County Sct On this 10th day of January 1825 Personally appeared in Open Court being a Court of record for the County afs’d Thomas Ravenscraft resident in s’d. County aged 68 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 provision made by the acts of the 18th day of March 1818 the 1st May 1820 & the 1st March 1823 that he the s’d. Thomas Ravenscraft enlisted for the Term of three years on the [blank] day of May as well as he can now remember in the year 1777 in the State of Pennsylvania, in the Company Commanded by Capt Robert Bell, in the regiment Commanded by Colo Russell [William Russell BLWt1849-500] in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in the Corps untill the expiration of the time of his enlistment af’s. towit, May 1780 when he was discharged from the s’d. Service at Pittsburgh in the s’d. State of Pennsylvania and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in Trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me

subscribed.
Schedule

Tho's. Ravenscraft

Nothing. Nothing. And he further made oath That his family consisted of himself & wife who lived with their children & upon their County That he was almost disabled from labour by age & infirmity and his wife not enabled to do much. Given under my hand this 10th January 1825. Tho's. Ravenscraft

Ridgeway – Feby 18th 1825.

D'r Sir, Inclosed is the statement and schedule of an old friend of ours, Capt. Ravenscraft, who desires to obtain a pension. Before there was any restriction from property [by the act of 1820], he had a pension allowed him; when the amendment took place to the law, he declined a compliaince with its requisitions, untill age, and necessity has driven him to the wall. Old as the Old Gentleman was, he led a Company to the field in the last war; never was there a better soldier, or a man who possessed better feelings toward his Country, and his fellow man, that Capt. Ravenscraft. I know it is scarcely necessary to say that I would be glad if you would bestow immediate attention upon it. I was security for Maj'r Rilly, late Post Master at this place... [the rest unrelated] ...I am with esteem your's &c Wm Brown

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Ravenscraft, Thomas. Some apparently unrelated documents are in the file without explanation.]

Dr. The State of Virginia to Thos Ravenscraft

1781 July 11	To my pay from this day to the 12 day of Sept 1781 as Lieut in Capt Benjamin Fields [Benjamin Field W3009] troop of Light Dragoons under Com'd Brig'r Gen'l George Rogers Clarke 64 days	£24.10.
	To D'o from the s'd 12 day Sept 1781, being the day I was taken prisoner to the 20 day Jan'y 1783 being the day I returned from on parole 595 days	<u>227.11.8</u>
		£252. 1.8

T Ravenscraft

State of Vrginia to wit

I hereby certify tha the above is a true Acct & that the same is stated[?], without fraud to this state. Given under my hand at Richmond this 12 day June 1783. G R Clark

City of Richmond Sct Thomas Ravenscraft made oath the the within account is just and true. Certified this 12 June 1783. James Buchanan

Richmond Va this 2^d Aug 1783

Illinois Department

2 Warrant to Thomas Revenscrass for his pay as a Lieut in the Illinois from July 1781 to Jan'y 1783. £152 & 100 1.8[?] 252.1.8

I hereby certify that so much of the foregoing, as extends to and [undeciphered word] the name of James Buckhanan, is a true copy from a voucher filed in this department, and the balance a true transcript from one of the Journals of this office for the year 1783. Jas. E. Heath

Auditors Office/ Richmond Va 29 May 1783 Aud'r

Thomas Ravenscraft soldier in Capt. Stevenson's Comp'y of light Infantry of the 9th Virg'a Reg't is hereby discharged from the same, he having served three years, the term he first Enlisted for [several undeciphered words] Certify that during his continuance in the Reg't he [several undeciphered words] and faithful Soldier. Given under my hand at Fort Pitt Jan'y 28 17[illegible]

Jno Gibson Col [John Gibson S41578]
9th Virg Reg't

To all whom it may Concern



I John Dauthill Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of the Illinois grant in the County of Clark and State of Indiana, do hereby Certify that there is no such name as Thomas Ravenscraft on the Rolls or in any book or on any paper in my office that I ever seen, for I have Examined all, the papers and books belonging to the Illinois Regiment. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal (having no Seal of office) this Fourth day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

John Dauthill

This certifies that Rob't George [Robert George R14396] hath served three years and upwards as Cap'tn of Artillery in the Western Dept. Given in Caroline/ 3^d March 1784

G R Clark BG [Georges Rogers Clark]



Land office at Richmond May 27th 1833

I certify that on the 9th day of July 1783, a Military Warrant issued to Major Thomas Quirk [W5958] of the State line for three Years service, and I further certify that a warrant issued to John Gerault [John Gerault] (a Capt in the state Line) for his three years service, beaing date 3rd March 1784.

[illegible signature]

The following officers who appear to have been commissioned the first or the 10 April and the others on the 4 May 1782 have received the usual bounty in Land

Wm P Quarles [William P. Quarles]

John Eustace

John Gibson

Zachariah Tatum [BLWt1955-150]

[undeciphered] Bell

John Scott

Thomas [undeciphered]

Daniel Bedinger [W8138]

and no doubt many others who were commissioned at a late period during the war.

Claims for Land bounty allowed by the Commiss'r[?] of war, and by the Executive to officers of the Illinois regiment.

1782 [undeciphered] to	Jno Rogers [John Rogers X648]	Capt Illinois troop
1783 July 9	“ Thos Quirk	Ensign
“ Aug 26	“ James Robinson	Lieut
1784 Jan'y 21	“ Robert Todd [R18517]	Capt
“ [illegible]	“ Geo Rogers Clarke	Genl
“ [?] 11	“ James Meriwether [James Meriwether R16407]	Lieut
“ June 2	“ James Montgomery [R16521]	Lieut
“ ” 3	“ John Bailey	Capt
“ ” “	“ Richard Brashier [Richard Brashears R12756]	Capt
“ ” “	“ Richard Clark [X149]	Ens
“ ” “	“ William Clark [VAS1866]	Lieut
“ ” “	“ Abraham Chaplain [Abraham Chapline R13134]	Capt
“ ” “	“ John Gerrault	Capt
“ ” “	“ Michael Perault	Capt
“ ” “	“ Isaac Taylor [W601]	Capt

“ ” “	“ Jarret Williams	Lieut
“ [?] 22	“ Rich’d McCarty [Richard McCarty]	Capt
“ ” 29	“ Rich’d Harrison [Richard Harrison R14762]	Capt
“ ” “	“ Robert George [R14396]	Capt
“ June 25	“ Geo Walls [George Walls R18785]	Major
“ July 8	“ Ab’m Keller [Abraham Keller R15580]	Capt
1791 Dec’r 28	“ Jno Williams [John Williams W6511]	Capt
1830 [?] 30	“ Jno Thruston [John Thruston R18489]	Cornet [undeciphered word]
1831 March 9	“ Wm Roberts [William Roberts R17484]	Ensign
1832 “ 26	“ Mark Thomas [R18446]	Capt
“ Aug 13	“ Benj Fields [Benjamin Field W3009]	Capt

and probably several others.

NOTE: Documents in the federal pension file state that Ravenscraft died in Kentucky 27 May 1827 leaving unnamed heirs. This file also includes a chart by a descendant, Mrs. J. J. Born of Kansas City MO, dated 10 Mar 1920, showing the service of several relatives in various wars, stating that Thomas Ravenscraft also served “In battle where Tecumseh was killed” (Battle of the Thames, 5 Oct 1813).