

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Bibee: S3002

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee}

County of Cocke} SS.

On this 1st day of March 1834 personally appeared before Richmond Baker a Justice of the peace for Cocke County and State of Tennessee, Thomas Bibee a resident citizen of the County of Cocke and State of Tennessee, aged about one hundred 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 7th 1832.

That the Declarant Thomas Bibee has no record of his age and does not know in what year he was born. Before the termination of the Revolutionary War he was too old to be Subject to Military duty in Virginia. He was born in Goochland County, State of Virginia. Before the Revolutionary War, he removed to Amherst County, State of Virginia. In the month of February day not recollected, in the year 1776. This Declarant volunteered for six months under Captain Higginbottom to march to Charleston, South Carolina, to aid in repelling the British who were then about to invade that State. The company rendezvous was at the Court House of the County - the Declarant having volunteered to serve at his home in that county. The Declarant was marched under his Captain Higginbottom [Higginbotham] in a Southerly direction. We first crossed the Fluvanna river in Virginia - the pedee river [sic: Pee Dee River] in North Carolina - and the Santee in South Carolina. The particulars of our rout are not sufficiently recollected for me to give a detail of it, through the very impaired state of my memory, which is now almost entirely destroyed. The Declarant was marched near to Charleston, where we found the American Army under General [Charles] Lee. Here Declarant served out a tour of five months under Captain Higginbottom, being employed in guarding the City of Charleston, untill the British fleet and Army with drew from before that city; having failed in the attack they made upon the post on Sullivan's Island [28 - 29 June 1776]. In the month of July 1776 day not recollected Declarant received a written discharge from his Captain in the city of Charleston, which discharge he has lost, when or where he does not know. In this tour Declarant served five months, for which he never received any pay. After receiving his discharge he returned to his home in Amherst County, Va. The Lieutenant and Ensign and Sergeants of this company are not recollected by him. Colonel [William] Moultrie commanded the Fort on the Island and successfully resisted the attack of the British on it. General Lee commanded the American troops on the main land. In the month of February day not recollected, in the year 1779. This Declarant again volunteered under Captain Reid (Lts and Ensigns being forgotten) to march to Charleston, South Carolina, to aid in repelling an invasion of that State. Declarant volunteered at this time for six months. He volunteered at home and from Amherst Court House in the month of February day not recollected 1779 he was again marched to the South as before, and joined the American Army under Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln near Charleston. The Lieutenants, Ensign and Sergeants of the company are not recollected. Declarant's company was attached to General Mason's Virginia Brigade [probably Col. David Mason] - Colonel [William] Washington and one Armstrong [Sol. James Armstrong] were regular officers - General Moultrie a Gen'l Declarant was in the attack upon the British forces under Col. Maitland at Stono [Battle of Stono Ferry, 20 Jun 1779] - which attack was unsuccessfull, a considerable number of our men being killed. In the month of August day not recollected, in the year 1779 - after serving six months this Declarant was discharged by his captain in the City of Charleston and returned to his home in Amherst County Va. Shortly after his return from this tour Declarant, not being then subject to military duty, in the month of September 1779 day not recollected became a substitute for one Johnson and marched back to the South, where he served under General Lincoln until just before the taking of Charleston by the British in [12 May] 1780 returning home, having received a written discharge from his captain in March 1780. The name of his Captain is gone from his memory.

From Amherst County, Virginia, Declarant moved to North Carolina, on the Yadkin river, thence

he moved to Burke County, N. C. then to Rutherford - then to Boncombe [sic: Buncombe] and then to Cocke County, Tennessee, where he has lived for twenty two years and where he now lives being now, as he has been for many years, supported by his Step Son. Declarant does not recollect the number of years, which he lived in each of the places to which he moved. He was before the termination of the revolution [in 1783] excused from Military duty in Virginia, being then just passed the age at which the Citizens of that State were exempted by law from Military Service - which, he believes, was fixed at fifty five years of age in that State. And according to an estimate from this fact he is now upwards of one hundred years of age. The Declarant never received any compensation for his services. He has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person living, by whom he can prove 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. Declarant has so much lost his memory that he may be mistaken in the name of his captain Reid - and so much gone is his memory that he cannot recall that of his third Captain or the particulars of his services as he could wish. Interlined and erasures before signed. Thomas his+mark Bibee

Question 1st

Where and in what year were you born?

Answer 1st I was born in Goochland County State of Virginia. I do not know in what year I was born. From the best evidence that I have, I am about one hundred years old.

Question 2ed. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer 2ed. I have no record of my age.

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

Answer 3rd. When called into Service, I was living in Amherst County, State of Virginia. Since the Revolutionary War I have lived in Virginia, North Carolina, and Cocke County, State of Tennessee, where I now live.

Question 4th. How were you called into Service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute? and if a Substitute for whom?

Answer 4th. I volunteered twice for six months each time - and I became a substitute a third time for one Johnson for six months I served seventeen months in South Carolina in the years 1776 and 1779 - 80.

Question 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.

Answer 5th. My memory has so very much failed that I cannot recollect the particulars of my Service, as I could wish. I served as a volunteer under Capt Higginbottom from February 1776 day not recollect until July 1776 day not recollect - a period of five months - this service was in South Carolina at Charleston under General Lee - General Moultrie was one of the General Officers. Other Officers not recollect. I again Served as a Volunteer under Captain Reed from February 1779 day not recollect until August 1779 day not recollect a period of six months - In this service, I was in South Carolina, near Charleston under General Lincoln. I became a Substitute for one Johnson in September 1779 under a Captain whose name I cant recall, for six months. I was in the Battle of Stono - which was an attack under Gen'l Lincoln upon Col. Maitland, who commanded a considerable body of British at Stono - in this attack we were unsuccessful, loosing many of our men. This was in my second tour - my third tour was in South Carolina. I served in all Seventeen months.

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

Answer 6th. I received written discharges from my captains at the end of each of the periods I served. I know not when or where I've lost them. I never expected that they would be of any service to me, and I never took any care of them.

Question 7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer 7th. I would refer to the Rev'd. Jos. Maning Mr. Joseph Oneal and Major W. P. Gillett who

have all known me for many years, who can be examined touching my character for veracity
their belief of my services as a Soldier of the Revolution, and concerning the belief of my
neighbourhood as to my Services.

Interlined and erasures before signed.

Thomas his+mark Bibee