

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Sherley S17083

fn41SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/27/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Illinois Jackson County: SS

On this 5th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the County Commissioners Court of Jackson County now sitting Thomas Sherley a Resident of Jackson County in the State of Illinois aged seventy-two 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 in the year 1780 as this Deponent believes he was Resident of Fairfield County at that time in the State of South Carolina in the summer of that year after the British had taken Charleston Lord Rawdon marched from Charleston up the country as far as Winnsborough near the place where this deponent resided. He then became necessary for everyone to take sides and join the Army and this deponent then not more than fifteen years of age turned out as a volunteer with others of his neighborhood with the intention of joining some part of the American Army and went and joined the Army or party under the command of General Marion near the Rocky Mount in the State of South Carolina and from that time on this deponent served constantly under General Marion until the close of the war in the manner in which that General served his Country sometimes his whole force were together at others his troops detached in small parties to avoid the enemy and then called together again whenever it was thought they could then better served the American cause ready and willing at any moment to attack the enemy whether British or Tories. This deponent was one of the party under Marion when they attacked a party of Tories who were collecting upon little Pedee [River]. Marion was at the time encamped in the swamps on the waters of Black River – and was informed by a little boy sent by his father (this boy this deponent saw and heard him inform Marion) that the Tories were collecting and encamped on Little Pedee intending to hunt out and attack Marion. General Marion ordered a scout [?] march with a force of perhaps about 80 in number this deponent one of them [to] lay by in the day time and marched by night for three nights in succession and came up on the Tories, killed or took the most of them with their spoil and entirely broke them up at that place.

This Deponent was in the Eutaw [Eutaw Springs] Battle in conjunction with the Continentals and this was the only battle in which he fought in conjunction with the Continentals. This deponent was in a great variety of slight skirmishes (slight only because with but few in number both with the Tories and the British when they marched North through the country. This Deponent and about 15 or 18 others under Marion marched two nights and a part of the third and destroyed seven flat boats which the British had prepared upon Big Pedee River for crossing their Army as they were marching North through the Country. Under Marion there was a Major by the name of McDonald one Captain Newton. This deponent thinks there were no officers or very few who were commissioned or acted constantly in any office but General

Marion would appoint someone to act as an officer when there was any particular service to be performed and when that was done we were on equal footing again.

This deponent could go on and state a great variety of services under General Marion but it is not worth while to do so as the services are well known and I hearsay as I have said that I was under General Marion and doing any duty required of me from the time I entered under him as above mentioned until his party was finally disbanded at the close of the war and it is well done that his party was by no means in active. This tour was about three years – This Deponent says that he at this time has no documentary testimony to offer of his services and he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his said services and who is within his reach at this time.

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.

Interrogatories put by the Court

Question one Where and in what year were you born

Answer. In the year 1760 or 61 in the County of Fairfield and the State of South Carolina.

Question 2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it –

Answer. My father died before I was born. My mother had a Record of her children's ages in a Bible and that is all the record thereof that I know of and that I have not seen for a long time –

Question 3rd – Where were you when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live.

Answer – I refer to my former statement in answer to the first part of this question. Since the war I lived some time in South Carolina & then moved to Tennessee Davidson County thence to McNairy County thence to Illinois to Clinton County thence to Fayette County thence to Jackson County where I now live.

Question 4th How were you called into service. Were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom –

Answer – I entered the service as a volunteer and served in that capacity throughout without any compensation whatever.

Question 5. 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 –

Answer. I do not think I can't state anything of importance further than I have upon this subject.

Question 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it –

Answer I received a written discharge from General Marion in person when I left the service and by his particular advice and took special care of it until it and most of my other effects were burnt in a house.

Question 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 of your services as a soldier of the Revolution –

Answer – I give the names of Green Lindsey, a clergyman – and Benjamin F Conner both well acquainted with me and living in my neighborhood.

S/ Thomas Sherley, X his mark

[Green Lindsey, a clergyman, and Benjamin F Conner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Illinois Jackson County: SS: On the 3rd day of September 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Commissioners Court of Jackson County now sitting Thomas Sherley a resident of Jackson County State of Illinois aged seventy-three 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 in the year 1780 according to the best of this deponent's recollection he was a citizen of Fairfield County in the State of South Carolina and in the summer of that year after the British had taken Charleston they marched up the country as far as a place called Winnsborough under the command of Lord Rawdon who made that place his head quarters. This was within seven miles of the residence of this Deponent who at that time was about fifteen years old or a little younger. It then became necessary for all to take sides and this deponent with many others of his neighbors although so young turned out and started to join the Americans under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene] but on our way we fell in with a Party of General Marion's men under the command of Sergeant McDonald and through his advice and that of this Deponent's uncle who had a kind of control of the party we concluded to go and join General Marion instead of pursuing our route to General Green. This was in the fall of the same year that Charleston was taken and this Deponent remained constantly in service under General Marion from that time until finally disbanded after the close of the war which was about two years. He thinks he can safely say two years and six months. During this time this Deponent served in the manner in which Marion and his men served the Country always watching an opportunity to be useful to the American cause sometimes altogether to the number of seventy or thereabouts when this service demanded it at other times separated in small parties to avoid the enemy and then called together again when there was a prospect of being more useful embodied. This deponent was present and fought at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs he fought in which Battle upon the left wing of the American Army commanded by Major John Person [Pearson?]. Marion was called on and marched with his men and joined the Americans the night before the Battle and marched directly back again soon after the Battle was over. We fought the British and were beaten by them off the ground and retreated until we met a reinforcement under Colonel Washington we then turned upon the British and drove them back on to the battleground and there lay all night intending to fight again in the morning but in the night time the British retreated. Colonel Washington was taken in this Battle. General Marion marched his men there in person but this Deponent does not recollect seeing him in the Battle and does not know what command he had. This was the only time this deponent fought in connection with the Continentals. This Deponent was one of the Party under Marion who attacked a Party of Tories upon Little Pedee [River]. Marion was informed by a little boy who was sent by his father that the Tories were collecting upon Little Pedee with the intention of hunting out Marion and his party and attacking them. He was at this time encamped in the swamps on the waters of Black River. He immediately ordered a secret march with a force of 70 or 80 in number we lay by in the daytime and marched in the night for 3 nights in succession and came upon the Tories and killed and took the most of them with their spoil and entirely broke them up at that place. This Deponent with 15 or 18 others under General Marion marched two nights and a part of the third and destroyed 7 flat boats which the British had prepared upon big Pedee River for crossing their Army as they were marching North through the Country. This Deponent was in a number of skirmishes both with the British as they marched North through the Country and with the Tories and lost no opportunity of attacking either whenever there was an opportunity of effecting anything thereby.

As to the officers this Deponent can't say but little he does not even know that Marion

himself held a Commission but was always called General by his men and had the supreme command. There was one by the name of McDonald who was called sometimes Major and sometimes Sergeant and one by the name of Newton who was called Captain another by the name of Howa [Horry?] who was sometimes called Captain or Major &c but the understanding of this Deponent was that Marion had the entire command and when there was any expedition on hand he would appoint someone to command or assist him as the case required and for the time being they would be called by some title but in this he may be mistaken and some of the Party might have had commissions. This Deponent claims for two years and six months Service as a private Soldier under General Marion as he believes he served that time and is certain he served at least two years and three months.

This Deponent says he has no documentary testimony to call for to prove his said services and he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his said services. 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.

Questions put by the Court

Question 1. Where and in what year were you born

Ans. In the year 1765 or 1766 in the County of Fairfield in the State of South Carolina.

Question 2nd Have you any Record of your age and if so where is it

Ans. My Father died before I was born. My Mother had a record of her children's ages in a Bible and that is all the record thereof that I know of and that I have not seen for a long time.

Question 3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Ans. I refer to my former Statement in answer to the first part of this question. Since the revolutionary war I lived some time in South Carolina then moved to the State of Tennessee Davidson County then to McNairy County then to Illinois to Clinton County thence to Fayette County thence to Jackson County where I now live.

Question 4. How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a substitute for whom

Ans. I entered the service as a volunteer in the manner herein before stated and served as such throughout without any compensation whatever.

Question 5. 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. I never served or fought in connection with any of the Continental troops except at the Eutaw battle to that place we were called by an express arrived I believe the night before the Battle and as soon as it was over returned to our encampment on Pedee we were so short a time with the troops that I had but little time to learn the names of the officers I can recollect that Major Parson commanded the wing of the Army in which I fall but do not know which was the extent of his commission. I recollect also that Colonel Washington commanded the Reinforcement which met us & checked the British in their pursuit and whether he had just then arrived or had been stationed as a Reserve I can't tell but this much I know that after retreating some distance he came to our assistance and we turned and drove the enemy in our turn and that he was afterwards taken prisoner. Marion's plan was to lay in some secret or inaccessible place some swamp or other place after changing his position so that his station might not be known to the enemy. He had communication with many of the citizens who were not in the Army and was often informed by them where there was an opportunity of attacking the British or Tories and by

that means was able to do more towards guarding and defending the country than a much larger & more regular force could have done. By his general information by means of the citizens and of his own small parties scouring the Country and his sudden attack he was often able to disconcert the plans of the Tories in their first movements when if suffered to organize they would have done much mischief.

Question 6. 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 written discharge from General Marion himself when I left the service and by his Particular advice as I did not apply for it and told him it was hardly worth while to give it. He answered these were his words, "Take it may be of benefit to you in a coming day." I took special care of it for many years when I had the misfortune to lose it with much of my property by the burning of my house by accident.

Question 7 – 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 of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Ans. I give the names of Milton Ladd, a clergyman and Benjamin F. Conner – both are acquainted with me and living in my neighborhood.

S/ Thomas Sherley, X his mark

[Milton Ladd, a clergyman, and Benjamin F Conner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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