

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Alexander Thompson S14691

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Sc. At a County Court held for Kanawha County the 12th day of March 1833.
Virginia Kanawha County to wit —

On this 12th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of the county court of Kanawha County, now sitting Alexander Thompson resident of the county aforesaid aged seventy 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 was born in the County of Augusta Virginia on the 29th of March 1763 and there resided until in January 1781 when he was drafted into the Virginia Militia to serve in the war of the revolution. He was called out under Capt [John] Cunningham and Colonel Sampson Mathews at the time Virginia was invaded by the British under [Gen. Benedict] Arnold & Philips [sic: Gen. William Phillips]. He was first conducted from the County of Augusta to Fredericksburg, where the forces to which he was attached remained two weeks to protect the armory and manufactories at that place from the attacks of the British. From Fredericksburg he was marched to Cabin point on the James River [in Surry County] between Richmond & Norfolk, where the forces crossed to the south side of James River & marched down the same to the town of Smithfield at which place his regiment remained a short time observing the movements of the British fleet then in the mouth of the river. From Smithfield this Declarant was marched to the Town of Suffolk on the Nansemond river which had previously been burned by the British, but passed the same and encamped three miles below at a place called Camp Carson. The forces remained at Camp Carson two months engaged in watching the movements of the British, then in the occupation of Portsmouth, headed by Arnold & Philips. The object was to prevent the enemy from marching into the interior; and for this purpose, a portion of the troops at Camp Carson were marched once or twice a week into the immediate neighbourhood of Portsmouth. From Camp Carson his regiment was marched to Coopers burnt mills, the British being then in pursuit of them. During the period the forces were stationed at Camp Carson, several skirmishes took place with detachments of the enemy, in one of which Capt Cunningham was severely wounded and was to unfit him for the service. This affiants Company was thereafter commanded by the Lieutenant whose name is not remembered. From Coopers Burnt Mills, this affiant was marched to Richmond, where in a few days he was discharged. At the period this Declarant entered the service, the best men of the country were engaged either at the North under Gen. Washington, or at the south under Gen. [Nathanael] Greene, and the defence of the country was mainly left to the old men and boys, of which he from his age was one. This term of service endured the period of three months. For this service he received a discharge in writing signed as he thinks by Col. Matthews, but the state being unable to pay off her troops, he sent his discharge to the land office for which he obtained a land warrant, which however was never created.

In the Spring of 1783, the Indians having made inroads upon the frontier settlements of Virginia this affiant was again drafted into the service to march against the Indians. But one company was called out at this time, the object being to relieve fort Warwick in Tygarts valley [Tygart Valley on the headwaters of Greenbrier River in present Randolph County WV]. During this tour he was under the command of Capt. John McKitterick [John McKittrick], other officers not remembered. The company marched from the county of Augusta by the way of the Warm Springs and Cloverlick to the head of the valley thence down the same to fort Warwick and below as far as Crouches fort. Here a division of the company was made, and a part sent for the defence of fort Warwick and the other remained in Crouches fort. The affiant was detailed to the defence of fort Warwick, where he remained in garrison until the term of three months, the period for which he was drafted, expired. On this occasion, as before, this affiant received a written discharge, but the same has been lost so that it can not be produced. This affiants service amounted in all to six months, all of which he served as a drafted man and a common soldier. He has no knowledge of any person who can bear testimony to either term of service.

This declarant remembers that his birth was registered in a family record and that this record was carried by his brother to the state of Missouri in 1811. After the war this affiant continued to reside in the County of Augusta until 1819 when he removed to the county of Kan'a where he has since resided. For testimony of his character he cheerfully refers to James Wilson, Col David Ruffner, Capt Wm F Styles of Kanawha and James Bell of Augusta Va. This affiant does not recollect any other officers with whom he served than those named.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

[signed] A Thompson

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application 6111 of David W. Sleeth. On Thompson's report, Singleton wrote "Fraudulent & [pension] certificate returned," but see endnote.]

Alexander Thompson - Pensioner - receives \$20 p annum.

I the undersigned Alexander Thompson in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narative of my Services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and statement of my age - to Wit — I am about 73 yrs. old. was born in augusty county and lived there until within the last 23 years - about the 10th of January 1781 I was drafted for a three months touer of duty. Rendezvoused at Staunton. three companies under Col. Matthews marched from that place to Fredericksburg thence down the country, crossed the James River at Cabbin Point, went down the South side of the James River to Suffolk, at which place my term of three months expired. I got my discharge & returned home. I was attached to Capt Cunninghams company. - Some two or three years after the forgoing term, I was stationed on Taggarts Vally in Now Randolph county for 3 months. - was under Capt. McKetrick - this latter service was in 1784. - I am shure it was not before that time. Ezra Walker wrote my Declaration. I gave him the same account of my services (in substance) that I now give. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. Jany. 5, 1835

Alexander Thompson

Witness Thomas J. Burton.

A Copy.

W. G Singleton

Memo. Mr. Thompson surrendered to me his certificate upon which he informed me he had drawn no money

W. G Singleton Jany 11, 1835.

NOTE: Pensions were awarded only for service up to 11 Apr 1783 when Congress declared the war officially over, and only if the service totaled at least six months. Thompson was therefore ineligible for a pension, although Singleton's charge that the application was fraudulent appears to be unfounded.