

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Milford S21375

f26NC[sic, SC]

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 25: On November 10, 1828, Thomas Milford petitioned the South Carolina legislature for a pension. In this petition he gives no additional facts regarding his service. He does state that he has a wife who a "very infirm old woman" and that he has "a sore leg" and is unable to support himself.]

This petition is supported by the affidavit of John McAdams as follows:

[p 26]

South Carolina Abbeville District: Personally came before me John McAdams¹ Esquire (aged sixty-nine years) and on being duly sworn on oath saith that he was in the Florida expedition as a soldier under General Williamson that he was well acquainted with Thomas Milford the within petitioner during that service and that he did faithfully served out his time as he verily does believe, and that he has been acquainted with the said Milford ever since & believes that he was a good soldier during the revolutionary war.

Sworn to and subscribed this 10th day of October 1828 before me

S/ Jas A. Black

S/ John McAdams, Senior



[p 3]

State of South Carolina Abbeville District} SS

Be it known that on this twenty-second day of October 1835 personally appeared in open court (being the court of Common Pleas for Abbeville District) Thomas Milford a resident of the said District, aged seventy-eight years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered as a volunteer private militia man in Captain Francis Logan's Company of infantry in the South Carolina Militia of the 3rd day of May 1778, the company rendezvoused at a place called Cunnings Ford on Hard Labor Creek in Abbeville District near a place called

¹ [John McAdams \(McAdam\) W2649](#)

White Hall, there they joined General Andrew Williamson (then Colonel Williamson), and under his command set out on what was called the Florida expedition² and marched to the town of Augusta on the Savannah River, where they joined General Robert Howe, and proceeded through the State of Georgia to the St. Mary's River near Saint Augustine where it became necessary to retreat, which they done. That he was out on this occasion three months and fifteen days. That though it was intended as a three months tour, yet they were not discharged until they reached the settlement on long cane [Long Cane Creek] in Abbeville District which occupied three months & fifteen days. -- That after that he settled in Roann [sic, Rowan] County North Carolina, and that on the first day of May 1780 he again volunteered for a three months tour of militia duty under the command of Captain Joseph Dickson and joined Colonel Locke's [Francis Locke's] Regiment & marched to Camden in South Carolina, where they were stationed & served until the first of August 1780 when their terms expired they were discharged. That he immediately entered Captain Caldwell's [David Caldwell's] company of militia (as a volunteer) for the protection of the frontiers and marched to Davidson's Fort at the head of the Catawba River for the purpose of keeping the Indians in the fear. That he entered the last above described term on the 20th of August 1780 and was discharged on the 20th of November 1780 -- when he returned home, he again enrolled himself as a minute man under Captain Dickey [John Dickey], that when Lord Cornwallis crossed the Catawba River in 1781 [Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781]³ he was called out and was acting as a guard at Cowan's Ford when the British crossed the River, that he was out but three days on this occasion, that he was out several short scouts & tours but not worth mentioning, that he was acquainted with General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], that he had not no particular acquaintance with any regular field officers, that [he] has no documentary evidence of his service and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, 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.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year above written.

S/ Jas. Wardlaw, Clerk

S/ Thomas Milford



[Thomas Bigbie, a clergyman, and James A. Black gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans -- I was born in the County Entrim [sic, Antrim] Ireland in the year 1757

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans -- I have none. I did see a record of my age in my father's family Bible but know not where it is now

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

Ans -- When first called into service I was living in South Carolina during the war I went into Rowan County North Carolina where I resided until the end of the war, after the war some time I removed to Abbeville District South Carolina, where I have resided ever since.

² <http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Revolution/revolution12.html>

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans -- I always acted as a volunteer.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans -- I was acquainted with Robert Howe who commanded the Florida expedition and Colonel Andrew Williamson. I also knew Colonel Winn, General Davidson & General Pickens. I have no recollection of the name or number of any of the regiments and was never associated with any of the Regular Army but a few hundred that were with General Howe in the Florida expedition --

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans -- I think there were no discharges given but if there were I have none now & cannot recollect distinctly whether I ever had a written discharge or not.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans -- I am acquainted with the Reverend Whitfield Anthony Reverend James Moore Reverend Arthur Williams James A. Black, John B. Black, George Milford, George W. Wilson, James Wardlaw Esquire, Cadour Gantt Esquire and many others

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$32 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months and 18 days in the North Carolina and South Carolina militia.]