

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Hackney S2281

f22VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/30/14

[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.]

State of Tennessee Montgomery County: SS

On this 17th day of October 1837 Thomas Hackney aged eighty-three years old personally appeared before me Janus G. Yates an acting Justice of the peace for Montgomery County for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 for the benefit of Revolutionary Soldiers, & being duly sworn makes the following declaration – that he was born in Caroline County in the State of Virginia on the 25th of October 1753 as he was informed & believes from the statement of his parents – that he has no Record of his age, that he recollects to have seen it in the family Bible of his parents which has been long lost or destroyed – that he was removed by his parents to Spotsylvania [County] when a child and lived there at the commencement of the Revolutionary War & through the war – that he was drafted as a militia man & served many tours of duty as such in defending the people on the coast from the attacks of the British – that he is convinced that he served altogether more than two years but is at this time unable to specify each campaign or the order in which the different tours were performed, owing to the failure of memory from his great age – he recollects however that he performed one tour of duty of two months under Captain Robert Lewis, when he was first marched to Fredericksburg and was then marched into Louisa [County], where he was placed under other inferior officers, whose names he does not recollect, Lewis having returned & was marched to Richmond where he was placed under the command of the Marquis Lafayette – he thinks Wayne [Anthony Wayne] was one of the Commanders & remained there until the burning of Manchester [April 30, 1781] by the British, when the American troops retreated to the Rappahannock [River] & it was said Governor Jefferson ran to the mountains – he was then discharged his term of service having expired. That he performed another tour of duty of two months under Captain John Lewis, a brother of Captain Robert Lewis as a drafted militia man & was marched to Williamsburg & was then under the command of Wayne he thinks – whilst stationed at Williamsburg and attempt was made by the Americans to surprise a British picket which had been established on the coast and had a skirmish with them and two men were killed – shortly after this his term of service having expired he was discharged & returned home – That he performed another tour of duty at Cabber point [Cabin Point], near Holt's forge on James River, but does not recollect the name of his Captain but remembers he was in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Mathews & under the command of General Nelson [probably Thomas Nelson] – they were sent there for the purpose of guarding the settlement from the attacks of the British, who were then expected but did not come, after he had served his two months, he was again discharged home. – That he served another tour of duty of two months under the command of

General Lafayette but does not remember the other inferior officers – he remembers to have joined Lafayette at the Raccoon Ford on the Rapidan [River] a branch of the Rappahannock and assisted in cutting of road fifteen or twenty miles to what was called the Three notched road, near to Williamsburg and after continuing their until the expiration of his term of service was discharged.

He was again drafted and went to Little York in a company commanded by Captain Sneed & was on the Gloucester side of the River at the time the Battle of York took place and was in hearing of the cannon during the Battles – and had a skirmish with the British on the Gloucester side [paper damaged and text missing] there was some 40 or 50 prisoners taken & he was guard over them for several nights – he served five weeks in that tour & was discharged & returned home and had remained there not exceeding ten days, when he was again drafted to go with the prisoners to Frederickton [Fredericktown] in the State of Maryland – the guard he thinks was commanded by Major Johnson with the prisoners up the Potomac [River] & crossed the River near the mountain at Nolens ferry [Noland's ferry] they were detained a long time at Noland's ferry & then went with them to Fredericktown where they were kept until the expiration of his term, when he was discharged & went home – he thinks there were seven hundred prisoners. He recollects having performed another tour of duty as a substitute for a man who was drafted but whose name he does not remember – he was hired at Chesterfield Court-house & received in payment a mare & knapsack & blanket & other clothing & was occupied most the time in Chesterfield guarding the country against the British & Tories – he declares upon oath that he performed the several tours specified making in all one year, one month & one week & believes that he performed many others but which he is unable to remember but recollects well to have lost two or three crops in consequence of his being in the service & having no person at home to work for him – he believes that he received discharges for each tour of duty from the officers under whom he served but they have been long since lost or destroyed and that he has now no written evidence whatever of his services nor does he know of any living person by whom they can be proven – that he has been for many years unable to travel & never knew until lately of the passage of the pension law, which is the cause of his not having made an earlier application for the benefit of the law – After the Revolutionary War was over, he continued in Spotsylvania until about twenty-two years ago, when he removed to Kentucky where he resided eight or ten years & then moved to Montgomery County Tennessee, where he still resides & has ever since he left Kentucky. That he is not upon any pension roll whatever & hereby relinquishes all claim against the United States except the pension provided by the act of 1832.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thos Hackney". The ink is dark and the paper shows some texture and slight discoloration.

[Reuben Ross, a clergyman, and David Bunting gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The declaration of Thomas Hackney for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress of June 1832 for the benefit of soldiers of the Revolution.

The said Thomas Hackney declare it after having been sworn that he was born the 25th of October 1754 as he has been always informed by his parents and believes to be true, that he has no record of his age, that he has seen it so stated in his father's family Bible but what has become of that he does not know. That he was born in the County of Caroline in the State of Virginia & when very young his parents removed with him to the County of Spotsylvania in the same State where he resided during the Revolutionary War & until about the commencement of the last War

in 1812 or 1813 – that he served the United States during the Revolutionary War as a drafted militia man, seven different tours each of two months – that he is at this time from age & infirmity & a loss of recollection to specify the different times when these respective services were performed – that he recollects distinctly to have performed four or five tours as a drafted militia man from Caroline County each two months and was employed during the time in guarding the Country up & down the Potomac at different points between Richmond & Fredericksburg from the apprehended attacks of the British – he feels confident that he served four tours each of two months & therefore claims only eight months service for the above specified services – he thinks & believes these tours were performed in the company commanded by Captain Legg – he also recollects that Colonel Mathews had the command of the Company to which a great portion of the time, though he is unable at this time to specify particularly the times when under the command of Mathews – he thinks Colonel Mathews resided near Norfolk and had his house burnt by the British – he recollects also in one of those campaigns the British had burnt Manchester which is somewhere [near] Richmond & they marched to attack them but never met them – he recollects also during one of those campaigns to have marched to a place then called [word blotted out] foot, after having been two days without provisions where they remained a short time to recruit & get provisions & he recollects also a remarkable flash of lightning, which caused a great many horses to break loose while they remained at Negro foot – he also recollects another Campaign for which he was drafted for two months in which he only recollects to have engaged a considerable time in opening a road from the Raccoon Ford on the Rapidan a branch of the Rappahannock to the Three notched road as it was called at that time the balance of this tour was employed as he believes in guarding and protecting the citizens, but was no engagement nor does he recollect at that time to have seen the British – he was also drafted for another tour of two months to go to Norfolk and recollects having been marched along the road then called the Three notched road, under the command of the Marquis Lafayette – he believes also Wayne was along at the time – he recollects well to have often seen the Marquis but is not certain as to Wayne – he recollects also another tour of two months service, in which he was marching to join the main Army, when they met American troops running after the defeat of General Gates [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], but does not recollect ever to have seen that officer or General Washington – his two months tour above spoken of when they went to Norfolk expired before the capture of Cornwallis and shortly after the capture of Cornwallis he was again drafted to go with the prisoners taken at Norfolk to Fredericktown in Maryland which he performed & reached his home in five or six weeks, which he sets down as five weeks service at least. This was the last service performed by him – he recollects also in one of the trips toward Richmond guarding the coast, that he was discharged after a service of two weeks but is unable to specify which of the tours – the said Thomas Hackney confidently believes that he served at least seven hold tours each of two months but to avoid any error against the Country, he consents that the whole of his service may be set down at twelve months actual service – the principal officers that he now recollects with whom he served our Marquis Lafayette, Colonel Mathews, Major Jamison & Captain Legg but is unable to specify how or in which of the Campaigns these officers commanded, he is now very old & very infirm & has not for many years been able to go much from his plantation, his memory has greatly failed him – he believes he received a discharge for most if not all the tours he served, but have been lost long since supposing them of no value to him whatever. He has not now any written evidence of his services & he knows now of no living witnesses by whom the same can be proved – he removed from Spotsylvania County about the year 1813 & settled near Bowling Green Kentucky where he resided until ten or twelve

years ago, when he removed to Montgomery County Tennessee, where he has ever since and now resides – he did not make application earlier for the benefit of the act of 1832 because he did not know of its existence until the summer of 1837 & as soon after as he could conveniently, he procured a declaration to be made, which he believes was sent on about a year ago & which he is informed & believes was not never received at the pension office in Washington, – he is not on the pension list of any State or of the United States and hereby relinquishes all & every claim to a pension or any other gratuity from the United States except the one provided by the act of 1832 – he also declares that he does not believe from his age & infirmity that he could safely attend any of our Courts of Record to have his declaration sworn to in the usual form and therefore applies to a Justice of the Peace.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 4th day of December 1838

S/ Y. C. Young, JP

S/ Thos. Hackney

[Reuben Ross, a clergyman, and Augustine Harris gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia service.]