

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Lofton S17114

Transcribed by Will Graves

f37NC/SC

rev'd 4/19/10 & 5/29/15

[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, Pickens County

On this 10th day of December AD 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the County Court of said County, now sitting, Thomas Lofton, a resident of Pickens County and State of Alabama, aged between 71 or 72 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: to wit as follows:

I do hereby certify that after the revolutionary war began in the year 1775 and being then in my 15th year, I joined Captain James Duff's company of mounted rifleman under the command of Colonel Thomas Neel of South Carolina in the district now called York, who marched to join General Richardson [Richard Richardson] of said State appointed commander in chief against the Tories, who had risen up in arms in a large body, and then forced Colonel Williamson [Andrew Williamson] to surrender with all his men together with a rail fort which they had built. Our commander Richardson marched in what was then called Ninety Six in pursuit of the enemy, but finding they had dispersed themselves, we therefore found no enemy to contend with, were discharged and returned home. This was called the Snowy Campaign and lasted two months.

That winter the assembly of South Carolina passed an act to raise six regiments of regulars for the term of 12 months, and my brother, Andrew Lofton, and myself, enlisted in Captain James Duff's company, George Duff 1st Lieutenant, James Hawthorn 2nd Lieutenant and Joshua Lucy, Ensign. The company embodied at Captain Duff's house and marched for Charleston South Carolina on the first day of April 1776, where we arrived on the following first day of May. When the Regiment was organized under the command of Colonel Thomas Sumter, we were then set to work raising batteries and mounting heavy cannon on the wharves. The British fleet shortly after appearing in sight off Sullivan's Island, and our Regiment was ordered over to join the other regiments which were stationed at the upper end of that island, and in view of Long Island, where Cornwallis had landed with 2500 men, and were waiting for a low tide to march over to Sullivan's Island; at the time the shipping attacked the Fort, Sumter's Regiment was ordered from Sullivan's Island to Haddrell's Point, and from thence two miles higher up to Bolton's Landing, where we remained till after the attack by the shipping on Fort Moultrie.

The British left the State and the Regiment commanded by Sumter was ordered over to town and sent against the Cherokee Indians who had [come] out and was [were] driving the inhabitants of the back settlements before them. We were ordered to join General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] at Fort Rutledge on Seneca River in the Cherokee Country. From thence we marched through the said country till we passed the Middle Settlements where we camped for the night and the next day we had a sharp action with the enemy which lasted about an hour. In this action we lost twelve white men and one Catawba Indian. We took the ground from them. After burying our dead, we proceeded on to the Valley Towns which we burnt and destroyed their crops of corn. We then marched back by another route to Seneca where the militia was discharged and Sumter marched his Regiment to the Santee River where we encamped and each mess built log houses for themselves. Sometime in the month of February we received orders to march for the Altamaha River and on our route we proceeded on to Purrysburg from thence to Savannah and to Sunbury [sic, Sunbury] and reached the Altamaha which we crossed and went to the great and little Satilla Rivers where we had several skirmishes with the Creek Indians and then made prisoners of some mounted horsemen-- a Captain McGirth [sic, Daniel McGirt] of Pensacola they stated was their commander -- we then recross the Altamaha; returned by the same route and arrived at Tawcaw late in the month of May. We then remained here encamped for three weeks till the paymaster arrived from Charleston who paid us off and we were discharged about the middle of June 1777 and marched home where we arrived the latter part of June having been in the service about 15 months.

My brother and myself remained at home with our father until the fall of the year 1778 when we then volunteered for a five months tour. Colonel Hugh Brevard of Burke County North Carolina was our Colonel and William McKenzie Captain and the whole of the militia commanded by General Griffith Rutherford. Our Army then joined General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] at Purysburg South Carolina and the whole was commanded by him as Continental General appointed by Congress for the Southern district. After remaining here sometime, General Ashe [John Ashe] was sent over to the Georgia side of Savannah River near the mouth of Briar Creek. General Rutherford received orders to march to the Two Sisters ferry to cross over and join Ashe. We marched to the ferry and encamped but had not been long there when the action commenced by the British on Ashe and his militia [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]. Rutherford ordered 500 men to cross the river among whom was Lieutenant Colonel Grimkie [sic, John Faucheraud Grimke¹] of the artillery of the South Carolina line with three field pieces. The officers and artillery man were landed; got the guns out and fixed on their carriages; began our march and met General Ashe who told us he was defeated. We then recrossed the River and in about a week marched back and joined Lincoln. Nothing further happened till we were discharged which was the 5 April 1779. This last mentioned tour from the time we left time till we returned lasted six months.

Early in the spring of the year 1780 the British appeared off Charleston South Carolina. We were obliged to be out from the first of April in keeping down the Tories who were numerous in Lincoln County and Rutherford North Carolina but in the month of May and after Charleston was taken by the British [May 12, 1780], they embodied under Colonel John Moore and encamped at Ramsour's Mill. Colonel Sumter [Thomas Sumter] had left his home and came into the back part of South Carolina where numbers joined him and amongst the number my brother and myself and marched for the Tories at the above named mill. I

¹ [John Faucheraud Grimke W11088](#)

was at this time first lieutenant in Captain Joseph Howe's company commanded by Colonel Andrew Neel. We joined General Rutherford of the North Carolina militia in about two hours before we got to Ramsour's, the Tories were completely defeated by Colonel Francis Locke who commanded the militia of Rowan County [June 20, 1780]. Colonel Neel then marched from thence with 110 men and defeated Captain Huck [Christian Huck] of Tarleton's Dragoons [Battle of Williamson's plantation also known as Brattonsville, Huck's Defeat, July 12, 1780]. Huck was killed, Captain Adamson of the infantry wounded and taken prisoner and the whole party were either killed, wounded or dispersed.

Our next tour was at Rocky Mount where we failed [July 30, 1780] and I our brave Colonel Neel was killed. The next Sunday following we attacked the British at the Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780] whom we'd defeated and took from them nearly 100 prisoners. Sumter was our commander in chief during the above actions. After Colonel Neel's death, I was under the command of Colonel William Hill and continued with General Sumter till after his defeat on Fishing Creek when my brother Andrew and myself returned to Lincoln County where our father Samuel Lofton lived.

The Tories began to make head again under Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] of the British Army and we were reinforced by the mountain men under Colonels Campbell [William Campbell], Shelby [Isaac Shelby], Sevier [John Sevier] and Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] with the South Carolina militia under Colonel's Hill, Hawthorn [James Hawthorn] and Lacey [Edward Lacey] and early in the month of October we attacked Ferguson on King's Mountain whom we totally defeated [October 7, 1780] and killed him together with 150 of his men, a number wounded and taken prisoner. On the first of this month, October, I was elected Captain of Barber's old company [in] Lincoln County. Shortly after the defeat of Ferguson, my brother Andrew left me and joined a party of militia under Major McDowell [Joseph McDowell] who united themselves to General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and I never saw him more since as he fell at Tarleton's defeat [Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781] fighting for his country. I still continued to command my company and joined General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] under the command of Colonel Graham [Captain Joseph Graham]. Cornwallis made rapid push to retake our prisoners but he was stopped in his march by the Catawba River which was then very high from the heavy rains however they forced a passage at Cowan's Ford where we fought [February 1, 1781] them until they got over when we were compelled to retreat, our brave General Davidson being killed during the action. About this time Colonel Graham was arrested for misconduct and left the service and I was now commanded by Colonel Locke [Francis Locke]. Cornwallis pushed hard after General Greene and when he crossed Dan River into Virginia, Cornwallis turned down to Hillsboro in North Carolina and shortly after Greene recrossed the Dan River and sent General Pickens of South Carolina and Colonel Henry Lee commander of Dragoons and mounted infantry to go as near the British lines as possible and endeavor to cut off a party of them. I joined the above with my company and we were not long out when we fell in with Colonel Pyles [sic, Doctor John Pyle] and 500 find looking Tories and I never before witnessed the works of death carried to such an extent in so short a time as was here; Pyles with his Tories being all either killed or wounded in about 10 minutes [Pyle's Defeat or Holts Race Paths, February 25, 1781]. After a good deal of marching and countermarching, we joined hands with Lord Cornwallis at Guilford Court house and after a hard-fought action [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781], we retreated a few miles to Troublesome Iron Works but in two days after we marched back to Guilford Courthouse but his Lordship

was gone. This action was fought sometime in the month of March 1781 and near the latter end of that month my company was discharged and we returned home.

In the fall of the same year 1781, I was again called out by the order of General Rutherford who had been taken prisoner at Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], was exchanged and had returned home with a vengeance in his heart against the British and the Tories and accordingly he marched an Army low down into Carolina but finding nobody of the enemy, hardly enough to give us battle and after being some time on that tour we were discharged and the General gave me written orders to return home to raise a company of mounted rifleman and take every man in Lincoln County who had been guilty of treason or misprision of treason and lodge them safely in Salisbury jail and this was my last tour which ended in the spring of 1782.

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 or (if any) only on that of the Agency of the State of Alabama.

In answer to the first interrogatory propounded by the court to this applicant to wit:

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

He states that he was born in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina on the 18th day of May 1761

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

I have no record of my age and know it only from the statement of my parents.

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

I lived in Lincoln County North Carolina at the time I was called into service and continued living there until 1783. From thence [I moved] to Abbeville district South Carolina and lived there until '85. Afterwards [I lived] in Pendleton district South Carolina and lived there until the year 1824. Afterwards [I lived] in Greene County Alabama where I lived until the year 1828. Afterwards, [I lived] in Pickens County Alabama where I now reside and have been residing about five years.

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?

I always volunteered.

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.

[I] Stated in the declaration the names of all the officers except the second tour where Lee was then commander in chief and at Ferguson's defeat, William Graham was my Colonel.

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

Yes, I obtained a discharge from my first tour by Colonel Thomas Neel; from my second tour by Colonel Thomas Sumter and from my third by Colonel Francis Locke, all the discharges I received together with my commissions or brevets which they were then called were placed at the close of the war in an old chest belonging to my father and in his possession together with many other old papers of his which he deemed of but little value as I did my discharge and commission at that time. Afterwards my father moved to the state of Kentucky where he died. I have since tried to get possession of the papers but have been unable.

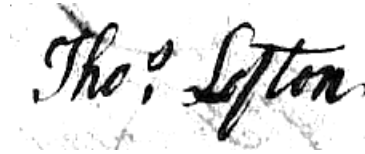
6th [sic]: Did you ever receive a commission, and if so, by whom was it signed, and what has become of it?

I received a commission or brevet as above stated from Colonel Sumter for the office of first lieutenant which office I held six months. Also received a commission or brevet for the office of Captain from Brigadier General Davidson which office I held until [illegible words]

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.

I am acquainted with Colonel Holland and Colonel Bradford who can testify to my character for truth and veracity.

S/Thos Lofton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Lofton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sworn and subscribe to in open court this the 10th day of December 1832
[Silas Dobbs, a clergyman, and Colonel Charles M. Holland and Colonel David Bradford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

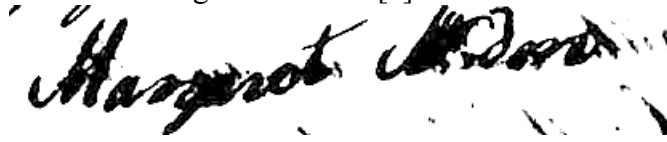
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Greene County Alabama October 9 1832

I hereby certify that when the revolutionary war began I was living with my Father Samuel Lofton in the State of North Carolina and lived with him till after the end of said war and do remember at the different times my brother Thomas Lofton was from home in the service of his Country during the continuance of the war his first service was in the year 1775 under Captain James Duff as a mounted rifleman under the command of Colonel Thomas Neill [Neel] of South Carolina this was called the Snow we Campaign which lasted two months. After that was ended my two brothers Thomas and Andrew Lofton enlisted in the regular troops of the State of South Carolina for the term of twelve months in Captain James Duff's Company Colonel Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] Regiment, my brothers from [the time] they left home about the first of April 1776 was from home in said service until near the latter in of June 1777 when they returned home having been from home 14 months. In the year 1778 they were out again said to be under General Rutherford of North Carolina 5 months but were 6 months from home which was in the year 1779 in the year 1780 my Brothers were both out again from early in the month of May they were said to be under General Sumter until after his defeat by Tarleton on Fishing Creek Thomas Lofton was then elected Lieutenant under Captain John Barber in [indecipherable word] County where he served till after Ferguson's defeat when he was elected Captain of said company which he was said to command in said County until after Tarleton's defeat by General Morgan. My brother Andrew Lofton was killed in that engagement. My brother Thomas Lofton was then out with General Greene where he served till sometime in the March following when he returned home and was at home till the next fall and winter he was said to be under the immediate orders of General Rutherford my brother Thomas Lofton was sent home he finished his tour in [indecipherable word] County with orders from the general to take all

persons prisoners in said County who had been guilty of treason or [several indecipherable words] and lodged them in Salisbury jail this was his last tour and Indians in 1782.

S/ Margaret McDow [?]



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State of Alabama Greene County: Personally appeared before me Edward Herndon Esquire an acting Justice of the peace for the aforesaid County & State Arthur McDow Senior, who being duly sworn deposes and saith that he has been acquainted with Mr. Thomas Lofton since the year 1791 & that he has ever born the character of an honest respectable man that he was reputed in Pendleton District South Carolina to have been a brave, active revolutionary officer and was much respected & esteemed in that District, and I have always deemed him to be as much entitled to the benefit of a pension as any revolutionary officer. Mr. Lofton is a member of the Church and has acted as one of the Elders of the church to which he belongs, great credit is due and ought to be given to any statement which he might make he can and ought to be believed on oath.

S/ Arthur McDow



Sworn to and subscribed before made this 9th Day of October 1832

S/ Edward Herndon, JP

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October the 23rd 1832

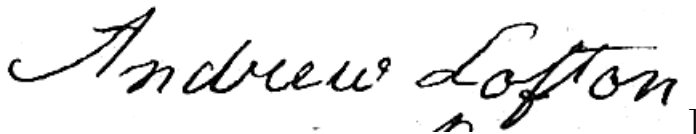
I do hereby certify that I was with Thomas Lofton was [one or more words too faint to discern] revolutionary War in a Regiment of State Troops of South Carolina commanded by Colonel Thomas Sumter the 6th Regiment continued in the said Regiment for 15 or 16 months until he was discharged by the commanding officer of said Regiment from that time I saw him in the militia service and I do believe that he continued in the service until the close of it in behalf of his Country.

S/ James Robertson,² R his mark

I do hereby certify that James Robertson has this day made oath before me to the said affidavit

S/ Tilman Mitchell, JP

[p 15: Thomas Lofton died May 28, 1840 leaving no widow; Andrew Lofton acted as the administrator of his estate.



² Perhaps the same man as [James Robertson S14341](#)

[On June 9, 1857, in Carrollton, Pickens Co., Alabama, Alex B. Clitherall wrote a letter to the pension office stating that Thomas Lofton died some 17 years ago and that two of his children are yet living and wish to know if they might be due arrearages owed their father under the pension laws.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$340 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a Lieutenant & Captain in the militia for 2 years.]