

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Hopkins S18026

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 Dec 2014.

State of South Carolina }

Anson County, } Declaration of Thomas Hopkins residing in South Carolina Lancaster District a Soldier of the Revolutionary War for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress for the relief of Certain Surviving Officers & Soldiers of the Army of the revolution approved on the 15th of May 1828.

I Thomas Hopkins of the State of South Carolina Lancaster District do hereby declare That I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution for three Years & Continued in its service untill its Termination at which period I was a private Soldier in Capt. George Hamiltons Company who I enlisted under & to the best of my recollection fifth Maryland regiment of the Continental line And I do not recollect that I afterwards received a Certificate for the reward of Eighty Dollars to which it appears I was entitled under a resolve of Congress Passed the 15th of May 1778, and I further declare that, I was not on the 15th day of March 1828, on the Pension list of the United States. I enlisted in a Town called Charleston where my Father Thomas Hopkins lived at that time in the State of Maryland Cecil County as well as now recollected in the Month of February or March in the year 1780, & there stationed I think two Months then Capt. Hamilton carried his men I think 20 or 25 in number by water to Baltimore from there by water to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] State of Virginia there Landed & there met Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates Gen'l. [William] Smallwood Gen'l. Decalb [sic: Baron De Kalb] Colo. [Otho Holland] Williams Adj't. Devol [Adjutant Duval] Lieut. Gold [probably James Gould] Lieut. Reason with the North regim't, from there we marched by Land to Hillsboro N.Carolina thence to Ramseys Mill [on Deep River in Chatham County] there one or two weeks collecting Provisions thence to New Town now Wadesboro in Anson County thence to South Carolina Ridges Mill not far below Camden [sic: Rugeley's Mill 12 mi N of Camden SC, 14 Aug 1780] there two days the second day it was said Gen'l. Gates went into Camden in the morning & returned into camp in the Evening & that knight about midnight the British & the American advanced Gard Commenced firing at brake of day the British Cannon fired & the Battle Commenced Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] & it was said that Gen'l. Gates fled & Gen'l. Decalb took the Command & was wounded & died [19 Aug] as I understood those who was not killed wounded or taken Prisoners fled in various directions some collected in Charlotte N.C. & Salisbury N.C. Some in Hillsboro N.C & there we collected together & continued I think eleven days under Gen'l. Smallwood until Gen'l. Gates appeared & took the Command it was said he was in the Town during the time but was not seen by many Lieut. Gold & Lieut. Reason was there Gen'l. Gates then took the Command & I never seed my Capt. G. Hamilton again we were then marched back to Charlot there I think fifteen days Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] then came & took the command of the Army [3 Dec 1780] & as I understood Gen'l. Gates was sent to the North for trial & some of the Officers as witness against him from Charlotte Gen'l. Green marched us to Cheraw Hill South Carolina & I think continued there the most of the winter [sic: 20 Dec 1780 - 28 Jan 1781] from There marched back to Gilford [sic: Guilford] County N.C thence to the State of Virginia [14 Feb 1781] & was there joined by the Virginia & N.Carolina Militia he then marched back I think near Gilford Court House N.C there I think too days then the Battle Commenced between Gen'l. Green & Wallis [sic: Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781 between Greene and Cornwallis] Greens Army was formed in order for battle behind a small fence the Militia in front to receive the first fire then regulars & I found it severe Gen'l. Green retreated I think about seven miles [about 10 miles NE to Troublesome Iron Works] there one day thence to Ramsey's Mills there two days thence to S. Carolina near Camden there had a Battle with the British [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, 25 Apr 1781] & was beaten back I think three mile by the British then we beat the British back I think into Camden from there we marched to fort Tompson & the fort surrendered British & Torys there [see endnote] I think ten days from there we marched to Ninetysix & there I think

six weeks had some little fighting [siege of Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] from there to Sumterville I think below Camden & there I think three months [sic: near present Sumter in High Hills of Santee, 12 Jul - 22 Aug] & there we were informed Gen'l. Washington had taken Wallis [sic: surrender of Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] from there we Marched to the Utau Springs there had a Battle with the British & was defeated by the British [Battle of Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] from there we Marched to Charleston & there continued I think three or four months the Militia was discharged I cannot recollect how long before the regulars was I continued a regular till all was discharged there by Gen'l. Green. I received a discharge from Green or some of my officers & what has become of it I know not. I returned home by Land to my Fathers House in Charleston State of Maryland & there I resided until after the death of my Father I think was a bout seven years my Brother James Hopkins enlisted some years before I did and as I understood during the war & was under Washington to the North of Maryland

In Gates defeat at Camden at that time I understood the roles [muster rolls] & books was destroyed Capt. Hamblenton, who I enlisted under I never seed him again new officers making out roles must have made a wrong statement of my enlistment & services & my former application has not been writely stated. After the death of my Father I wen to South Carolina Lancaster District where I have resided in the same settlement to the present day. I have no papers to prove my services nor do I know of any Person living by whom I could. I have no record of my age I am illiterate can nether write or read but from what I have herd my Father say I am 75. or 76, years old I further declare that I am not on the Pension role of this state or any other or the United States my services has been that of a regular three years & eight months which was the close of the war my Pension I think ought to be equal to the pay of a regular I fought in several hard battles I should have made application many Years Past but after the war we have had six Children all died but one my self & wife are supported by the Commissioners of the Poor as I could not live comfortably without the assistance of my Country. my reasons for crossing the line into North Carolina to file my Declaration it is most convenient for me at this time of life to a Justice of the Peace & my old neighbors.

I relinquish every Claim to a Pension or annuity whatever & declare my name is not on the Pension role of any State or the United States

Sworn & Subscribed this Novb'r. 30th 1836, before me
Samuel Parker JP

Thomas hisXmark Hopkins

[page torn] of South Carolina }
[Lan]caster District } SS.

On this Eighteenth day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty five personally appeared in open Court before the Hon'l Judge Rich'd. Gantt one of the Judges of the Court of Gen'l. Sessions & Common Pleas now sitting Thomas Hopkins aged seventy one years, who being first duly sworn as the law directs, doth on oath make the following declaration, in order to entitle him to the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832.

That he entered in the Army of the United States in the year 1780 with Cap. George Hamilton and that he served in the 5th Maryland Regiment of the line under the following named officers — Col. Williams – Maj'r. [Archibald] Anderson who was shot at Guilford NC. – under the Command of Gen'l. Gates (first) and after his defeat under Gen'l. Green — That he was discharged regularly from the service in April 1782 by his Lieutenant Reison in Charleston So. Carolina, but has long since lost his discharge, after having served two years and one month. That he resided, at the time he enlisted in Charlestown State of Maryland. That he was engaged in the Battles of Gates' Defeat, Battle of Guilford, The taking of Forts Friday [probably Fort Granby at Friday's Ferry, besieged 2-15 May 1781] and Thompson and the six weeks Siege of Ninety Six. that he was marched from Charlestown Maryland in Gen'l. Gates' Army to the Planes of Camden through the States of Virginia N. Carolina & South Carolina. after Gates' defeat he was marched by Gen'l. Smallwood to Hillsborough – thence into the State of Virginia thence by Gen'l Green to Cheraw So. Carolina where the Army quartered for the winter [sic: 26 Dec - 28 Jan 1781] – thence Gen'l. Green marched him with his army to Guilford N Carolina where Gen'l. Green & Gen'l.

[Daniel] Morgan joined their forces & united in the Battle of Guilford. thence he was marched to Col Ramsey's Mills in N Carolina & was engaged in Cutting off the Rear Guard of Lord Cornwallis' Army. thence he was marched by Gen'l. Green to Camden SoCarolina. that he was finally discharged after Peace [page torn] declared in Charleston SoCarolina, as before stated by his Lieutenant Reison – his Cap. Hamilton having been taken prisoner at Gates' defeat.

That he served with an embodied Corps called into service by competent authority. that he was either in the field or in garrison, and for the time during which the services were performed he was employed in no civil pursuit.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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.

To the Questions proposed he answers as follows —

- Ans'r. 1st. [He was born] In the State of Maryland in the year 1764 (dont know the day)
2^d I have no record of my age.
3^d I lived at the time I enlisted in Charlestown Maryland. Since the Revolution I have lived, where I now reside in Lancaster Dist. So. Carolina.
4th I enlisted but once for three years.
5th [officers recollected] Gen'l. Green, Gates, Morgan & Smallwood. & Co. Williams &c.
6th I rec'd a regular discharge, but have long since lost it. It was given by Lieut Reison.
7th I name [as neighbors who can certify his character for veracity and the belief of his services] B. S. Thompson Esqr & Amos Deason Esqr.

Sworn to this 18th Nov'r. 1835

Thos hisXmark Hopkins

Land Office, Annapolis, December 16th 1836;

I hereby Certify, that it appears by the Muster rolls of the revolution remaining in this office, that Thomas Hopkins enlisted as a private in Capt'n. [John] Lynch's Company, in the 5th Maryland Regiment for the term of three years, on the 13th day of February 1780, and was present on the 1st of November 1780; and I also further Certify, that it appears by a Depreciation pay roll also remaining in this office, That Thomas Hopkins, a private, of the Maryland Line, received £13.15.0 Depreciation money, issued to the Maryland quota of troops on Continental Establishment, on the 23rd day of February 1784;

George G. Brewer/ Reg'r. Land Off. U. S. Md.

State of North Carolina }

Anson County }

Be it known that before Samuel Parker a Justice of the Peace in & for the County aforesaid Personally appeared Thomas Hopkins of South Carolina Lancaster District & after being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath state that he was a Soldier of the revolutionary war he resided at the time in Cicil County in the State of Maryland in Charlestown where he enlisted for three years under Capt. Hambleton or Lynch in February or March in the year 1780, in the fifth regm't of the State of Maryland & served as stated in his Declaration filed in November 1836, & believes after Gates defeat at Camden there was new rolls made out & he with others of the Maryland redgm't was returned during the war & he served as a regular three years & eight months which was the end of the war & was discharged in Charleston South Carolina by Lieutenant Gold with the regulars in the fall or Winger 1783, he is illeterate his Discharge is lost years past and he knows of no Person by whom he could prove his services he recollects short time after he returned home he received thirty Dollars & believes all of the regm't belonged to the State of Maryland and served to the end of the war, he resides within four Miles of the Place he first settled on when he came to South Carolina, he has no record of his age but from the statement he has heard his Parents make he will be 77 years of age in March last he has no recollection of any other Thomas Hopkins that belonged to the fifth regm't of the State of Maryland but himself the above statement is to the best of his recollection

Sworn & Subscribed the 19th day of October 1837

Thomas hisXmark Hopkins

State of South Carolina }
Lancaster District } Be it known that before Jacob Funderburk a Justice of the Peace in & for
the District aforesaid Personally appeared Thomas Hopkins of said District & after being duly sworn
according to Law doth on his oath state as additional to his former Declaration his reason for his not
applying at an earlier period for Pension for services rendered the United States in the revolutionary War
as a Soldier I am illiterate and ignorant & the section where I reside as to the Laws of the United States I
am so far from my native State & has been absent so many years that I know not any person now living
by whom I could prove them by any other way than my oath Sworn & subscribed this 15th day of January
1838
Thomas hisXmark Hopkins

NOTES:

“Fort Tompson” may refer to the siege of Fort Motte, 8-12 May 1781.

On 21 Mar 1854 William Hopkins, 56, applied for any pension still due as the only surviving child of Thomas Hopkins. He stated that in addition to the other battles, his father had served at the Battle of Cowpens, 17 Jan 1781. He also claimed that Thomas Hopkins died at Kershaw District SC on 8 Mar 1844 at age 86 or 96 years, leaving a widow who survived him for two years and eight months.