

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas M Caul S18342

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Virginia } SS.

County of Lewis }

On this 2^d day of July 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the County court of Lewis County now sitting, Thomas M. Call a resident of Little Kanawha in the said County of Lewis and State of Virginia aged 70 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 7 1832.

[From here down to "That on In the first of March in the year 1782" is marked "Omit" in the margin, possibly for reasons relating to the two letters below.]

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In September he believe the 8th day in the year 1780 near Staunton in Augusta County Virginia he was drafted as an orderly sergeant and detailed into a company of Militia commanded by Patrick Buchannon [sic: Patrick Buchanan] Capt. Joseph Blair Lieut. and John Crawford Ens. [Ensign]. Immediately after the organization of the company was marched through the Rock Fish gap [Rockfish Gap] in the South Mountain [possibly referring to the part of the Blue Ridge Mountains south of Massanutten Mountain], crossed James river at Lynches' Ferry, the place where Lynchburg now is situated. crossed Dan river the division line between Va. and N. Ca. [sic] at Dick's Ferry [sic: Dix Ferry]. Thence to Hillsborough in North Carolina where they joined the Southern Army Commanded by Gen'l. Horatio Gates [see note below], the whole army marched immediately after their arrival to Salisbury where they arrived some time about the first of October. The said Company to which affiant belonged was here attached to a regiment of Infantry commanded by John Eager Howard in the Brigade under command of Gen'l. Daniel Morgan. The army continued to march to New Providence [now in Charlotte NC], lay there untill some time in November, then marched down the Cataba river [sic: Catawba River] to Rudgeley's Mills where they took 111 prisoners after a skirmish of 20 minutes [see note below] then countermarched to Charlotte in Meclinburg [sic: Mecklenburg] County, arrived there in the beginning of December at which time and place Gen'l. Nathaniel Green arrived and superseded Gen'l. Gates in the command of the Southern Army [sic: Nathanael Greene replaced Gates 2 Dec 1780]. Gen'l. Green in this month (Dec.) marched his main Army to the Cheraw Hills about 70 miles to the right of Lord Cornwallis - dispatched at the same time Gen'l. Morgan with Colo. Howard's & Col. Washington's Regts. to take a position on the British left about 50 miles distant from them. Declarant continued in the Reg't. commanded by Col. Howard - crossed the Cataba River at the old Nation ford continued their march across broad river, crossed Packolet's River [sic: Pacolet River] near a place called the Cow pens [Cowpens SC] pursued by Col. Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton], halted at the Cow pens on the night of the 16th of Jan 1781. Early in the morning of the succeeding d[ay] Tarlton pressed forward in order to attack Gen Morgan and coming in sight hastily formed his disposition for battle and commenced the assault and was received by his adversary with unshaken firmness. The contest became obstinate & each part nobly contended for victory, which for some time appeared doubtful untill a minouever of Col. Howard decided the fate of the day who by fire and vigorous charge with the bayonet threw the British line in confusion. Shortly after which 500 of them threw down their arms and surrendered. In this battle the americans lost about 70 men 10 or 20 of whom were killed. The British sustained a severe loss. with the exception of the bagage guard, nearly all were killed or taken prisoners. (Declarant fought in this battle from the beginning untill it terminated) immediately after which marched with the prisoners to Cataba river some distance above the old nation ford pursued by Tarlton with a legion of Infantry and cavalry, Morgans Army cross the river in safety, but a sudden rise of the same prevented the further pursuit of Tarlton. [See note below.] The prisoners were sent to Virginia Declarant thinks to Winchester Barracks. was marched to the neighborhood of Guilford C. House [Guilford Courthouse NC] remained in its

vicinity marching & counter marching watching and confronting the enemies scouts and foraging parties No particular occurrence took place until the battle at Guilford C. H. fought by Genl. Green & Lord Cornwallis. a short time previous to which Declarant had become sick of bilious fever, and had been removed with the baggage to Haw river about 20 miles from the scene of action, from which place he heard very distinctly the roaring of Cannon on the day of battle which was the 15 March 1781. his health gradually improving, he was on the 25th of March 1781 discharged by Captain John Dearing, and returned to his residence in Augusta County Virginia where he arrived some time in the beginning of the month of April in the same year. having served a tour of six months exclusive of the time in going to the head quarters of the Southern army and returning from thence to his residence which was one month making in all 7 months. From the time of his arrival at Salisbury until he was discharged he continued in the company command by the said Capt. Buckhannon in Col. Howards Regt. Benj'n. Brook & Francis Triplett Maj'rs. in the Brigade commanded by Gen'l. Morgan and served from the time he was drafted in Sept 1780 until he was discharged on the 25th March 1781 as a sergeant in a Militia Co & was himself a militia man. was all the time in actual service except a few weeks when sick of the bilious fever.

About the 1st of May in the year 1781 the time when the public property at Charlottesville [sic: Charlottesville] Va was destroyed by the enemy under Col. Tarleton [4 June 1781], the people of Augusta becoming alarmed for their situation fearing an invasion - ordered out their militia to guard the passes in the South Mountain Declarant at this time marched from his said residence under command of Capt. Thomas Rankin by order of Col. Sampson Mathews to Woods old gap [now Jarmin Gap] in the South Mountain remained there guarding the pass 15 or 20 days was then dismissed and returned again to his residence aforesaid. In this expedition including the time in going to the South Mountain & returning from thence to his residence he served 25 days as a private Militiaman

About this time the safety of the lower counties in Va. were endangered by an invasion of the British and a requisition of 200 men from Augusta was made to join the army at Rich'd [Richmond] under command of Gen'l. [William] Campbell. Declarant was again drafted as a private militiaman on the 1st of June and detailed into a company of militia commanded by Captain John Given. Lieut. Joseph Waddell. Ensign George Anderson. marched immediately to Rock fish Gap in the South Mountain the place of rendezvous for the several Companies marched at this time from Augusta County which assembled here and was ranged and organized under the command of Cols. Thomas Hugart [sic: Thomas Hughart] and John McCleary [sic: John McCreery] and proceeded on their march by way of Charlottesville Va. to Richmond was there attached to the army under command of Gen'l. Campbell, in the month of June soon after which time the main army was marched near to Williamsburg Va. At this time a detachment under command of [Gen. Lafayette and] Col. Richard Butler was ordered out to attack the Hessians under command of Col. [John Graves] Simcoe the action took place on the 26th June about 10 O'clock A.M. in the neighborhood of Williamsburg on a small stream called Hot water [Battle of Hot Water Plantation 6 mi NW of Williamsburg]. This action after a severe contest resulted in a considerable loss to Col. Butler about 40 of his men were killed and a good many taken prisoners. Declarant in this action had a button shot off of the haunch of his pantaloons but received no injury. From the scene of action Col. Butler retreated to the American encampment on Muddy River. before his arrival there the retreat was covered by Gen'l. Anthony Wayne. At Muddy River camp joined the main body of the army under Gen'l. Campbell. Then marched again to Richmond After the battle which took place near Jamestown between Gen'l. Wayne and the enemy [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 July 1781] Lord Cornwallis marched through Prince George County in the direction of Petersburg to counteract which and prevent his further penetration into the country the American crossing James River at West Town [sic: Westham] 5 miles above Rich'd. marched through Chesterfield County to Goods bridge [sic: Goode's Bridge] on the Appamatox [sic: Appomattox] River where they lay for some time on the Amilia [sic: Amelia County] side of the river. from Goods bridge they marched to Petersburg and Blanford [sic: Blandford] through Dinwiddie [sic: Dinwiddie] County, crossed the Appomatox River at Petersburg, and marched through Chesterfield to Eastham where they crossed James River about the last of July, continued their march in the direction of Williamsburg. Joined the army under

command of the Marquis Lafayette at New Kent C.H. about the last of August. about this time Gen'l. Campbell died [22 Aug]. no other particular occurrence took place during his continuance in the service. was discharged the 12 of September th by Captain James Gray aid de Camp of Gen'l. Campbell at New Kent C.H. having served a tour of 3 months exclusive of the time occupied in going from Augusta to Richmond and returning from New Kent C.H. to his residence which was 15 or 20 days. making in all 3 months 15 days

About the first of Oct. Declarant substituted for Andrew Allison who had been detailed to drive cattle from Augusta County to the American Camp at Yorktown. arrived at York town on the 17th of Oct. was there until after the battle on the 19th which caused Lord Cornwallis to surrender to the combined armies of France and the United States [sic: see note below]. Immediately after the Surrender of the British Declarant substituted for his Brother in Law, Cornelius McFall who had been detailed to guard the prisoners to Winchester Barracks. Declarant was engaged in this service 15 days in guarding the prisoners to Winchester soon after which he was discharged and returned to his residence in Augusta. He was 12 days engaged in driving the cattle to York town, remained there about 4 days - was 15 days engaged in conducting the prisoners to Winchester and 5 in going home from thence. making 36 days. in this service he was a private.

That on In the first of March in the year 1782 the Indians appeared on the settlements in Tigarts Valey River [sic: Tygart Valley River in present WV] Monongalia Co. now Randolph and done some mischief. killed William Carrance and Frances Riffle, then proceeded to the Greenbrier Settlements, there kill ____ Slater and took prisoners the wives of Thomas Drennen and George Smith together with there Children. To repel this invasion of the Savages the Augusta Militia was ordered out. Declarant was on 3^d day of April 1782 drafted & marched under command of Capt John Mckitric [John McKittrick], Lieut. William Wilson, Ens. Thos. Cartmill. was himself orderly Sergeant. the last of March or first of April proceeded to the head of Big Elk River remained there some days Spying but did not overtake or see Indians. After remaining some time on the head of Elk River continued their march to Tigarts Valey in Monongalia County After their arrival there, it was supposed that the trail of Indians was discovered by one of the spies - pursued the trail as far as Snake Creek, at which time a heavy rain fell which rendered it impossible to follow the Indian trail any farther, and a scarcity of provision compelled them to return. a countermarch was ordered, and they again traversed the wilderness by way of Clover Lick on Greenbrier River to the Warm Sprigs in Augusta now Bath County. They here received orders to counter march. They done so immediately and again visited the forts on the Valey River and their companies distributed amongst them. Declarant was stationed at John Warwicks fort [near present Huttonsville WV] and as the office of commissary of subsistence devolved on him, he had a very laborious service to perform - was stationed 3 months at Warwicks fort during which time no particular occurrence took place The Savages did not during this time make their appearance in the frontier settlements in this part of the state. He was some time in the month of Sept. discharged by his Capt John McKitreck and returned home. In this last campaign he served 6 months and some days the precise number not recollected in the grade of orderly sergeant. This terminated his service in the war of the Revolution. [The following down to his signature is marked "omit" in the margin.] He served 13 months as a sergeant and 5½ months as a private. In the campaign in the South he was acquainted with Genls. Gates, Green, Morgan, Davison [sic: William Lee Davidson], [Isaac] Gregory, [Jethro] Sumner, [John] Butler and Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter]. Cols. Howard & Washington besides many other field officers. In the campaigns in Virginia he was acquainted with Genls. Fayette [sic: Lafayette], Wayne, Lawsen [sic: Robert Lawson], [Thomas] Nelson, Campbell, Washington, Steuben and many others —

He has no documentary evidence by which to prove his services, not knowing that his discharges could ever be of use to him he took no care of them & he does not know what became of them. He knows of no man living by whom he can prove his services. He was born in Augusta County Va. near the town of Staunton on the 1st day of Oct. 1763 has seen his age recorded in his fathers Bible which is not in his possession. was living in Augusta when called into service resided there for some years afterwards - has lived in Greenbrier County and is now living in Lewis County Va.

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.

[signed] Thomas M Caul

To the seven several interrogatories in order propounded by the Court in pursuance of the regulation of the Dept of war, he answers as follows towit. To the

- 1st. I was born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia near the town of Staunton on the 1st day of Oct. in the year 1763
- 2^d. He has no record of his age.
- 3^d. He was living in Augusta County in the State of Virginia near the town of Staunton. He lived there some years afterwards has lived in Greenbrier County Va. and is now living in Lewis Count Va.
- 4th. The first tour he was drafted. In the 2^d. & 3^d. he was also drafted In the 4th. he substituted for Andrew Allison, & Cornelius McFall. In the 5th. was drafted
- 5th. In the Southern Campaign he was acquainted with Genls. Gates, Green, Morgan, Gregory, Davison, Sumner, Butler & Sumpter, Cols. Howard & Washington & many others. In the campaign in Va. he was acquainted with Washington, Fayette, Wayne, Lawsen, Nelson Campbell &c. &c.
- 6th. He received a discharge at North Carolina by Capt. John Dearing. At New Kent C.H. Va. by Capt. James Gray, at Warwicks Fort by Capt. John McKitrek at the termination of his other Tours he was merely dismissed. His discharges lost
- 7th. I am acquainted with Thomas Byrne and Jas. M. Camp in my neighborhood who can testify to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Thomas M. Call. Draws \$70—

Mr. Call made the following statement. Viz. — was born in the County of Augusty Virginia October 1 1763. In the year 1780 was drafted in the county of Augusty for six months, and marched to Hillsborough North Carolina under Capt Patrick Buckhannon, Lieut Joseph Blair & Ensign John Crawford - there was one other company along commanded by Capt. James Tate. Lieut James Brattin [James Bratton] and Ensign John Wilson. there were 107 men rank and file in the two companies. On getting to Hillsborough was attached to the Infantry commanded by Col. John E Howard. Genl. Morgan commanded the Infantry. Cant recollect the number of his Regt. in this term he was at the Battle of the Cowpens, which was on the 17th January 1781. Served out the tower and returned to Augusty -th June 1781. was drafted again in the same county for 3 months and marched under Capt. John Gevens, Lieut. Jos. Waddle, & Ensign George Anderson. Marched to Richmond and below there and was at the Battle of Hot Water. there were four companies that marched from Augusty at the same time. Col. Haggard[?]. Col. Jno. McCreary & Major John Wilson were along. Serv'd. out the tower and returned to Augusty - thinks he returned some time in September and immediately thereafter went to york town as a substitute for 3 mo. under Capt Rankin. arived at York town two or three days before Cornwallis surrendered - from there went to Winchester with the Prissoners — in the Summer of 1782 he thinks in May there was a draft in Augusty county for Militia men to go over the alleganias against the Indians - he was drafted in this service for 3 mos. and marched under Capt John McKitrick to Tygarts Vally. Served out the Three Months & returned home — previous to the last mentioned tower was out after a band of Indians that had come in and taken some women prissoners at the head of Greenbrier Was ordered out by Col. Matthews and was in this service three weeks - between two of the tours before detailed was out for 20 days guarding the Mountains east of Staunton. it was apprehended that the British would cross & burn Staunton. the Col. of the County ordered out the Militia on this occasion

this comprises all my Revolutionary Services.

James Bennett [see endnote] wrote my Declaration the Statement now given is the same I gave to him as near as I can recollect. I agreed to give Bennett half a years pay and have prepared my contract in good faith.

In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name, July 26, 1834 Thomas M. Call
Witness Nathan Goff [Pension Agent at Clarksburg]. A True copy.
Note it will be perceived that the quantitee of Services claim by Mr. Call was 16 mos & 10 days -
and yet Mr. Call draws \$70 — Mr. Call is an Honest Man the fraud has been with Bennett.
W. G. Singleton

Weston Lewis County Virginia

J. L. Edwards Esq'r. [Commissioner of Pensions] July 11th 1835

Dear Sir The following is in answer to your Letter of 21st of April 1835 who states that he was drafted in Augusta County Virginia as he thinks in Aug's't. 1780 for a Three months Tour and was marched Immediately to North Carolina and Joined the army at Hillsborough. he served out that Tour and returned home and soon after he went another Tour of three months as a substitute for Andrew Allison marched again to North Carolina was at the Battle of Guilford Ct. house, &c this is what he supposes Mr. Singleton has Cal'd the 6 months draft in 1780. he states he can't tell how it has happened that Mr. Singleton has understood him that the draft was for six months, he might of got the Impression from my not being more Explecet or distinct, but Endeavoured to detail the services as correctly as he could; in Relation to the services at york town as reported by Mr Singleton need Explanation he was Cal'd upon by a Lieut. McCune to assist in taking a drove of beef cattle from Augusta County Va. to york Town for the use of the army. he states he reached york town about 17th Oct. 1781 with the beef cattle he states he was Engaged at Least 15 days in collecting and taking the Cattle to yorktown, and in two or three days after they arived there with the cattle, the British army was Surrendered. he then Substituted for one Cornelius McFall (his Brother in law) to Guard the prisioners to Winchester, which time of service was fifteen days, so that the time he was taking the Cattle down from Augusta to Yorktown, and the time of Guarding the prisioners to Winchester as aforesaid, was only about 30 days. he states he was discharged on getting to winchester with the prisioners; he has given this as Explanatory to the Enquiries in your Letter first refered to, & has subscribed the same (in my presence) with his own proper hand & name [signed] Thomas M Caul
NB. you will percieve he spells his name (Caul) he is the Identical man that obtained a pension in the name of Thomas M. Call & Examined by Mr Singleton Warden Huffman

NOTES:

The engagement in which 111 prisoners were taken was not a skirmish but a siege on 4 Dec 1780 in which Lt. Col. William Washington forced the surrender of Loyalists under Col. Henry Rugeley by threatening them with a pine log mounted to look like a cannon.

Immediately after the Battle of Cowpens Tarleton of course had few troops with which to pursue Morgan. The river crossing referred to was probably at Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River on 1 Feb 1781, after Greene's army had joined that of Morgan, and Cornwallis was in pursuit.

At Yorktown Cornwallis signaled for surrender negotiations on 17 Oct 1781, after a continual siege beginning on 28 Sep. There was no battle on the day of the surrender, 19 Oct.

James H. Bennett was apparently involved with several fraudulent pension applications in Lewis County.