

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Coker S30957

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/22/08 rev'd 11/16/14

[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.]

[Kentucky, Harlan County]

On this 14th day of April 1834 personally appeared before Samuel Mark an acting justice of the peace for Harlan County Kentucky Thomas Coker a resident of Yellow Creek in the County of Harlan and State of Kentucky, aged 72 [could be 73, last digit written over] years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

I volunteered in the militia of North Carolina in Surry County in the year 1779 as well as I remember for a tour of three months under William Shepherd Col.—John Horn Capt. Thomas Coker, a cousin of mine, Lieut.--John Harper Ensign. We rendezvoused at Surry Court House, we marched thence into Wilkes County, thence into Rowan [County], thence to Guilford [County], our business in this tour was to disarm, and suppress the Tories. We returned to Surry after this tour and continued there actively engaged in the same sort of employment until my three months was out. I received no written discharge for this service.

In the spring afterwards being 1780 as well as I remember I was drafted for a tour of three months in Surry County, North Carolina under _____ Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Genl.,--Martin Armstrong, Col -- William Meridith [William Meredith] Capt. We marched thence to Salsberry [Salisbury] town and there was stationed awhile - - thence we marched to Pedee [River] and crossed it at the Cheraw Hills -- we marched thence to Rouges Mills [Rugeley's Mills] -- a little above them we met with the army under Gen'l Gates [Horatio Gates]. We joined Gates and turned down passing Rugeley's Mills on our road to Camden before we reached Camden My company was put under the orders of John Armstrong a Continental Col., who had married my sister—at Gum Swamps we had a battle with the British [Battle of Camden, August 15-16 , 1780] —the battle was commenced in the night and the corps to which I belonged commenced the action—in this engagement I received a slight wound in the right arm from a musket ball--we got whipped and had to retreat. Every man I believe made for his home—the road toward Surry was crowded with soldiers among the militia no order was preserved—I do not remember that any officer took command on the retreat—I lacked but a few days of completing this tour of three months when the battle was fought—I confident not more

than 15 days and then before we could reach our homes we had to travel near 200 miles—I rec'd no written discharge for this service.

In the fall of the same year I was drafted again in Surry County, North Carolina for a tour of 3 months under __ Grimes [probably George Grimes] aj. -- ,Kimmins [John Kimmins] Capt., -- we marched again from Surry Court House to join the main army. We went as far as a place called White Plains and then was ordered back to go against a parcel of Tories—thence we marched to Cross Creek; thence we marched towards the Cheraw Hills—we did not meet with the bunch of Tories we were in search of since they took to the swamps and eluded our pursuit—we killed two men in those parts that I understood was the Captain and Lieut. of the Tories—when my three months was out I was discharged at Salisbury Town.

I received no written discharge for this service, I have no documentary evidence of my service. I have heard that Nicholas Horn¹ lives near Knoxville, Tennessee a distance of 50 miles by whom I could prove some of my tours, but I have no horse and am not able from bodily infirmity to walk so far I know of no person else living, by whom I could prove any portion of my service. I am not able to go to court a distance of 30 or 40 miles because I have no horse -- am too poor to buy one and am unable from bodily infirmity to walk. In all my tours I served as a common soldier.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Answer to Question 1st I was born in Brunswic [sic, Brunswick] County State of N. Carolina. I do not know the year in which I was born.

Q. 2th. I have no record of my age - and my recollection of what my parents have told me is very imperfect - I know I volunteered before I was 16 and performed that tour.

Q. 3th I was living in Surry County, N. Carolina when called into the service. After the revolution I moved to Laurens County, S. Carolina and lived there 22 years. Thence to Franklin City, Georgia. Thence to Sevier County Tennessee, thence to Yellow Creek now Harlan County, where I have lived off and on about 17 years.

4th . My first tour was as a volunteer -- the 2 other tours was as a draft man.

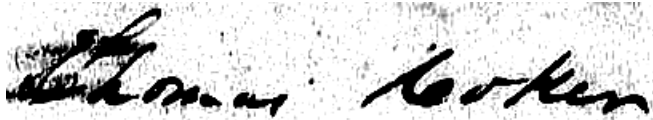
5th . I knew Gen'l Gates - Col John Armstrong - Baron DeKalb that was killed at the Gum Swamps - I do not know any of the regiments by number.

6th . I never rec'd any discharge from the service.

7th . I am known in my present neighbourhood to Henry Reins - John Turner, Henry Gibson and many others, who I doubt not if present, would testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn and subscribed the days and year aforesaid

S/ Thomas Coker



We Henry Reins, John Turner and Henry Gibson residing in Harlan County, Kentucky hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Thomas Coker ,who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration - that we believe him to be 71 years of age that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the

1 [Nicholas Horne \(Horn\) S4395](#)

revolution and that we concur in that opinion we further certify that the applicant lives at a distance of more than 30 miles from the court house that he has no horse and from our knowledge of his circumstances has nothing to pay for a horse - and that from bodily infirmity he is unable to walk to court.

S/ Henry Reins
S/ John Turner
S/ Henry Gibson

[p 11: Power of attorney dated March 24, 1835 filed in Knox County Kentucky by Bidly Coker in which she states she is the widow of Thomas Coker, a revolutionary war pensioner. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 12: Affidavit dated May 30, 1835 filed in Knox County Kentucky by Richard Ballew in which the affiant states that Thomas Coker died January 6, [presumably 1835], leaving Bidly Coker as his widow.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 ½ months in the North Carolina militia.]