

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Etheldred Thomas S17143

fn18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Georgia, Laurens County

On this fourth day of November 1833, personally appeared before B. W. Hampton, M. G. O'Neal & H. B. Hathaway Justices of the Inferior Court Etheldred Thomas of the County and State aforesaid, aged 70 years on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July last past, and being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, for services rendered in the revolutionary war.

His First service. Entered as a substitute for Joshua Jones in the latter part of September 1780, in the Franklin County Militia North Carolina, on the term of three months, under command of Jenkins Devany [Devaney?] – Field officers Colonel Hart and Lieutenant Colonel Branch, and commanded by General Jones. We commenced our march at Louisburg – thence to Hillsboro – to Salisbury – to Charlotte – and thence to Six Mile Creek, New Providence, in North Carolina in North Carolina, where we were placed under command of General Smallwood until General Greene took command of the Southern Army on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1780. He was in the detachment under Lieutenant Colonel Washington, when he captured Rugeley's Fort, by mounting a pine log shaped like a cannon on a pair of cart wheels, seeing which caused the surrender of the Fort by Colonel Rugeley with 117 Tories and a British officer who was paying his addresses to Rugeley's daughter: the Fort about 13 miles above Camden in South Carolina. The prisoners were guarded to New Providence where General Greene had his Head Quarters. In a few days we marched with the prisoners and placed them in Salisbury Jail. Then we marched to Hillsboro, and were discharged December 23, 1780: we of Captain Devany's company were furnished with written discharges by Colonel Dixon, where General Davidson was likewise to take the command of other Militia. We got home to Louisburg on Christmas day, the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1780.

Second tour of service. This was as substitute for David Mims, who was drafted for a three months tour of duty; but those who would furnish themselves with a horse were to be excused with two months service. Mims gave me a horse, some paper money and five bushels of corn to feed the horse with, to serve as his substitute in Captain Robertson's Company of Militia light horse, for two months. We commenced march at Louisburg – thence to Harrisburg, Granville County, where we joined General Greene – thence to Hillsborough – thence on detachment under Colonel Malmedy till the Battle of Guilford Court House. In the morning of that day Lieutenant Colonel Lee attacked the British light horse at New Gardens a few miles below the courthouse. Captain Robertson's company was formed on the left of the Army in the line of battle – as Lee retreated, he ordered Captain Robertson to select 15 men, the best mounted, to go and reconnoiter on a road by which the British might term our left flank, and in such event to give him immediate notice. I was one of the 15; but the British did not advance in that direction, and Captain Robertson seeing the action was lost, assisted a party that was driving Cattle & Hogs that had been procured by Colonel Wade for Greene's Army, which was the only provision for the Army after retreat to the Iron works. General Greene ordered the Militia men's horses to be sent home; and I remained as soldier on foot, and advanced with the Army, in pursuit of Cornwallis to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River, within about 2 miles of the Mills, we got into a skirmish with the British Picket guard, on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1781. When Greene marched to the southward, I returned home under Captain Gandy, who guarded some prisoners; and at Jones Tavern [could be Janes' or James' Tavern] he gave me written discharge the last of March – the day not remembered.

Third tour of service. About two weeks after returning home from the second tour – say middle of April 1781, Entered as a volunteer, for three months, in the Franklin County light horse under Captain Bledsoe: the nature of this service, was to arrest, and force into service, those men who had been drafted and refused their service; and as a guard for the public granaries. At the end of three

months, I had a written discharge from Captain Bledsoe, the date not remembered.

Fourth tour of service. In a few days after my last discharge, say in the early part of August 1781, Entered again for three months as a servant to General Brickell – marched from Louisburg to Warrenton, thence to Halifax to meet other troops. At Halifax General Brickell got sick; and when the General became able to travel, I returned with him to Franklin County, and was there discharged. The exact duration of this service, and date of discharge is not remembered, but was between one and two months.

Fifth tour of service. Entered as a volunteer in Captain the Baron de Glasbac's<sup>1</sup> company sometime in the Fall of 1781 – marched to the town of Halifax – thence to Tarborough, and to Parmenter's, the time about one month; from this service I enlisted in the State troops for either 18 months or three years, I forget which – was furloughed to go home, and return to receive the bounty money and clothing; but as neither bounty money nor clothing were to be had, the Governor ordered the men, myself with the others, to be discharged. The time of this service about 15 days: date of discharge – not remembered.

Sixth and the last tour of service. Entered as a substitute for Laban Smart, for three months, under Captain Nathan Turner, in Franklin County, North Carolina in September 1780 1 – Marched from Louisburg to Halifax – thence to Tarborough, when the news of the capture of Cornwallis was received – thence to Kingston [sic, Kinston] on Neuse River – thence to Richmond Chapel on our way to Wilmington; when at Richland Chapel New River, General Caswell sent orders for the soldiers to be sent to their respective counties, and there to be discharged. The date of discharge not remembered.

I had all the discharges and brought them, or most of them with me from North Carolina where the services were performed, to Georgia in 1784 – showed them to Colonel Clarke in Wilkes County, as a certificate that I had been a friend of my Country; and have been a resident of Georgia since that time.

He, the said Etheldred Thomas, hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency of any State.

S/ E. Thomas

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ B. W. Hampton, JIC

S/ M.G. O'Neal, JIC

S/ H. B. Hathaway, JIC

[Thomas Moore and Lewis Maddux gave the standard courting affidavit.]

The Court propounded the following interrogatories to Ethelred Thomas, an applicant for a pension, on account of service in the Militia of North Carolina, during the Revolutionary War, Viz.:

1<sup>st</sup>: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Northampton County North Carolina, on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 1763.

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

Answer: The Record of my birth was made in my mother's prayer book, which she gave to her oldest daughter, and she gave it to, now, Elizabeth Candler, who lives in Monroe County, Georgia

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

Answer: I was living in Franklin County, North Carolina; where I lived till 1784, when I came to Georgia, Wilkes County, where I lived, and in Warren County (which was a part of Wilkes & other Counties) till 1814, when I came to reside in Laurens County where I now reside.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and

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<sup>1</sup> Heitman p 250 lists a Baron Glasbeech who was brevetted a captain in the Continental Army March 9, 1781, "in consideration of his merit and services at the Battle of Cowpens."

if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: This is particularly answered above.

5<sup>th</sup> 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: This is answered above.

6<sup>th</sup> 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 written discharges, at the termination of the several tours of service, as above stated; I brought them, or most of them, with me to Georgia to show what I had been; I showed them to Colonel Clarke, when I came to Georgia; and supposing they were of no further use, they were mislaid and are lost.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Answer: All the people for 10 miles are more or less acquainted with me – they know nothing of my revolutionary services, but from my own information & conversations – our Congressional Senator George M. Troup, and Thomas McCall live within 3 miles of me; General Blackshear about 8 miles; Dr. Moore & all the inhabitants of Dublin, 6 miles off, are acquainted with me.