

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Moorland S2876

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } Circuit Court  
Monroe County } On this 11 day of Nov. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon Chas. F. Keithy, Thomas Moorland, a resident of said County of Monroe, aged 80 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 1832.

That he was born in Gouchland [sic: Goochland] County, Va, in March 1753. He has no documentary evidence of his age, his fathers record being lost. He was living in said Gouchland when called into service, and resided there till 30 years ago, when he moved into Carter County, Tn, where he lived till about 5 years ago when he moved into said County of Monroe where he now resides.

He was in the Revolutionary War, in actual service about 3 years; but his memory is so impaired by old age that he cannot state the circumstances as particularly as he could wish.

About the year 1776 he was drafted for three weeks to guard Williamsburg against the British, and was marched down under Capt Edward Curd [sic: Edmund Curd]. He served the three weeks and rec'd a discharge from Capt Curd which he has long since lost.

In the spring, he thinks 1777 he enlisted for 18 months under Capt Samuel Woodson, Robt Woodson Lieut; He was marched to Philadelphia, and there went under the command of Gen'l. Washington, encamped near Philadelphia. Marched under Washington towards New York against Cornwallis. He was out at the time the battle of Brandywine was fought [11 Sep 1777], but not in the battle; and thinks he was on picket guard at the time. He rec'd a discharge from the capt or Lieut which he sold to one of his brothers for a horse. S'd brother is dead and the discharge he supposes, lost.

In the month of May, he thinks of 1780, he was drafted for six months to march to the South against Cornwallis. (His Capt he forgets the name of.) Hatcher was Lieut. [probably Thomas Hatcher, promoted to Captain 17 May 1780]. They joined troops at Hillsborough [NC] under Gen'l. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens], who commanded them on till they joined Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates, who then took command, and marched on the Rouchleys Mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill in SC]. Applicant was in the battle near Camden when they were defeated [16 Aug 1780]. Gates gave orders for them not to fire till the British charged bayonets. When the British came near, applicant and those who were with them fired, then retreated to Hillsborough; and afterwards never heard of the Capt of his company, whose place was supplied by Philip Webber, who commanded the balance of the term. From Hillsborough the marched to Cheraw Hills [SC] he thinks, and thinks he had returned to Hillsborough and was there when his time expired. He recd a discharge from Capt Webber which is long since lost.

In the summer, he thinks, of 1781, he was drafted to go on to the north, against Cornwallis, for 3 months, he thinks, Anderson was his Capt. - Gillman Lieut. - Clumen [sic: Charles Deklaman] Maj'r. he thinks. They marched about he cannot remember where, till they had orders to march to Little York, for which they started, and had nearly reached there when they heard of Cornwallis' surrender [19 Oct 1781]. They then halted - were soon discharged & went home. (He remembers now that during this campaign he marched down towards the Yadkin under Capt Anderson against Tories before he went on towards York. [See note below.] He was in service this time two and a half months - he thinks more. He rec'd a discharge from Capt Anderson which is long since lost. The following persons are at present his neighbors, and can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief in his service as a Revolutionary Soldier viz John Holloway, And'w Potter, Jesse Coleman & Isaac Bramby.

He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can testify to his service. 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. There is no clergyman immediately in his neighborhood, and having been in Monroe County but 5 years he

is well acquainted with no clergyman in this County, and substitutes men who long knew him in Carter County Te. Thomas hisXmark Moorland

NOTE: It is unlikely that a single tour of three months would have included marches both toward Yorktown VA and the Yadkin River in western NC. Some troops were sent to Salisbury NC near the Yadkin after the Battle of Camden, and Moorland might have been among them rather than going to Cheraw Hills.