

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Absalom Thompson (Thomson) S21533

f30NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/9/17

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of South Carolina, Spartanburg District

On this twenty fifth day of September personally appeared in open Court before his Honor John B. O'Neill Presiding Judge of the Court of Genl. Sessions & Common Pleas, now sitting Absalom Thomson a resident of Greenville District and the State aforesaid, aged seventy seven 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<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he was born in Chatham County in the State of North Carolina in the year 1755 on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April from recollection of what he has been told by his parents. If there be any record of his age, it must have been taken by his Father to Kentucky, who removed into that State [in] 1783. This deponent was living in the State of North Carolina (now Tennessee) near the mouth of Watauga [River] running into Holston River in the year 1775 when he enlisted for the term of three years & entered into the service of the United States under the command of Moses Kirkland and after about six or eight weeks service was disbanded at Steven's Creek in Ninety Six in South Carolina by the said Moses Kirkland who turned Tory. This deponent then returned home where he remained until the Summer 1776 when he volunteered in the war against the Cherokee Indians<sup>1</sup> & was stationed at the Long Island Fort under the command of Major Anthony Bletcher [Anthony Bledsoe?] the main body of Army under the command of General Christy [sic, William Christian] returned from the Nation being about three or four weeks – Soon after the return of the Army this deponent enlisted in the service of the State of North Carolina as one of the mounted infantry under command of Colonel Sevier [John Sevier] for the term of six months. During this time he ranged along the frontier settlements and was occasionally engaged in slight skirmishes with the Indians. This term of six months expired in the Fall of 1777, from which time until the Spring of 1779, this deponent was occasionally in the Service of the State as a volunteer in defending the Forts of the Frontier. In the Spring of 1779 this deponent volunteered under the command of Col Evan Shelby & served a tour of about two months in an expedition down the Holston River against the Chickamauga Indians on Tennessee River. In 1780 sometime in the month of July, this deponent volunteered in the service of the United States under the command of Colonel Isaac Shelby & served under his command in South Carolina until April 1781, and then under the command of Colonel Elijah Clarke & was engaged under him in the battle about twenty two miles from Cambridge in South Carolina in March 1780 where the enemy under the command of Major Dunlap was completely defeated. In April following Dunlap's defeat this deponent entered the service of the United States as an enlisted Soldier for the term of 10 months under the command of Captain William Smith who was attached to Col. Thomas' [John Thomas, Jr.' ] Regiment of General Sumpter's

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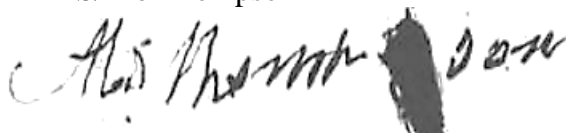
<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

[sic, Thomas Sumter's] Brigade. When he enlisted for this last term of service he received from the hands of Captain William Smith a commission signed by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] as Second Lieutenant & served as his Second Lieutenant until taken sick in August following & left the Army in September following without a written discharge. In this service this deponent was with the company commanded by General Greene [Nathanael Greene] and at the taking of Fort Granby [May 14, 1781],<sup>2</sup> Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] commanded. This deponent within a few years past has lost or mislaid his commission so that the same cannot be now found.

This deponent repaired to Fort Jamison immediately after he left Genl Sumter's Army about October 1781 where he remained until the Fort was surrendered to the Tories & Indians under the command of James Jones & thence made his escape. Immediately after this defeat this deponent volunteered in an expedition against the Indians & Tories under the command of Colonels Kilgore [Benjamin Kilgore] & White, in which a number of Indian towns on the waters of Locksowa [?] & Keowee Rivers were destroyed & 16 Indians made prisoners. In the Spring of the year following, being about the year 1782, this deponent volunteered in an expedition under Genl Andrew Pickens & served in company with Captain John Gowan, Lemuel Earles and Major James Hamilton as Indians spies, in which expedition he started from where Greenville Court House in South Carolina now stands, crossed Tugaloo River into Georgia, thence to the Chattahoochee River, thence to its head; thence down the Hiwassee River, thence South to Coosa River & thence home.<sup>3</sup> This applicant refers to the truth of the above statement and for his character as a man of veracity to the certificates of Captain William Smith<sup>4</sup> under whom he served a part of his time as his second Lieutenant & to Jethro O'Sheals<sup>5</sup> who also served with this deponent in the revolutionary war.

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 and that his service exceeds two years.

S/ Ab Thompson



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jno B. O'Neill, Presiding Judge

[p 7]

State of South Carolina Spartanburg District

I William Smith residing in Spartanburg District in the State aforesaid hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Absalom Thomson who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration: and that I believe him to be seventy-seven years of age; that I knew him well in the revolutionary war, that he received from me a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant signed by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] and served in the company of which I was Captain as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in General Sumter's Brigade of State Troops under the command of Major General Greene; I also knew the said Absalom Thomson to be an active soldier at other & different periods of the war and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been an officer & soldier of the revolution & I concur in the opinion.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_fort\\_granby\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_last\\_cherokee\\_campaign.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_last_cherokee_campaign.html)

<sup>4</sup> [William Smith W22272](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Jethro Osheals \(O'Sheals, Osheal, O'Shiel, O'Shields\) S18144](#)

S/ Wm Smith



[p 7]

State of South Carolina Spartanburg District

I Jethro Osheals residing in Spartanburg District in the State aforesaid hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Absalom Thomson who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration; and that I believe him to be seventy-seven years of age; that I knew him in the revolutionary war & served with him in two expeditions against the Indians, the first under the command of Colonels White & Kilgore & the 2<sup>nd</sup> under the command of General Pickens & in almost the constant service of the United States during the war; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been an officer & soldier in the revolution & I concur in the opinion.

S/ Jethro Osheals, X his mark

[p 9: On September 30, 1833 in Spartanburg District South Carolina, Benjamin Hicks, a clergyman, gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 29]

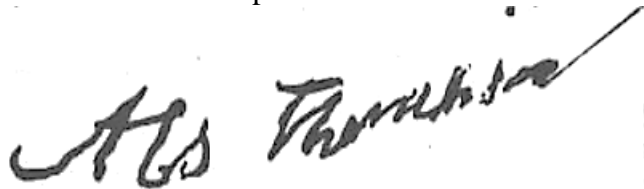
State of South Carolina Spartanburg District: SS

On this first day of October 1833 Personally appeared before the Subscriber a Magistrate of said District, Absalom Thomson, who being duly sworn on his oath declares, in addition to the foregoing Declaration, that he served under Captain Kirkland two months – in 1775. That [he] served under Major Bletcher one month in 1776 – in the same year he served six months under Captain Price, in Colonel Sevier’s Regiment. In 1779 he served two months in Captain Russell’s Company under Colonel Shelby. From July 1782 April 1781, he served nine months under Colonels Shelby and Clark, – all the foregoing services were rendered as a Private Soldier (making twenty months). In April 1781 he enlisted for ten months under Captain William Smith, Colonel Thomas, in Sumter’s Brigade – was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, five months, until September, and left the Army because of sickness – of the derangement of the Army, by which himself and many other officers were thrown out of command. – In the fall of 1781 and spring of 1782 he served into expeditions against the Indians under Kilgore and White, Colonels – two months – Have served in all twenty-seven months, Five, of which was as a Lieutenant, and during which, he was wounded in the hand, in taking a Fort at Granby and twenty-two months as a private.

Sworn to & subscribed before me first October 1833

S/ Wm Trimmier, J. Q. Ex. Off.

S/ Abs Thompson



[p 14]

State of South Carolina Spartanburg District

Personally appeared before me William Smith of the State and District aforesaid and duly made oath that he was doing duty in General Pickens’ Camp between the mouth of Enoree and Tyger Rivers near [words written over and indecipherable, may be “Broad River”] that Major

Moore a commissioned Major in the same brigade and Regiment that he said Smith <sup>was to</sup> belonged [sic] to handed him a Captain's Commission signed by Governor Rutledge then Governor of the State and two Lieutenants' Commissions signed by the same one of which Commissions was handed to Absalom Thompson we raised a Troop and immediately joined the brigade commanded by Sumter he immediately moved down to the Congaree River a little below the British Fort at Granby and parties of us were frequently over the river and had skirmishes with them in one of which Lieutenant Thompson was wounded in the hand he further states that [indecipherable word interlined]<sup>6</sup> he never Commissioned anyone but that he handed Lieutenant Thompson a commission already Granted. Sworn to and described before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 1835

S/ Wm Smith

[p 21]

South Carolina Greenville District

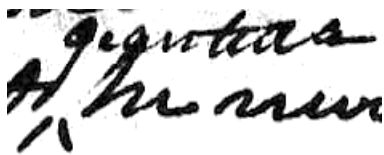
Personally came Joel Callahan<sup>7</sup> before me the subscribing Justice in and for the District of Greenville and being duly sworn makes oath & saith that he is well acquainted with Absalom Thompson who has made application for a Pension under the Act of Congress of 1832 – That he knows the said Thompson was an active soldier & officer during the war of the Revolution. That he served his country faithfully and most arduously in her struggle for Independence – That for a long period & during several tours this deponent & said Thompson were in service together employed against the Indians in what is now called East Tennessee, but which was then within the territory of North Carolina.

1<sup>st</sup> That the said Absalom Thomson on the first of July 1776 volunteered his services under Captain Jacob Womack & served a tour of three months – was stationed at a Fort on the Holston River in Tennessee. Henry Toms & this deponent were acting lieutenants in the company of Captain Womack of which the said Thompson was a private. Whilst this company was stationed on the Holston they had frequent skirmishes with the Indians.

2<sup>nd</sup>, that the said Absalom Thompson after the expiration of the above tour of three months joined a company under the command of Captain James Shelby, which was stationed at a place called Long Island, on the Holston River in Tennessee, then Washington County North Carolina, & served in said Company six weeks when he was discharged. During these six weeks the company were engaged in building a Fort and making other defenses against the incursions of the Indians on the White Settlements.

3<sup>rd</sup> In the latter part of 1776 or in the beginning of 1777 the said Absalom Thompson volunteered under Captain Thomas Price[']s Company of light horsemen in a Regiment under the Command of Colonel Sevier and was employed with said troops in ranging the country between the Holston & French Broad [Rivers] fighting the Indians & defending the settlements against the Cherokees. This service continued for six months during which time the said Thompson was constantly & actively employed as above.

4<sup>th</sup> In March, this deponent thinks the first of March 1779, the said Thompson performed a Tour of duty under Colonel Evan Shelby, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Robinson & Captain George Russell against the Chickamauga Indians. In this tour he served two months & was in



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could be "granted"

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[Joel Callahan S21110](#)

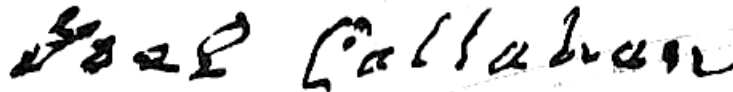
frequent skirmishes & battles with the Indians.

5<sup>th</sup> In June 1780 the said Thompson left the Holston & joined the troops under Colonel Shelby in North Carolina under whom he served some time but this deponent does not know how long as he was not with the troops under Shelby. After this the said Thompson did very considerable duty in South Carolina under Colonels Thomas, Clark & Roebuck as this deponent has been informed & verily believes. He saw the said Thompson several times between the year 1780 & 1783 & understood he had performed several tours of duty under the above named officers. This deponent knows also that when he this deponent served a tour of duty under General Marion in the lower part of South Carolina, that said Thompson was under General Pickens in the upper part of the State acting as Lieutenant in a Company commanded by Captain Smith & this deponent has seen the Commission of the said Thompson to the said command.

This deponent further states that he has always understood & of the fact has no doubt that the said Thompson did receive an indent from the State of South Carolina for his Revolutionary Services & that said services were certified to by Colonel Roebuck at the close of the War, as having been performed in the Regiment of which he then had command.

Sworn to and subscribed this January 19<sup>th</sup> 1836 [could be 1834]

S/ Joel Callahan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Callahan". The signature is written in a cursive style with some flourishes.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$130 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 19 months and as a Lieutenant for 5 months, all in the North Carolina militia.]