

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas May: S21356

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Declaration of Thomas May In order to obtain the Benefit of the act of Congress of Seventh of June Eighteen hundred and and thirty Two made before me George Luther one of the acting Justices of peace in and for the County of Chatham and State of North Carolina on the third day of August 1833 Thomas May personally appear'd before me George Luther one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of Chatham and State of North Carolina. He Thomas May Being a Resident citizen of said County of Chatham and aged Seventy Two years old on the first day of April Last past and after Being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he was Drafted for a three months Tour and entered the servis as a private on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1780 and served under the following named officers that he was Drafted in the County of Franklin North Carolina. That he marched under Captain Julious Alfred from the County of Franklin his Residence to Johnson [sic: Johnston] Court House from thence he was marched to Cross Creek [now Fayetteville] there he Remained seven days from there he marched to Randolph old Court House from there he was marched to South Carolina there they were Joined to General Gattess [Horatio Gates's] army and marched to Lynches Creek near Camden that he Remained under General Gates untill after his army was Defeated [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] That there his Term of servis expired and he got his discharge and Returned home That his discharge was signed by Major Griffin That he gave his discharge into care of his father when he returned home That his father Died soon after the close of war of the Revolution and his papers were taken into the hands of his Administrator's and what became of the Discharge he is unable to say But suposes it was destroyed as a useless paper. And he further upon his oath states that He was Drafted a second time in the County of Franklin for a three months Tour that he again entered the servis as a private under Captain Swan[?] Trauton[?] That he entered the servis on the first of June 1781 and was marched from Franklin County to Halifax Town on Roanoke The while he Remained at Halifax he was commanded by General William Brickle and Col Nicholas Long That he was stationed and Halifax untill within a few days before his Term of servis Expired and He further upon his oath states about Eight or Ten days before his Term of servis Expired that the following named continental officers came on from Charleston South Carolina [having been exchanged after being captured on 12 May 1780] (towit) [Captain] Benjamin Coleman [Lieutenant] Peter Bacot and Thomas Pastuer [sic: Lt. Thomas Pasteur]. That they Beat up for volunteers at Halifax Town under the above named continental officers and marched from Halifax Town Tarborough [sic: Tarboro] from Tarborough to Duplin Court House there they Joined General Buttler [sic: John Butler], and was stationed there about three weeks from there they marched across New River near Wilmington there they were stationed about four weeks from there he was marched to Kinston That at Kinston the News of the Surrender of Cornwallis [on 19 Oct 1781] reached them and there he was discharged the Last of October And he further upon his oath state than when he was discharged at Kinston he was informed by the offacers that they did not have paper enough to give each soldier a seprate discharge that all the men from Franklin County got their discharge on one piece of paper and he further sayeth that one of the company who had charge of it put to his knapsack and that on their way home the knapsack accidentally got destroyed and all its contents with it. And he further sayeth that from old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot positively say how long he did serve in the last Tour that is to come to days But he can safely say that he served five and a half months that with his first Tour makes Eight and a half months in the whole that he claims for And he further sayeth that he has no Documentry evidence to prove his servis That he must therefore rely upon the Evidence of Jonathan Stone and William Cook and such others as he may be able to find if they are yet alive who served with him or has a knowledge of his servises And He hereby Relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency or in any State

Thomas hisXmark May

Where and in what year were you born have you any Record of your age if so where is it now  
Answer I was Born in Franklin County North Carolina on the first day of April 17\*1 my father  
kept a Record of my age in his family Bible which my older Brother William May got after the  
Death of my father and has it now I Expect in Franklin County and out of that I had it written  
into my own Bible

Where were you Living when called into the servis and where lived since the Revolutionary war  
and where do you now Live

I Lived in franklin county from the time I was Born untill about five years ago I Removed to  
Chatham County where I now Live

How were you called into the servis were you Drafted Did you Volunteer or were you a  
substitute if a substitute for whom

I was Drafted the first and the second time as I stated in my Declaration and Just before my  
Term for which I was Drafted Expired I volunteer'd under the continental officers that I named  
and it was understood when I volunteered by all who Turned out that we volunteer'd for During  
the War State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the Troops where you  
served such continental and Militia Redgments as you can Recollect and the General  
circumstances of you servis as you can Recollect. I have stated all the officers and all the  
circumstances of my servises that I can Recollect in the Body of my Declaration

State the names of some persons in your present nayhbourhood who can Testafy as to your  
character for veracity and their Belief of your servises as a soldier of the Revaluation

I will state the names of the Rev'd Frederick Rollins and William Cross who are my near  
neighbours and have been ever since I came to Chatham and who are as Respectable men as any  
in the County