

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Bartley: S18708

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

South Carolina} Be it remembered. To Wit. That on the Second day of October in  
Edgefield Dist.} the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred & forty nine,  
personally appeared before me Thomas Bartley Sen. of the state  
and District aforesaid, who for the purpose of obtaining a pension as a Revolutionary Soldier  
was interrogated by me and gave the answers annexed to each question as follows viz.

Where were you born? In the City of London, near Charing Cross, England. In what Year  
did you come to America? In 1774. How old are you? In my ninetieth year. I was born in the  
year 1759.

When did you enlist as a soldier in the Revolutionary War? In the Spring of the year  
after the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777]. Under whom, and for what term of time did you  
enlist? Under Capt. John Smith for the term of three years. and at the expiration of that term I  
enlisted again under the same Captain & for the same term of time. Who commanded the  
Regiment to which you were attached? General William Smallwood. we always called him Billy  
Smallwood. Where was your residence at the time you enlisted? On deer creek in Maryland.  
How long did you serve as a soldier in the war of the Revolution? Five years or thereabouts,  
then the war broke up. Where did you join Washington's Army? At Valley Forge, and was  
afterward sent to South Carolina under General [Horatio] Gates. Were you in any battles? No, I  
was so very small that I was always placed as a guard of the baggage. ~~I was at the battle at  
Rugeley's Mills.~~ [See note below.] Where were you discharged? At Annapolis. Where is your  
discharge papers? I lost them shortly after I was discharged in Annapolis, together with the  
sum of £59 16S 4d taken from my pocket as I believed by a woman that washed for me. How  
long since you came to South Carolina? About Sixty five years ago at about Twenty five years of  
age. How long since you became unable to work? Twenty years or more. Do you believe you are  
entitled to receive a pension as a soldier of the Revolution? to be sure I do. I performed equal  
service with other soldiers, ever obeyed my officers from General down to Corporal promptly  
discharging my duty. Why have you not asked for a pension before this time? Because I had  
lost my discharge papers and knew of no person living by whom I could prove my services, and  
did not expect that I could get anything unless I did produce such evidence.

Thomas hisXmark Bartley Sen.

I Absalom R. Able being a Notary Public in & for the District of Edgefield & State aforesd.  
do certify that the Deponent Thomas Bartley appeared before me, and on Oath made the  
answers to the questions as propounded to him, as they appear above written - and that I  
believe them to be true to the best recollection and belief of the deponent. I further certify that  
the Deponent is an extremely old man almost entirely blind, and very deaf, but of quick  
recollection, and for one of his age of good mind. From his bodily debility & decrepitude he is  
unable to attend and make his declaration in open Court. I have perfect confidence in the  
truth of his statements, and believe him to have been a Revolutionary soldier. Given under my  
hand and seal the 2nd Day of October A.D. 1849 {L.S.} Absalom R. Able N. P.

Edgefield District Nov'r 21<sup>st</sup> 1849

Hon A. P. Butler

Dear Sir I rec'd. your few lines on yesterday inclosing a paper or letter from the  
pension office in reference to Thos. Bartley Sr. Agreeable to your request I called on the old  
man today in order to have some conversation with him. I found the old man very infirm and  
from appearance he cannot live long - he is very hard of hearing and as such hard to  
understand or be understood. I requested him to state some of his acquaintances in the  
Maryland line. he named Gen'l. Smallwood, Capt. John Smith & a Serjeant or Corporal by the  
name of John Smith he also named John Farmer who was a lieutenant in another company & a  
man by the name of Bryce who was a brigade Major. I have heard this much of the old man's  
history & character which I believe to be correct - he says he has been sixty years a member of

the Baptist Church - he first joined the Church at Ebenezer on Lynch's creek in this State from thence he brought a letter & joined Clouds Creek Church & Sard's[?] in this District from thence he joined at Red Bank where his membership has been for the last twenty years. he says he never was dealt with in the Church in his life for any misconduct which I am satisfied is true & correct from what I know of the old man's character. I believe the old man's character to stand as fair for truth and honesty as any other man in the District and if the Pension officer is not satisfied with what you can tell him, he may draw up a paper himself and send it on here and it will be signed by as respectable men as any in the District

I remain you's most respectfully.

W. Daniel

N.B. Since writing the above I have examined the Church book of Red Bank & perceive that Thos. Bartley Sen'r joined that Church in the Spring of 1829 which is a little over twenty years ago. You should call him Thos. Bartley Sen'r. because he has a son and grand son of the same name you's &c

W. Daniel

Nov'r 22 1849

State of South Carolina}

Edgefield District}

Be it Remembered that on the twenty third day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and forty nine, Personally appeared before me John Hill Judge of the Court of Ordinary in and for the District & State aforesaid Thomas Bartley Senior Who makes on oath makes the following declaration of his Services in the Revolutionary War of the United States of America, (Deposeth) That he was born at a place called Down inn yards, London, England, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April Seventeen Hundred and fifty nine, and was in his thirteenth year of age when he was taken on board a Ship and landed in Baltimore, March 1773. he was then Sold in the Service of one Glishower [Glassblower?] Elijah Tyson in whose Service he remained about three years when he enlisted under one Captain John smith a Recruiting officer he was taken by Smith to Baltimore where they joined another company. from thence they were taken to valley forge where they joined the army in the Maryland line. that this enlistment was for three years that he served out that time without being in any engagement that he enlisted again for three years or during the war under the same Capt. John Smith and that they were under the Command of Brigadier Genl. Wm. Smallwood & Col. [Thomas] Woolford he thinks, and that the Maryland and Virginia Troops were united under the command of Genl. Gates, that they pursued Cornwallace to Camden [sic: see note below] at that place there was a draft of our several[?] lines If among them to join Genl. Sumpter under the command of Col. Woolford and instead of attacking Tarlton he went up about fifty miles above Camden where they were all taken prisoners that he had just kildd a Cow and was Skining of it when the alarm was given, that Sumpter made his escape, that there was two of the British officers Killed that the British officers had great Spite at the Militia, but ordered that the Regulars Should have quarters and that they were not allowed a draft of Water or a mouthful to eat for two days from thence they were taken to Camden and remained there a few days, when they were taken to Charlestown from thence to Edistoe [sic: Edisto] Island and there they remained until next Spring, from thence they were taken to Hadrells Point, and some time during the Summer they were taken to Virginia and there exchanged but thinks they Received from the States, while at [illegible] Island, two Dollars apiece for relief. after his Exchange he went and staid awhile with Lieut. Merridith an officer he had been detailed to wait upon, that they then Received excuses to go and join their Companies that he went up to Capt. Smiths Company where he remained untill Cornwallace was taken [19 Oct 1781] when they went to Anapolis where they were discharged, that he thinks Rec'd. a Small amount of money he does not recollect how much, that his discharge and a Certificate he had was rapt up together and lost out of his pockett somehow but thinks it was taken out, that he remained in Virginia about two years when he came to South Carolina where he has remained ever since, that he joined the Baptist Church in Darlington District when he was about thirty years old at a Church Called Ebenezer where his membership remained about three years when he applied for and obtained a letter of Dismission and a recommendation that he attached himself to Clouds Creek Church where he continued his membership for some time, and then took a letter of dismission from that Church and

attached himself to Sard's Church in this District - from thence to Red bank Church in this District where it remains to the present, having been a regular member for about Sixty years, during which time he has never been dealt with for any immoral conduct, and on being further interogated as to the names of all the officers and privates of the Maryland line in which he enlisted and served under, he mentions the name of Brigadier Gen'l. Smallwood, & Captain Jones, one of his [illegible word], Col. Woolford, one Maj'r. [Archibald] Anderson that he used to wait on, one Maj'r. Bryce a Brigadier Maj'r. One Capt. Revellee[?], Capt. John Smith his commandant, one Ensign Clemmens, one Price a Paymaster, one James Burns a Seargeant, one John Smith a Corp'l. the first time he ever saw Gen'l. Washington was at Morrystown in a Masonic Procession, in Masonic Baug[?] Deponent further states that he has never rec'd. any compensation for his Revolutionary Services, and reason of his not applying earlier is that he was not aware untill recently that he could obtain any thing but by living Testimony which he knew that he could not avail himself of here, and doubted whether he could find any of his old companions in arms in the State of Maryland were he able to make the searches and that the foregoing declarations are substantially true Sworn to and Subscribed before me the day and date above written  
Thomas hisXmark Bartley Sr.

State of South Carolina}

Edgefield District}

I do hereby certify that I have been acquainted with the within named Thomas Bartly Seign'r for the last seven or eight years, and from my personal acquaintance and also from Character obtained of Respectable Citizens of this District from the last twenty years I have every reason to believe him to be the Identical man he represents himself to be in the foregoing declaration the said Thomas Bartly Sr. is about the age of ninty about five feet 8 or 10 inches of thin vissage dark skin and would suppose formerly a very Brilliant [illegible word] of quick perception and speech for a man of his age - though very hard of hearing and nearly blind at this time and his pecuniary situation is now one of need, and has been for the last ten or fifteen years intirely dependant upon his Children and friends for suport. Given under my hand at my office this 26<sup>th</sup> November 1849  
John Hill O.E.D.

NOTE: Troops under the command of Gen. Horatio Gates had been sent to the relief of Charleston SC, which was captured on 12 May 1780. While proceeding south from Rugeley's Mill north of Camden at about 2 AM on 16 Aug 1780, they unexpectedly encountered the army under Gen. Cornwallis, who was advancing north. According to Patrick O'Kelley (*Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vol. 2), before that engagement Gen. Thomas Sumter had requested reinforcements from Gates, who detailed about 300 North Carolina militiamen and 100 Maryland Continentals under Col. Thomas Woolford of Maryland. Bartley was apparently in this detachment. On 18 Aug Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton made a surprise attack on Sumter's troops at Fishing Creek about 30 miles NW of Camden. Sumter was wounded but escaped. Woolford was wounded and captured, and like Bartley, imprisoned at Haddrell's Point across the Cooper River from Charleston.