

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Thompson S30731

f29NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 8]

State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County} On this the 27 day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court in the court now sitting William Thompson a Resident of the said County and State aforesaid aged about 73 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 entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated he entered the Service in the year 1776 at sixteen years of age and served a Tour of six months under Captain Arthur Council [sic, Arthur Council] in he believes the 6th Regiment General Moore [James Moore] Commander and was at the end of six months legally discharged and then in about the 1st of December 1778 he Substituted a five months Tour for a man by the name of Thomas Millor and was in that Tour [under] Captain John Coakely [John Cokely] at the Battle of Briar Creek on the 3rd of March 1779¹ and a few days after the Battle he was discharged and on his way home he met Col. Jonas Johnston's [sic, Jonas Johnston's] Regiment in Camden South Carolina and then substituted for a man by the name of Owens and served a Tour of three months under Captain Hall [Edward Hall] in the same Regiment & the number not recollected and in this Tour he was in the Battle of Stono Ferry on the 20th of June 1779² and at the end of three months he was discharged in South Carolina by Colonel Johnston and in July 1780 he was drafted for three months and served under Captain Nazarah [sic, George Nasworthy] and fought at Battle of Gun [sic, Gum] Swamp [sic, Battle of Camden SC, August 15-16, 1780]³ General Gates [Horatio Gates] commanded on the 16th of August 1780 and after the defeat at Gum Swamp he went on to Drownden Creek [sic, Drowning Creek] in North Carolina and joined Col. Sowel [Benjamin Seawell] and served the Balance of the three months and was legally discharged and then in February or March 1781 he was drafted a Tour of three months and served under Captain White [John White] and Colonel [illegible name] Regiment General Greene [Nathanael Greene] Commander and fought at the Battle at Guilford Court house on the 15th of March 1781⁴ and after the Battle he was discharged by General Butler [John Butler] at Ramsey's Mill on Deep River North Carolina Chatham County and about this time Lord Cornwallis was marching his Army on to the North, and he volunteered under Captain Frank Thornton [Francis Thornton] and served a Tour of two months and was discharged at General Eaton's ferry [?] on Roanoke [River] by Captain Thornton and served 22 months he hereby Relinquishes every claim to whatever to a pension or annuity Except the

¹ Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

present and Declares his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State and he has no documentary Evidence of his Service. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Thompson, X his mark

Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born January 24, 1760 in Warren County North Carolina

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

My age was set down by my father in his family Bible and the last account I have of it it was in the possession of my Brother in the state of Tennessee

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

I lived in Chatham County when called into service North Carolina and have lived in Mecklenburg County where I now live ever since the Revolutionary War

[omitted: 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?]

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.

I was acquainted with General Gates, Colonel Caswell, Colonel Porterfield who was Commander of the advance Guard at Gum Swamp in the night and I was with him and he was killed and Colonel Clinch and the officer at Briar Creek General Ashe Captain Allen Captain Cokeley & also General Greene, Colonel Washington [William Washington] Colonel Lee [Henry ["Light Horse Harry"] Lee]

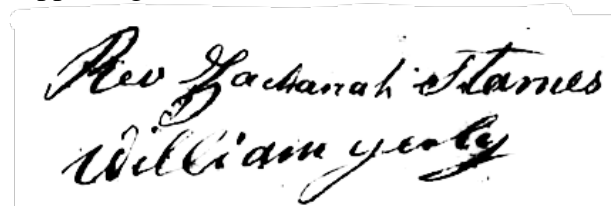
6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I received several discharges from different men one discharge from General Moore verbal from Captain Cokely, one from General Butler.

[omitted 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

S/ William Thompson, X his mark

[Zaceriah [sic, Zachariah] Starnes, a clergyman, and William Yealy⁵ gave the standard supporting affidavit.



Rev. Zachariah Starnes
William Yealy]

State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

Personally came before me the Subscribing Justice of the peace of the above State and County Charles Elms, Senior,⁶ and being duly sworn Declareth that he the said Charles Elms was well acquainted with William Thomson [sic] of the above State & County and was with him the

⁵ Annie Hall suggests this is likely "William Yearby" whose surname evolved in later generations to "Irby." Her suggestion is strongly supported by the Clerk of Court's certificate in which he refers to the witness as "William Yearby."

⁶ [Charles Elms S8413](#) [Elms made application under the 1818 Act and gives no details of his service in his application.]

said Thomson in the Memorable Battle on the 16th day of August in the year of our Lord 1780 under the Command of General Gaits [sic, Gates] at the Gum Swamp in the State of South Carolina.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 13th day of May 1833.

Test: S/ Walter Davis, JP

S/ Charles Elms, X his mark

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State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

On this the 25 day of November 1833 personally appeared in open court Before the Court now sitting William Thompson a Resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 75 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 the 7th 1832 that he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated he entered the service as a volunteer in April 1776 under Captain Arthur Counsell and Served a tour of six months and in that tour he marched from Chatham County North Carolina to Fayetteville in Colonel Halton's Regiment and was Stationed in Fayetteville in said war two months and then marched on to Wilmington N. C. and was stationed there four months and was discharged in Wilmington North Carolina in October 1776 by General More [sic, Moore] and then he returned Back to Chatham N.C. and then to Warren County North Carolina and then in November 1778 he substituted for a man by the name of Thomas Millon and served a Tour of five months and in that Tour he marched from Warren County North Carolina through South Carolina to Augusta in the State of Georgia and was stationed there for some time and in this Tour he Served under Captain Coakely in Colonel Eaton's [Thomas Eaton's] Regiment General Ash [sic, John Ashe] Commander and he left Augusta turn down Savannah River and fought at the battle of Briar Creek in the State of Georgia on the third day of March 1779 and after the Battle he crossed the Savannah River and rendezvoused at a place called the White house in South Carolina and was stationed there until April 1779 at that time he was discharged by General Eaton and then on his return home to Warren N. C. from the White house the place where he was discharged he met Colonel Jonas Johnson Regiment in Camden South Carolina and there substituted for a man by the name of Dred Owens and Served a Tour of three months he substituted for Owens in April 1779 under Captain Hall in Colonel Johnston's Regiment and in that Tour he marched from Camden S. C. to Ashley River and was stationed at a place called the pon ponds [sic, Pon Pon or Edisto] about four weeks and then he marched with Johnson and General Linkhorn [sic, Benjamin Lincoln] to Stono ferry and was in the Battle at Stono on the 20th of June 1779 and after the Battle he retreated back to pon ponds and was stationed there until he was discharged, which was in the latter part of July or the first of August 1779 and he was discharged by Col. Johnston and then he returned Back to Warren in North Carolina and in July 1780 he was drafted in Warren County North Carolina and served Tour of three months under Captain Nazara in Colonel Caswell's Regiment and in that Tour he marched [from] Warren County N. C. by Kingston [sic, Kinston] on to the Cheraw South Carolina and there Joined General Gates' Army and marched on to Rugeley's Mills and from there home to Gum Swamp and was in the Battle of Gum Swamp, S. C., and after Gates defeat he retreated back into North Carolina and met Colonel Towel's Regiment at Drowning Creek Bridge and joined his Regiment and served out the Balance of his Time in said Regiment and was discharged in September 1780 at Drowning Creek Bridge North Carolina and then returned Back to Warren North Carolina and then in February or March 1781 he was drafted and served a Tour of three months under Captain White in Colonel Benjamin Williams Regiment and in that Tour he marched [from] Warren North Carolina to Guilford Court house N. C. and was in the Battle of Guilford Court house on the 15th of March

1781 and after the Battle he marched own to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River and was stationed there until the end of the Tour and was discharged in the latter part of May 1781 by General Butler and then he returned Back to Warren County and then in March 1781 he volunteered under Captain Thornton a Tour of two months in that Tour he marched from Warren County to Eaton's ferry on Roanoke in said County of Warren and was stationed there the whole time in order to prevent Cornwallis from passing to the North and was discharged at Eaton's ferry by Thornton in September 1781 and he served in all 22 months he hereby He relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Thompson, X his mark

[Zachariah Starnes, a clergyman and William Wilson day of the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 5: On May 7, 1835, while living in Graves County, Ky, the veteran applied for a transfer of his pension benefits. In this application he states "...that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the companies of North Carolina Militia 1st commanded by Captain Arthur Counsel in the corps commanded by General Moore and 2nd to the company commanded by Captain John Cokely in the Regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Eaton and 3rd to the company commanded by Edward Hall in the Army of general Lincoln at Stono and 4th to the company commanded by Captain Nazry in the Army of General Gates at the fatal field of Camden and 5th to the company commanded by Captain White in the Army of General Greene at Guilford Courthouse and lastly to the company commanded by Captain Thornton & Regiment commanded by Commandant Thomas Eaton in 1781...." He gave as his reason for moving to Kentucky giving as his reason for moving to Kentucky "...the most of his children were living in Kentucky and he wished to spend the remnant of his days with them." He signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$73.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 22 months in the North Carolina Continental line.]