

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas French S1518

f17NC

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 '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 Tennessee County of Stewart

On this 15th day of September 1832 personally appeared before me John Lee one of the acting Justices of the Peace and of the County Court in and for the State of Tennessee and County of Stewart Thomas French a resident of the State of Tennessee and County of Stewart, aged Seventy Seven 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 service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated --

I volunteered in the Light Horse, in what is now called Rutherford County North Carolina, the original name I do not recollect, in February 1776, under Captain George Parris [a/k/a George Paris]-- immediately after entering the service, I was made a Sergeant of the Company -- I was attached to no Regiment or other troops in particular -- we were ordered by Brigadier General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] to scour the country along the line of North and South Carolina, to break up the Tories and chastise the Cherokee Indians; we continued in this Service till October 1776, when General Rutherford ordered us into the Cherokee Nation to fight the Cherokee Indians -- we returned in October 1776 -- and were stationed upon the frontier, called the Cherokee line, to guard and protect the frontier and remained in that duty till June 1777 -- we were then ordered to Seneca a Cherokee Village to be a guard at an expected treaty, between the Americans and Cherokee Indians -- the treaty was made at Dewitt's Corner -- Captain Tutt [Benjamin Tutt] of the regular Army commanded the Garrison at Seneca -- In September 1777 we returned to the Cherokee line, to Wailing's Station -- from there we were removed to Goen's Station; but the time when I do not now remember -- from there we were removed to Cuming's [sic] Station in North Carolina and alternately from Cumming's to Mills' Station till March 1780 -- while at Mills' Station, in March or April 1778 we had a severe battle with the Cherokee Indians -- On our return from Seneca to Wailing's Station I was made a 1st Lieutenant, with the command of a Captain, which I continued to exercise till the close of the Revolutionary War. In March 1780 we were ordered from Cumming's and Mills' Station, to Charleston South Carolina where we remained till the capitulation and surrender of the City of Charleston by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] in May 1780 [May 12, 1780] -- I continued to perform the duties of Captain and commanded the guard at the Royal Exchange and the American Shipping -- the American Army surrendered and we were made prisoners of War and were to be so considered till we were exchanged -- a few days after the surrender and

capitulation I and many others were paroled -- my parole was signed by Sir Henry Clinton commander of the British forces and I returned home and continued at home till after the Battle of Guilford North Carolina [March 15, 1781], when I received a letter from Colonel Andrew Hampton saying that General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] had informed him by letter that I was exchanged for, and ordered me to Colonel John Earle's Station in Rutherford County North Carolina, near the Indian line, and I continued in that service till the close of the Revolutionary War -- when we set off from Cumming's and Mills' Station, to Charleston South Carolina, I fell in with Colonel Tennan's [sic, Hugh Tinnen's] Regiment and continued with that Regiment until we reached Charleston -- after reaching Charleston I was attached to Colonel Arrington or Colonel Harrington's [Henry William Harrington's] Regiment; but whether his name was spelled Arrington or Harrington, I do not now recollect -- he was afterwards called General -- I have no documentary evidence and know of no person whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my services -- I hereby relinquish every 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 --

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Anson County North Carolina the 22nd of October 1755

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have the record of my age in my family Bible in Stewart County Tennessee --

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I was living in Rutherford County North Carolina when I was called into the service -- after the War I moved from North Carolina to Lincoln County Kentucky where I lived one year - - from there I moved to Davidson County Tennessee where I live 18 years; but during my stay the County was divided and one part called Montgomery County -- from there I moved to Stewart County where I have lived 28 years, and I now live in Stewart County Tennessee --

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

I volunteered from the first and continued in the service during the War --

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

In addition to Captain Parris and the other officers I have mentioned, I name General Lincoln and Woodford and Colonel John Neville, said to be of the 3rd Regiment of the Virginians --

6th Did you ever receive a commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

I received a commission of 1st Lieutenant, signed by General Rutherford & perhaps also by Governor Caswell of North Carolina, in the commission is lost --

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

I have for several years been acquainted with Andrew Jackson, the present President of the United States and I refer to my fellow citizens Doctor Christopher C. Clement and William Bailey -- Esquire to certify as to my character, good behavior and their opinion that I served as a Soldier of the Revolution.

S/ Thomas French

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas French". The ink is black and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Lee, JP

[John Ferrell and John Richards gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Thomas French executed a power of attorney dated September 15, 1832 in favor of Philander Priestly to prosecute his claim for a pension.]

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I Thomas French further state that I have no further evidence to establish my claim for the services performed by me as a private or as an officer than my own declaration. That to the best of my knowledge and belief I served as a Lieutenant from about the first of December 1777, till about the 15th of May 1780 [sic, 12th of May 1780], when I was taken prisoner and as a private I served from January 1776 till I was made a Lieutenant in 1777 & if in the opinion of the department I am not entitled as an officer upon my own declaration, I must of course submit to receive the pay of a private.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 2nd day of July 1833.

S/ Thomas French

S/ John Lee, JP

[p 15: Samuel Ross, a clergyman, and Richard Cooley also gave the standard supporting affidavit. Their affidavit is dated July 2, 1833 and is attested by John Lee, JP]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina militia.]