

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Thigpen S14684

Transcribed by Will Graves

f19NC

rev'd 3/28/17

[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

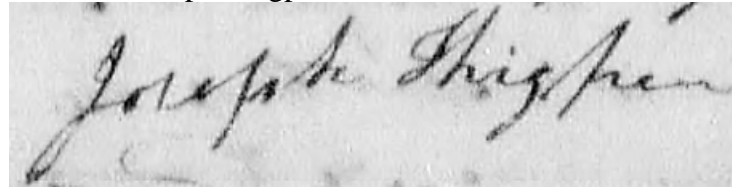
State of Alabama, period County} SS

On this sixth day of February A.D. 1833 personally appeared before the County Court of Perry County, Joseph Thigpen, a resident of the County of Perry and State of Alabama aged Seventy-four years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated – His first tour of service commenced in the month of November 1778 as a volunteer under the following named officers, Thomas Shoot [Thomas Shute], Captain, Stringer McIlwain [John Stringer McIlwaine], Major William Caswell, Colonel, William Bryant [William Bryan] Brigadier General and __ Ash [sic John Ashe] Major General – he rendezvoused at Kingston [sic, Kinston] in Dobbs County North Carolina and marched to Elizabeth [sic, Elizabeth Town] on Cape Fear River; from the latter place that he were marched down to a place called the Ten Mile house, being ten miles from the City of Charleston in South Carolina, there they stayed but a short time. From the Ten Mile house they marched to Purysburg near the Savannah River, and then up the Savannah to a place opposite the Town of Augusta below where the town of Hamburg now stands. From this latter place they crossed the Savannah and marched to Briar Creek where a battle [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]¹ took place between the North Carolina militia, about 1500 strong, and a few Continental troops, under the command of General Ashe and the British Troops commanded by General Prevost [Mark Prevost], at which the militia and Continental Troops were dispersed and routed a considerable number being killed and a still larger number taken prisoner the loss on the part of the British was inconsiderable. In the battle General Elbert [Samuel Elbert] commanded the Continental Troops. From Briar Creek the Army under General Ashe recrossed the Savannah and retreated to Purysburg where it remained a short time, when the North Carolina Militia was discharged & returned home. He, the said Joseph Thigpen served in this first tour of duty nearly six months – at the time he entered the service he was living in Dobbs County North Carolina. After he returned home he was frequently engaged for short periods of time, on scouting parties in the vicinity of where he lived in North Carolina and lower down the Country at that time he served thirty-five days under Captain Samuel Caswell guarding the magazine in Kinston at another time he served between ten and fifteen days under William Harper as Captain and Abram Shepherd [Abraham Sheppard] as Major in an expedition to Trenton in Jones County undertaken in consequence of the landing of some British troops at Wilmington under Major Craig [James Craig] – Craig after visiting New Bern and burning some homes retreated back to Wilmington and entered with the troops under his command. He the said Joseph Thigpen feels satisfied that

¹ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

in the several expeditions on which he was engaged after his return home from his first tour he served at least three months – making the whole time for which he served during the Revolutionary War, nine months – all the service he performed was as a volunteer and he continued during the whole time to reside where he did when he entered the service the first time. At the end of his first tour of service he received a discharge, which he has long since lost. He was born in the year 1758 in Dobbs County North Carolina. He has a record of his age in his family Bible which is at his own house where he now resides. After the Revolutionary War he continued to reside in Dobbs County N. C. where he was born and where he lived when he performed the services above set out, until said County was divided when he fell into the part of it which after the division was called Greene, where he continued to reside until April 1832, when he removed to Perry County Alabama where he now resides. There were very few Continental or regular Troops, and any of the expedition or tours in which he served – and he has no distinct recollection of the names of any of their officers. There was a small body of Continental Troops at the Battle of Briar Creek as before stated – who on the day of the Battle were commanded by General Elbert, but he does not remember the names of any of the officers who commanded them.

S Joseph Thigpen

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Thigpen". The ink is dark and the background is light and slightly textured.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court, this sixth day of February A. D. 1833
S/ J. B. Nave, Clk

[p 13]

State of North Carolina Greene County
Court of Pleas & General Sessions November Term 1832

Came into Court Richard Jourden [sic]² and maketh oath that he Served five months tour with Joseph Thigpen in the revolutionary War at the time of the brips Creek [sic, Briar Creek] defeat under Captain Shoot – General's Ashe & Bryant commanded I have often heard it said that he served other tours and I believe he did.

Sworn to in Open Court

S/ William Williams, Clerk

S/ Richard Jourden, X his mark

State of Alabama, Perry County

The supplemental Declaration of Joseph Thigpen, made and prepared in [sic, by] virtue and in pursuance of instruction from the Pension Officer, and the War Department of the Government of the United States --

The said Joseph Thigpen states that he is unable from the length of time that has elapsed since he performed in the services set forth in his foregoing declaration, and the frailty of his memory, to state the precise time which he served and the [indecipherable word]³ periods during which he served was performed he feels confident however that his first tour of service as set forth in his aforesaid declaration, continued for five months and lacked but a few days, if any, of six months, but he is not prepared to state positively and absolutely that it did continue six

² [Richard Jordan S7087](#)

A small, dark, handwritten mark or signature, possibly a flourish or a small signature, located at the bottom left of the page.

months, His mind however is as well satisfied that the said term of service did continue six months as that it lacked a few days – he cannot be more definite as to the other periods of time stated in his said declaration he cannot be more particular than he has been – he is satisfied in his own mind that he served altogether nine months, but could not state it more positively than he has. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

S/ Joseph Thigpen

Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court this 22nd day of July A.D. 1833.

S/ J. B. Nave, Clk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]