

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Majors (Magers) ¹ S30564

f67NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/29/16

[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 Kentucky, Madison County: SS

On this 25th day of August 1847 personally appeared before Thomas S. Bronston one of the Justices of the Madison County Court Thomas Majors a resident of this County & State aforesaid aged 84 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He entered as an enlisted soldier under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland Major Hearn [sic, probably Joseph Herndon, possibly Benjamin Herndon, both Majors in the Wilkes County militia] Captain Joel Lewis Lieut. Towson [probably Joshua Towson] & Ensign John Cleveland in the year 1780 but cannot state the day or month in Wilkes County North Carolina where he then lived. He enlisted during the war & served 18 months. He was in the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]² where he went first after entering the service, was in a skirmish at the place called the Shallow Ford [October 14, 1780]³ of the Yadkin River & then another at a place called the hanging Rock [August 6, 1780]:⁴ after the battle of Kings Mountain we went to help take some prisoners to Salem from Salem went to a place called the Hanging Rock & was afterwards discharged at Salem.

He has resided in Madison County Kentucky about 14 years & now resides here. Previous to which he resided in Hawkins County Tennessee where he removed from Wilkes County North Carolina. He has no documentary evidence in relation to his services & knows of no person whose testimony can be conveniently produced who can testify to the same. He is unable by reason of bodily infirmity to attend in open court at the Court House of the County.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or Territory whatever.

S/ Thos Majors, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ T. S. Bronston, one the Justices of the Madison County Court
[George W. Tribble and John Gay gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Kentucky, Madison County: SS

¹ BLWt18210-160-55

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

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

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

The amendment of Thomas Majors to his declaration of the 25th day of August 1847 in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned William Hiatt one of the Justices of the Madison County Court on the 29th day of November 1848, Thomas Majors who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise time when he entered the service nor the precise time when he was discharged but he knows that he served 18 months in the Army of the Revolution as stated in his original declaration but as near as he can state he enlisted in the early part of the year 1780 or the latter end of 1779 & was discharged at the expiration of the period mentioned. He served as a private during said. & for such services he claims a pension. He is still unable by reason of bodily infirmity to attend in open Court.

S/ Thomas Majors, X his mark

Subscribed to & Sworn before me the day & year aforesaid

S/ William Hiatt, JP

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State of Kentucky, Madison County: SS

The deposition of John Forbes⁵ a Revolutionary pensioner of the County of Laurel State of Kentucky taken at the House of Green B. Hice Esq. in the County of Madison State of Kentucky to be read as evidence in support of the claim of Thomas Majors of Madison County Kentucky an applicant for the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 entitled "An act supplementary to an Act for the relief of certain surviving officers & soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" this deposition is taken November 11th, 1848 before Palestine P. Ballard a Justice of the Peace in and for the County first aforesaid to be read before the war department in support of the application aforesaid.

The deponent aged 84 years 25th day of August last: being first duly sworn according to law, deposes & say as. That he is a Revolutionary Pensioner under the act aforesaid. That he served in the Army of the revolution & was at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He knew Thomas Majors the applicant above mentioned & knows that he was in that battle & was a soldier some time before & afterwards. I was from Burke County North Carolina Majors was from Wilkes County North Carolina & served under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland. I first knew him about the 30th of September 1780, when the different forces assembled. I knew Col. Cleveland well also Major Hearn, Captain Joseph Lewis: & Ensign John Cleveland also knew Colonels Campbell & Shelby & Major Winston. From the date aforesaid up to the battle of Kings Mountain I knew Majors & some time afterwards: Majors was one who went to guard some prisoners to Burke Court house: & I was also one: I remember Majors more particularly as on our way with the prisoners he got up behind me & rode across a stream: I was riding & he was afoot – when we was discharged I do not know – but I know he was in the Revolutionary Service between the times aforesaid – I served under Col. Charles McDowell, Majors is an older man than I am: some two or three years, and further saith not.

S/ John Forbes, X his mark

[Attested November 11th 1848]

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Also the deposition of Isham Lane⁶ taken at his own house in the same County & State on the same day before the same Justice & for the same purposes as the foregoing deposition of John

⁵ [John Forbis \(Forbes\) W25591](#)

⁶ [Isham Lane S13705](#)

Forbes. The deponent being a revolutionary pensioner under the act aforesaid and aged 91 years & first duly sworn according to law deposes & says – I am old & rather deaf & have not thought lately about the questions asked me but I knew Thomas Majors the applicant named in the foregoing deposition of John Forbes. I knew Majors well in the Revolutionary war. We were both from Wilkes County North Carolina he (Majors) was a regular enlisted soldier of the Revolutionary Army. He & I both drew lots from the same hat & he drew to go: He enlisted at early in 1780 He was at the battle of Kings Mountain & served under Colonel Cleveland & Major Winston & Captain Joseph Lewis and Ensign John Cleveland all of whom I knew well & also Shelby and Campbell Colonels but do not remember Major Hearn. Thomas Majors the applicant aforesaid was in the service some months before the battle of Kings Mountain & was in that Battle: & remained in the Service some considerable time afterwards. He served either 18 months or three years I do not remember which as it has been a long time & I have not thought about it much. I am 91 years of age and am a revolutionary pensioner and was in the Battle of King's Mountain & saw Majors repeatedly in the Revolutionary Army.

I know of John Forbes of Laurel County Kentucky whose deposition is given above. He is a Revolutionary Pensioner & was a Revolutionary Soldier & I knew him at the same time I knew Majors. I also know David Benge a Revolutionary Pensioner of Clay County Kentucky & knew him in the Revolutionary Army at the same time that I knew Majors & Forbes.

S/ Isham Lane, X his mark

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This affiant States that he is now acquainted with Thomas Majors of the County of Madison State of Kentucky that he was likewise acquainted with him during the Revolutionary [war] he states that they served together sixteen or eighteen months twelve months in the Continental line and the balance in the Militia of the State of North Carolina that that they enlisted in the County of Wilkes North Carolina the last of the year 1779 or first of the year 1780 and was discharged near Wilkesburg [sic, Wilkesboro] North Carolina that the officers were changed but Benjamin Cleveland was Colonel of the Regiment in which they served that Joel Lewis was Captain of the company and Shadrach Thompson or Towson was Lieutenant of the Company while in service in the Militia with this affiant for ~~twelve~~ months they were at or near Camden together and at the battle of Kings Mountain North Carolina [sic, South Carolina] and was in the Salem or Moravian Town N. C. and were endeavoring to form a Junction with General Greene's forces during his retreat and thinks they were in a little skirmish near Camden N.C. [sic, SC] Joseph Lewis was Colonel of the Regiment in the service in the Continental line and Charles Gordon was Captain of the Company.

S/ David Benge,⁷ X his mark

Sworn to and Subscribed in my presence as Justice of the peace for County of Clay & State of Kentucky this the 21st of December 1848.

S/ William Reid, JP

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State of Kentucky, Madison County: Sct.

On this day 31st of March [1852] personally appeared before me William Malcolm Miller, a Justice of the peace for Madison County Kentucky Thomas Majors a Resident of the County and State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following amended Declaration to his former Declaration filed in the War Department of Washington City, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the acts of Congress

⁷ [David Benge S38530](#)

passed June 7th 1832.

I was born in Halifax County in the State of Virginia in the year 1764 or thereabouts to the best of my knowledge. The only record I have of my age is Family tradition – I can neither read nor write.

I was living in Wilkes County North Carolina when called into service I have lived since in the States of Tennessee and Kentucky and am now in my Eighty Eighth year, voluntarily enlisted in the Service as a regular private soldier, and was not a Substitute for anyone.

I received a regular discharge from the Colonel of my Regiment and was robbed of it, my discharge, together with some \$30 in money in emigrating to the West.

I never received a Commission but served out my regular time of enlistment as a private which was eighteen months – I received my bounty at the time of enlisting which was in dollars and the only [illegible word] I have ever received.

I do not distinctly recollect the names or numbers of my Regiment, or the particular line of service, Benjamin Cleveland was my Colonel I have some times mentioned the name of Hern [sic] as my Major & Lewis as my Captain, they were the officers I was under in the militia service of North Carolina. Lanore [sic, William Lenoir] Major, and Foster was my Captain Lieutenant Towson I also well recollect Colonels Shelby, ~~Williams~~, Sevier and Campbell.

I left the service shortly after the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis I well recollect that event as it was the close of the War. I never served but one term of enlistment which was for 18 months, in the regular service rank and the names of my Officers as above.

I lived in the County of Wilkes and State of North Carolina when I enlisted.

I participated in the Memorable Battle of “Kings Mountain” and was in a skirmish at or near Camden at a place called “Hanging Rock” or Isle Rock. This was before the Battle of Kings Mountain, have no distinct recollection the Country through which we marched as I was very young at the time – but I think we marched to Salem after the Battle as above.

I have been known for a number of years by Colonel Samuel Campbell and Colonel William Harris who are my neighbors and also by John Forbes at present living in Clay County Kentucky. We drew lots from the same Hat & My name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State, that I have any knowledge of – my recollection has failed me very much in the last few years as my health is feeble & have forgotten a good many things of my early days.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or an annuity, except the present.

S/ Thomas Mageors [sic] Seal, X his mark

[p 57: On February 27, 1852, Thomas Majors executed a power of attorney in favor of Vespasian Ellis authorizing him to pursue his claims for a pension.]

[p 66: On June 7, 1853, Majors revoked all prior powers of attorney and named F. F. C. Triplett as his attorney to pursue his claims.]

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State of Kentucky, County of Madison

On this the 23rd day of April A. D. 1855, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Thomas Majors aged 92 years a resident of Madison County in the State of Kentucky who being duly Sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Thomas Majors who was a private in the company commanded by Captain Joel Lewis in the Regiment of Infantry commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland in the War of the revolution and belonged to the State Troops of North Carolina was engaged in the battle at “Kings Mountain” in the State aforesaid, and reference is made to his declaration, and now in file in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions in his application for a pension as a Revolutionary

Soldier and Book E.2 Vol. 7, Page 34, reference is thereto made, for Terms of Service, and other particulars.

That he volunteered in Wilkes County North Carolina the ___ day of ___ A. D. for the term of three months and continued in actual Service in said we war for the term of 14 days, and was honorably discharged at Salem, in North Carolina the ___ day of ___ A. D. ___.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the act approved March 3, 1855. He also declares that he has not received a warrant for bounty land under this or any other Act of Congress, nor made any other application therefore.

S/ Thomas Majers [sic], X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]