

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Thomas S1596

f44NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/16/17

[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.]

[p 6]

State of Tennessee Dyer County: SS: Circuit Court November Term 1832

On this 6th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Joshua Haskell, one of the Circuit Judges of Law and Equity for said State Henry Thomas aged about Seventy four years as well as he can recollect having no record of his age, a resident of the County of Dyer and State aforesaid, who first being sworn according to Law, doth on his oath take the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

This declarant, states that he was born in the then County of Rowan in the State of North Carolina on the 4th day of March A.D. 1758, where he continued to reside until the close of the Revolutionary War.

This declarant states that he entered the service of the United States and served under the following named officers as herein stated.

This declarant states that sometime in the year 1780 he was drafted to go into South Carolina to serve against the British and the Tories for three months, the company to which this declarant belonged was commanded by Captain James Purvines [James Purviance], his Lieutenant was by the name of Abel Armstrong, and in the same company their Ensign was named John Lucky, they rendezvoused at Salisbury in North Carolina, where the command of the Regiment to which this declarant belonged was assumed by Colonel Martin Armstrong. Here the troops joined General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], who was lying there at the time. The declarant states that they remained here, until all the troops rendezvoused when they marched to the Yadkin [River], which they crossed at the mouth of Rocky River, and from thence to the Cheraw hills in South Carolina and from thence to Rugeley's Mills with General Gates' [Horatio Gates'] Army where they lay two days and on the next night on their march they met a body of British, within a few miles of Camden, when the battle took place, which resulted in their defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. Here this declarant states General Rutherford was taken prisoner. After this took place, declarant returned home to North Carolina, his term of service not being out he was called out under General Davidson [William Lee Davidson]; they were marched to Mecklenburg in North Carolina; shortly after which this declarant states his term of service, was expired, and he received a discharge from Major John Johnson which has since been lost, when declarant returned home.

This declarant further states, that, afterwards in the year 1781, he was again drafted to serve another tour of three months, to go to Wilmington against the British and Tories; the Captain who commanded the company to which this declarant belonged was by the name of Abel Armstrong, who was afterwards succeeded by Lieutenant Thomas Morrison. The Colonel who commanded the Regiment to which declarant belonged was by the name of __ Lofton

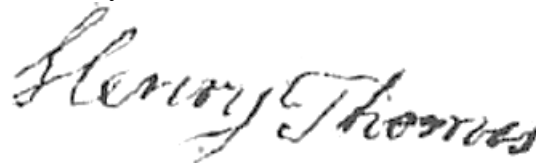
[William Lofton], all again under the command of General Rutherford. This declarant states that they were marched from Salisbury North Carolina down towards Wilmington previous to their arriving in its neighborhood, he was detached, to the infantry under Captain Hugh Hall's Company under the command of General Charles McDowell; where they were engaged scouting after Tories and British for some time, when this declarant was taken sick where he remained so until his term of service expired and being verbally discharged at Salisbury, by his officers, he returned home.

This declarant states he remained in North Carolina, County of Iredell until the year 1798 when he removed to Sumner County, State of Tennessee, where he remained one year, then he resided in the County of Wilson and State aforesaid until the year 1830, when he removed to this County where he has continued to reside ever since. This declarant states that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his service; and except one tour of three months under Colonel Lofton and General Rutherford, by the affidavit of William Leech,¹ one of his messmates, to whom his service was fully known, and which is hereunto annexed. 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 in open court this 6th day of November 1832.

S/ M. Mitchell, Clerk

S/ Henry Thomas



[p 3]

Questions

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In the County of Rowan North Carolina in the year 1758 on the fourth day of March.

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

Ans. I have had a record but it is lost but from the records of my Brothers both older and younger, than me I know my statement to be correct.

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

Ans. Near the Catawba Rowan County (since struck off into Iredell) I remained in Iredell until the year 1798 then removed into Sumner County Tennessee where I remained one year I then removed into the County of Wilson where I remained until the year 1830; I then removed into Dyer County Tennessee where I now reside.

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

Ans I was drafted twice and served three months each tour.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. Regular officers at Gates & De Kalb – Colonel Armstrong & Colonel Lofton were of the Militia officers which I served under. Captain Purviance; Morrison &c. the above Declaration which this is attached to gives all the names of officers and other circumstances which I can recollect.

¹ [William Leach S4528](#)

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Ans. I received a discharge for the first tour of three months from Major John Johnston which has since been lost. -- for the second tour I was verbally discharged at Salisbury by Captain Morrison.

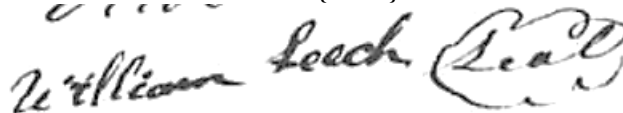
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans. John Rutherford Esq. & Ridley Jones whose names are attached to the above declaration and Robert Reed Esq. Col. Samuel J. Williams, Major J. M. McCorkle, Reverend Samuel Y. Thomas and my Brother James Thomas who can testify to my services.

[p 8]

I do hereby certify that Henry Thomas did serve three months in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Lofton in the Corps commanded by General Rutherford in the year 1781 of the Revolutionary War. Given under my hand and seal this 13th day of October 1832

S/ William Leech {Seal}



[p 4]

State of Tennessee Dyer County, July 29th, 1833

I do hereby certify that Henry Thomas my Brother performed the services as stated in his declaration given under my hand the day and date above written.

S/ James Thomas



I do hereby certify that the above statements contained in this supplement annexed to the Declaration are true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

S/ Henry Thomas {Seal}

[attested by]

S/ Edwin A. McCorkle, JP

[p 13: John Rutherford, JP, and Ridley Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[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.]