

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Hill S31131

f55SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

rev'd 1/4/11 & 8/3/22

[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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.]

State of Kentucky, Caldwell County

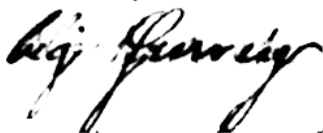
On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Burr Caldwell, one of the justices of the County Court of said County of Caldwell, Thomas Hill, aged Seventy four years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain 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, to wit: That he volunteered in the militia of South Carolina, from Camden district (where he then live) about the beginning of the revolution, and at the time of the Snowy Camps<sup>1</sup> (though the precise time he does not remember as to the month and year); that at the commencement of his service he <sup>entered as</sup> Lt. but was not commissioned till afterwards <sup>was</sup> commissioned a Lieutenant and as such had the Command of a Company, which joined a Regiment of volunteers under Colonel <sup>Thomas</sup> Taylor, and Major Robert Lyal [sic, Robert Lyle], and that William Lang was the Captain of this Company <sup>but refusing</sup> to go, [deponent] entered command as Lieutenant under Captain John Gordon [who] took command of his & my company<sup>2</sup>. That the Regiment consisted of six or seven hundred men, and his company of something over 30 men. That the object of this expedition was to suppress a Colonel Fletcher [sic, Thomas Fletchall] and a Major Hobbs<sup>3</sup> who commanded a Regiment of Tories at a place called the big [undeciphered word],<sup>4</sup> and were committing depredations on the Country – that we marched immediately to encounter these Tories, who fled on our approach into a large cave, where Fletchall and Hobbes were both taken prisoners and sent to Charleston, and there confined. That the capture of Fletchall and Hobbs broke up the Tories there for a time, and they never afterwards collected in so large a body in that quarter. That the expedition lasted about six weeks, after which we were permitted to return home for a short time – that in two or three weeks we were again called out under the command of the same officers except that John McKinney was Captain of my company (myself still commanding as Lieutenant of the Company) – that we rendezvoused at 4 hole bridge [Four Holes Bridge] and marched to the Congaree River to Ancrum's Bluff (the British at this time in Charleston). That we marched from this place to Mott's Hill at which the

<sup>1</sup> Snow Campaign, December 23-30, 1775

[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_snow\\_campaign.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_snow_campaign.html)

<sup>2</sup> None of the officers named by this veteran are known to have been in service during the Snow Campaign.

<sup>3</sup> I have been unable to identify to whom deponent is referring. I can find no one by this name or rank listed among the 136 Tories "arrested" and sent to Charleston after the first Battle of Ninety Six in late 1775.



British surrendered and some prisoners were taken, and paroled. After this we proceeded up the River to Congaree Bridge below Columbia and at Granby thence to a Dutch settlement called Summers Settlement <sup>in possession of Cruger</sup> [John Harris Cruger] on Broad River, thence we marched to Ninety Six <sup>the Broad River at the Saluda old times under Rawdon who advanced on us and where</sup> we were repulsed by Lord Rawdon & Colonel Cruger, who commanded the British at this place, and were compelled to retreat back again to Ancrum's Bluff on the Congaree. That from this place, officers were dispatched into the country to get recruits and reinforcements to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] <sup>then on the Congaree</sup> – that he, said Thomas Hill, was one of these who was sent out to collect a reinforcement, and went immediately into Camden district where he had first entered the service, into his old company, and by exertions procured out of his old company (~~thirty~~ <sup>15 or 20</sup> men) and proceeded directly to Congaree, and joined the Regiment <sup>still at the bluff</sup>. That as soon as the reinforcements arrived, we marched immediately and joined General Greene near to the Eutaw Springs, sometime in the afternoon of the day before the battle – that on the next day, the battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] was fought in which he & his company fought. That in this engagement Col. William Washington commanded the light-horse, and was taken prisoner – that Colonel Lee [Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee] also commanded troop of light-horse, but refused to do his part on that day –he refused to join Colonel Washington in charging the enemy; which if he had done, the enemy would certainly have fallen into our hands. That the battle continued several hours, but having joined the Army of Greene but a short time before the action, he does not remember who commanded the regulars, nor does he suppose he ever knew. That as soon as the battle was ended, the enemy retreated to Charleston and we pursued as far as Moncks Corner, but owing to fatigue &c we here gave up the pursuit. That, after a few days, we were again permitted to return home. That not long afterwards the British evacuated Charleston, which was in May 1780 [sic, the British did not evacuate Charleston until December 1782: Charleston originally fell to the British on May 12, 1780] as he thinks; after which our services were not again required. That from the time he first entered the service as Lieutenant to the time of his discharge after the battle of the Eutaw Springs, he was in constant service as much as two years, as Lieutenant of his Company, commissioned as such by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] as he believes and which commission he kept until he left South Carolina which was about 35 years ago, but which is now lost or destroyed or worn out. That when he returned from Moncks Corner in the pursuit as aforesaid to the Eutaw Springs, we were there discharged until our services were again required, but as the British soon after left Charleston we were not again called for, and this he supposes was the reason that no written discharge was given, as he does not remember of receiving one. That in the battle of the Eutaw Springs, there were regulars from Virginia, has well as he remembers, but he does not recollect who commanded them. That he does not know of any person living in the country who can prove his service – that he served with Mason Davis, Allen Davis, Alexander Stewart and others, but he does not know that any of them are living. And of the proper interrogatories<sup>5</sup> as direct by the War Department being put to

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<sup>5</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

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

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your

him, he answered as follows: That he was born the sixth of March 1758 near Moncks Corner, St. John's Parish, State of South Carolina, but moved from there to Camden and lived there till the war and afterwards: That he keeps a record of his age in a Bible at home: That he was living in Camden when he entered the service, and lived there till the war closed, and left there about 35 years ago, and settled in Green County Tennessee, then in Logan County Kentucky where he lived several years, then in Callaway County Kentucky & lived there a few years, and lastly in this County (Caldwell) where he now lives & has for about three years: That he was a volunteer in the service of the revolution: That he has stated as much as he remembers about the names of the regular officers with whom he served, and of the Continental & Militia Regiments with whom he served, and of the general circumstances of the war: That he did received a commission has Lieutenant as before stated signed by Governor Rutledge, but is now lost: At the persons living in his neighborhood who can testify as to his veracity and their belief of his revolutionary services are numerous & he supposes all would do so <sup>not that they have personal knowledge of my services but as I flatter myself in my veracity in statements on this subject</sup> – that some of their names are Benjamin W. Flint, Arnold Jacob, James White, Chittenden Lyon, Burr Caldwell and many others. 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.

S/ Tho. Hill



Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ B. Caldwell, J. P. CC

[James W. Mansfield, a clergyman, and Arnold Jacob, James W. White, & A. F. Jacob gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 23

State of Kentucky Caldwell County: SS

On this 6th day of May 1834 before Benjamin G Rice Esquire one of the justices of the County Court for the County and State aforesaid, and one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace for said County, personally appeared Thomas Hill, resident of said County, aged seventy-five 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: In the winter of 1775 as well as I remember, and at the time called the "Snow Camps" I first entered the service in the militia of South Carolina as a Lieutenant, from the District of Camden, under Captain John Gordon, and Colonel Thomas Taylor – and one Robert Lyal was major. This was a Regiment of volunteers, raised to go against one Colonel Fletcher and Major Hobbs who were at the head of a party of Tories at a place called the Big Survey. As soon as we assembled, we marched for the enemy, who upon our approach fled into a large cave, where Fletcher & Hobbs were taken prisoner, and sent to Charleston – their followers were killed, taken prisoners and dispersed. Thus having accomplished our object we were discharged, after having served only six weeks. Note. – Our Colonel (Taylor) lived in Richland County. In this expedition, although I acted as Lieutenant, yet I was not commissioned until some time afterwards; when Governor Rutledge commissioned me as Lieutenant of the company to which I belonged in Camden District. I continued as service until the month of March 1780 when as a volunteer again I entered the service as Lieutenant under the commission which I now held. My company was now commanded by Captain John McKinney and the

Regiment by the same Colonel Taylor & Major Lyal and a Lieutenant Colonel Francis Goodwin. We rendezvoused at the Four hole bridge, and marched from thence to Ancrum's bluff on the Congaree [River]; and from thence to a British post at Motts Hill, which was surrendered to us, and the prisoners taken were paroled. From this place we marched up the River to the Congaree bridge at Fort Granby, and from thence to a Dutch settlement, called Summers' settlement on Broad River, where we joined General Sumter. After joining him it was determined to attack Ninety Six a British post then commanded by Colonel Cruger, Rawdon at this time was at the Saluda old towns, and it was thought practicable to take the place before it could be relieved by him. Accordingly we marched immediately against the place, and began the siege, which was prosecuted with the greatest vigor for several days, and with a strong hope of success. But we were disappointed. There is no doubt that Cruger would have surrendered, if he had not expected and even known in the near approach of Rawdon to his relief. This information was conveyed to him through our camp by one Caldwell who represented himself an American gentleman, friendly to our cause. (I could name the particulars but do not deem it necessary.) About the time when we anxiously expected a surrender, our spies brought the intelligence of the approach of Lord Rawdon, with a force sufficient to relieve the place. Our safety required us to raise the siege & immediately retreat, which we did across Broad River, and from thence back to Summers' settlement, where we continued a short time. My Regiment here separated from Sumter, as no particular object immediately presented itself for combined action. We proceeded again to Ancrum's bluff, where Colonel Taylor, found it necessary to recruit his force, as he was not strong enough to act effectively. From this place he dispatched myself, with other officers into our respective districts and companies to recruit men. I succeeded in prevailing on 15 to join the service, and with them returned to the camp at Ancrum's bluff. General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], at this time was on the Congaree and expecting shortly to come in contact with the enemy, had sent out for all the militia to be collected, and to join him as soon as possible. This was the main object in recruiting the Regiment of Colonel Taylor as before mentioned. As soon therefore, as our recruits came in, we marched down the Congaree, and crossed below Motts Fort; and proceeded towards the Eutaw Springs. About five miles from that place we joined General Green at his camp, who was waiting our arrival. He had proceeded by easy marches for the purpose of giving time to the militia to join him, and particularly General Marion. After this junction, Green determined to engage the enemy immediately; and accordingly on the 8th of September 1781 (I well remember the day) attacked the enemy under Colonel Stuart at the Eutaw Springs, and gained a victory though with considerable loss. I was engaged, with my whole Regiment in this battle, and could relate the most of the circumstances. The battle continued several hours – the pursuit was continued as far as Moncks Corner, where it was given up, on account of heat and thirst as the weather was very warm. The enemy retreated towards Charleston, and Green encamped the following night on the same ground he had the preceding night. The South and North Carolina militia, in this engagement were commanded by Generals Marion & Pickens and Colonel Malmedy as well as I remember. My recollection also is that Colonel Washington was taken prisoner, & his command devolved on Colonel Hampton. On our arrival at Moncks Corner, we learned that the British were reinforced, and General Green did not think it prudent to attack them again, and moved his Army to the High Hills of Santee. Shortly after this, the British began to draw in their outpost, and concentrate their forces towards Charleston, and the militia not being now particularly required, as the whole Army had suffered much from hard service and disease, the militia were permitted to return to their homes, until their services should again be required. This was about the first of November 1781. My own Regiment was included in this permission, and we returned home. We were not again called out, as our services were not required, the enemy having pretty well been driven to concentrate at Charleston where they remained for some time afterwards. This is the whole of my

Revolutionary Service. I am not able, from loss of memory to fix the precise time of my first service – the last, from March 1782 November 1781 I am with more certainty, as the incidents and circumstances of that service are fresher in my memory. When I entered the service in March 1780, it was for no certain length of time, but as long as was necessary, for during the years 1780 & 1781 the British and Tories were stronger, were bolder, and done more injury than any other time; and all who could bear arms were obliged to do so in self-defense. During the time I served under Colonel Taylor as aforesaid, his Regiment was kept up by volunteers and drafted militia. I declare that I have no documentary evidence by me which would prove my services, having lost my commission many years ago. I have written to South Carolina for [indecipherable word or words] of it, but have received no answer. Nor do I know that there is any record of it at all, as it was the practice in those days to send own blank commissions, and they were filled up by the superior officers. Nor do I know of any person living by whom I can prove my service except it may be one William Kirkland and one John McKinney, the son of my Captain. The former, some years ago moved to Autauga County Alabama, and since my former declaration was returned for want of proof, I have got my friends to write to him, and make every possible inquiry, but I can hear nothing from him. He could prove my service as Lieutenant if living, but I have no hope of being able to get his evidence. The said McKinney was not old enough to serve at the time I did and his evidence would be incidental and hearsay, though he knew me well at the time. I am informed that sort of evidence is not being sufficient at the department and therefore I have not taken it as yet. One Reuben Harrison of Fairfield County South Carolina knows the whole of my service, if living, but I have not heard from him in many years, and suppose he is dead. My proof has therefore failed. I have delayed bus long to send back my declaration, for the purpose of getting the necessary evidence to establish my claim as a Lieutenant during my whole service; but as it is hopeless, and my age, and debility will not allow me to use more exertion I must give it up, and asked the department to allow me a private's pay. I have but a short time to enjoy anything, and shall be content with the pay of a private, if I do not send own with this, evidence enough to entitle me to more. I declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State or Territory whatever; and that during the time of my service aforesaid (which was constant and unremitting) I was engaged in no civil or other employment.

And the said justice propounded to the said applicant the following interrogatories as prescribed by the War Department, to which he made the subjoined answers:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born near Moncks Corner, St. John's Parish, South Carolina, on the sixth day of March 1758.

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

Answer. I have, here in a Bible in my house.

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

Answer. When I entered the service and during the war, I lived in Camden district South Carolina, and continued until 35 years ago, when I moved into Greene County, Tennessee; then into Logan County Kentucky, then into Calloway County, and then into this County where I now live, and have about five years last past.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was a volunteer.

5<sup>th</sup> 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. My service was principally with militia, except the time I was with Greene at Eutaw. I remember Colonels Lee & Washington, Lieutenant Colonel Henderson, commander of South Carolina State troops, and General Sumner who commanded the North Carolina "new levies" as they were called. At the Eutaw, the South & North Carolina militia were commanded by Marion, Pickens & Colonel Malmedy as well as I now remembered. Colonel Washington was taken prisoner & his command devolved on Colonel Hampton. I remember the militia Regiment of Colonel Neil and Bratton who served under Sumter.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a Commission as Lieutenant, if so by whom was it signed, and what has become of it?

Answer. I did receive a commission signed by Governor Rutledge – this commission I Captain till the time I left South Carolina. I have not seen it since, and I suppose it lost in moving.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Answer. I have many acquaintances Some of them are the Honorable C. Lyon, Rev. James W Mansfield, Reverend John Barnett, Arnold Jacob, Stephen Grows Esquire, Hugh McVay, William Ford, Henry Machen, and many others.

S/ Tho. Hill

James W Mansfield, a clergyman, James W White and John Haynes gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8: On May 9, 1851 in Crittenden County Kentucky, Nancy Bennett, 62, filed for the pension due her father Thomas Hill; she states that she is the daughter and heir at law of Thomas Hill, a pensioner for his service in the revolution; that her father died January 5, 1837 in Caldwell County Kentucky survived by five children namely, Nancy (the declarant), Mary (who was the oldest child) aged upward of 70, Betsy Mcdanel [sic, probably Betsy McDaniel], Thomas H. Hill and Crissy Wilson. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.21 commencing March 4th, 1831, and ending January 5, 1837, for four and half months as a private & two months & 26 days as a Lieutenant in the South Carolina militia.]

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South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>6</sup> relating to Thomas Hill  
Audited Account No. 3613

pp22

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

8/4/22

[p 20]

[No.] 554 [Book] Z                      18 September 88 [1788]

Mr. Thomas Hill his Account of 86 Days Militia Duty in 1781 & 1781 [sic] Amounting to

Stg [Sterling] £23.2.10

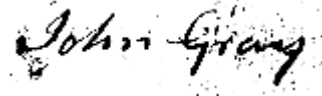
pass    S/ RS

Received Columbia 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1790 from the Commissioners [of the] Treasury the Amount of the within Account in an Indent No. 554, Book Z

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<sup>6</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

S/ John Gray



£23.2.10

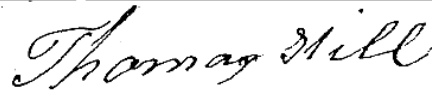
Gentlemen

Please Deliver my Publick Indent as also the Interest to Capt. John Gray to bring to me and his Receipt to you Shall be a discharge for the same

Your Compliance will Greatly oblige

Gentlemen your very Humble Servant

S/ Thomas Hill



The Commissioners of the

Treasury

Test

S/ James Craig, JP

[p 21]

The State of South Carolina to Thomas Hill

Dr.

To 52 days Duty done as a Lieut. of Horse from

the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June to the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1781

both days included in Gen. Sumter's Brigade to the

Congarees as per account Certified per Col. Thomas Taylor at 40<sup>/7</sup> per day £104

To 34 days Duty done as ditto of ditto from the

28<sup>th</sup> of May to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1782, both

days included in Gen. Henderson's [William Henderson's] Brigade

at the four Holes at 40/

68.0.0

£162.0.0 [sic]

Stg. £23.2.10

<sup>7</sup> 40 shillings per day was the pay rate in old South Carolina currency for a Lieutenant serving on horseback providing his on horse and equipment