

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Charles Thomas S31421

Transcribed by Will Graves

f40NC/VA

rev'd 3/7/17

[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, Christian County SS

On this 7th day of January 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Christian County Court now sitting, Charles Thomas, aged Sixty Eight years the 26th November last, 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.

That he was born the 26th of November 1764 in the County of Orange State of Virginia and has a Record of his age taken from his Father's Bible, and is also of Record [in] the Episcopal Church in Orange County Virginia.

He entered the Militia Service of the United States as a private in November 1780. He was drafted at or near Orange Court House, and marched from thence to Fredericksburg under the Command of Captain R. Graves [Richard Graves] 1st Lieutenant Rowland Thomas and 2nd Lieutenant James Stevens in Regiment of Virginia troops commanded by Colonel Oliver Towles. We remained at Fredericksburg three weeks and was then discharged. He was drafted on a tour for two months but not being needed was discharged at this time, but held in readiness to perform duty within that time when ever called on.

The next tour was for two months as a Volunteer under the Command of Captain William Thomas my Brother in Granville County North Carolina March 1781 – a few days before the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], and marched from thence to Guilford, the day after the Battle of Guilford we joined a Regiment of Horse commanded by Colonel Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne]. I had not joined the troops at the Battle but was within 10 miles at the time – after the Battle we were always on the scout and in pursuit of the British until they crossed Deep River when we attacked the Pickets from thence we crossed Haw River and went down leaving Cape Fear River on the right until we got within a few miles of Wilmington where the British took shipping. Where we waited watching the motions of the British and Scouting until we were discharged by the Captain. I received no written discharge. The British was here commanded by Lord Cornwallis. I was out this tour for two months – besides the time of returning home.

The next tour for two months as Orderly Sergeant he entered the service in Orange County Virginia in the summer of '81 in a Company Commanded by Captain Richard Webb and marched to Richmond and there attached ourselves to Colonel Elias Edmunds' Regiment of foot - Major Nat Welch [Nathaniel Welch]. We lay there a few days and then retreated across Rapidan or Rappahannock [rivers], and at the Raccoon Ford we met General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] with the Army from thence we pursued on after the British. General Wayne had a Battle with the Enemy at old Jamestown, I was not in the engagement but was then with the Main body

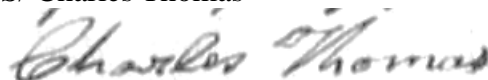
of the Army under the Command of General Lafayette. We marched then to a place called Mobbins Hills [sic, Malvern Hill] between Richmond & Williamsburg where we lay some time watching the movements of the enemy who had been taken shipping and we not knowing where they would land kept ourselves in a body. I was here verbally discharged after having served out my full two months tour.

The next tour he entered the service as Ensign Commissioned by the County Court of Orange Virginia in September or October just before the Siege of York in '81 under the Command of Captain Robert Stubblefield Lieutenant Beadles [possibly John Beadles] the Company marched to Williamsburg and there joined William Dark's Regiment of foot – Major Murray [?]. We remained here but a few days and then marched under the Command of General Stevens [Edward Stevens] to Little York and joined in the Siege, and remained there until the end of the Siege which was I believe in October [Yorktown, October 19, 1781]. He then went with and guarded the prisoners from there to Winchester Virginia where I was directed to give written discharges to the troops of our Company. I was called out on this tour for two months and was discharged at this place in November. I have lost my Commission, removed from the County of Orange Virginia to Fayette County Kentucky in the year 1788 where I resided until the year 1802 – from there I removed to Cumberland County Kentucky where I resided until the year 1832, when I removed to Christian County where I now reside.

To the first, second, third, fourth, fifth & sixth interrogatories put by the War Department he has herein answered them as fully as he now recollects them – to the seventh Interrogatory he would answer that he has recently removed to the County – that his present neighbors and know but little of him – except Joseph Coffie, James Gholston—H. Galbraith, who removed from the County of Cumberland by whom he can establish his character for veracity and their belief of his services as herein stated. He has also procured the affidavits of Jeremiah Ingram¹ & James Cowherd² proving parts of his Service. He would also state that [he] intends to procure the affidavit or Certificate of the Honorable Philemon Thomas³ at present a member from Louisiana as to his actual Service. There is no clergyman residing in my immediate neighborhood.

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 of the United States.

S/ Charles Thomas



Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

[Henry Galbraith & Robert Stapp gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8]

Orange 14th October 1781

Dear Sir

Received two Letters from you Dated 3rd & 7th Instant in which am Glad to hear you Enjoy your Health I Hope Likewise you enjoy a Piece of Mind which are the two Greatest Blessings, Imagine by this [time] the Thundering of Cannon is Become very Familiar. I wish & Pray to Divine Providence Not only to Cover your head in the day of Battle But all our Friends & Countrymen who is Hazarding their lives in the Noble Cause of Freedom. We all enjoy our Health. Mrs. Pery Desires to be remembered to Harry. And says they are all Well Except his

¹ [Jeremiah Ingram S15184](#)

² [James Cowherd S10482](#)

³ [Philemon Thomas S31417](#)

brother Elijah who is sick. Captain Stubblefield's Family is Well. Give my Best Compliments to him and tell him I am proud to Hear he is in High Spirits. [Paper damaged and 2 words obliterated, likely "I can't"] Help Concluding From all I Hear But that his Excellency will shortly be in Possession of the Old Fow [? Foe?] & his Brood. Have nothing Particular to Communicate so Conclude with Prayer to the Supreme Author of our Existence for your Heavenly as Well as Earthly Welfare

Your Affectionate Father S/ Rowland Thomas

Rowland Thomas

Dear Son I just set Down to Right a line to you
I just came down from the mountains know
but I see a number of pryty lades mid^s Salley
Is very well now I must begin sumthing else
your hors was misin aday and apeece he came to
beat very much we are all lakin all paines we
can to have him bring home ~~planned~~ who
that old Secar crow as catch pryty son dont for
fear no man may god be you and all the cam
no more but remain your loving mother
NB
dont be uneasy your hors is recovered
hot is recovered very well
Jane Thomas

[My attempt to decipher the above]

Dear Son I just sit Down to Right [write] a line to you I Just came down from the mountains know [indecipherable word] but I See a number of pryty lades [pretty ladies?] Miss Salley Is very well now I must begin sumthing else beat [something else but?] very much we are all lakin [taking] all paines [pains] we can to have him bring [brought?] home [indecipherable word] who that old Secar crow [Scarecrow] as [indecipherable words]. Son don't forget your old mother [indecipherable word] in the Lord and need fear no man may God be with you and all the [indecipherable word]
no more but remain your loving mother

S/ Jane Thomas

NB don't be uneasy your hors [horse] is recovered [?] very [indecipherable word]

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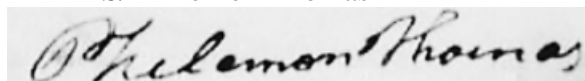
City of Washington January 26th 1833

My Dear Cousin

I have this moment received your letter dated 8th January I shall pay particular attention to the contents of your letter, and nothing shall be wanting on my part. I well Recollect we served three months together under Colonel Malmedy but as to your service in Virginia I know nothing about = I will I can for you = I hope this will find you in health with your good lady give my

Respects to her and your children = right to me as often as you can I shall be always glad to receive a line from you. I am the same as when we parted, only older, my principles have not changed I wish always love and fear of my God And pray to be continued in his most holy keeping, and when I come to the time when I must leave this world I want to dwell with him through a boundless and never ending [indecipherable word] and I pray that God they always have you under his most Holy Keeping I am your Relation and Real friend.

S/ Philemon Thomas⁴



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City of Washington February 22nd 1833

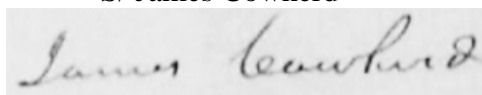
Dear Sir I have carefully Examined the pension office and find that your papers has never come to the office = you had better attend to it, as see the person you depended on may have neglected it = I can testify that you served 3 months in North Carolina, I think you was Ensign of the company under your brother William, in this I made the mistake in but I think not – if so, state it as to what Time you served in the state of Virginia I can know nothing about, get some person to draw it up that is acquainted with the form, set forth by the secretary of War I will take a pleasure in doing all that may be in my power for you. I am in a Reasonable state of health I hope this may find you and your family well I have no good news to give you, we have done a little but debate this season, and shall close in the same way. I am your [indecipherable word] friend and Relation

S/ Philn Thomas

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I James Cowherd of Green County Kentucky do hereby certify that in 1781 the within named Charles Thomas served in company with me as a Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain Richard Webb of Orange County Virginia for the time of three months as I believe and was discharged at Morben Hills [sic, Malvern Hill] in Virginia and the said Thomas afterwards moved to the State of Kentucky and is now living in Christian County Kentucky as I am informed and I believe and I further certify that the said Thomas is a man of veracity and to whose statement credit should be given and that he is about 68 or 70 years of age and that I believe him to be the identical individual who served with me as above stated though I have not seen him for 20 years and this affiant states that he himself is nearly 73 years of age under my hand this 29th of November 1832.

S/ James Cowherd



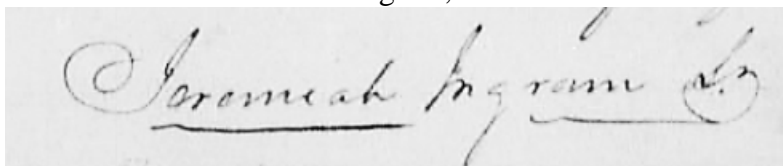
⁴ [Philemon Thomas S31417](#) THOMAS, Philemon, a Representative from Louisiana; born in Orange County, Va., February 9, 1763; attended the common schools; served in the Revolutionary War; moved to Kentucky and settled in Mason County; delegate to the convention which framed the constitution of the State of Kentucky; member of the Kentucky house of representatives 1796-1799; served in the State senate 1800-1803; moved to Louisiana in 1806 and settled on the banks of the lower Mississippi River; member of the Louisiana house of representatives; leader of an uprising against the Spanish authorities, who exercised authority over what is now Mississippi and Louisiana, and commanded the forces which captured the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge in 1810; major general of Louisiana Militia in 1814 and 1815 and served in that capacity in the War of 1812; moved to Baton Rouge, La.; elected to the Twenty-second and Twenty-third Congresses (March 4, 1831-March 3, 1835); died in Baton Rouge, La., November 18, 1847; interment in the Old American Graveyard; reinterment in the National Cemetery at Baton Rouge, La. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=T000181>

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I do hereby certify that Charles Thomas went down with a company of Militia (he Thomas) [was on] horse back from Orange County Virginia under the command of Captain Robert Stubblefield to Little York. I was called off to render some service to the sick, and I knew not whether Mr. Thomas was an Ensign in said company or a private Soldier owing to the circumstance of his being on horseback neither do I remember whether I ever saw him any more whilst I was in the Service, as to any thing else at this time I cannot recall.

Given under my hand this 21st day of November 1832.

S/ Jeremiah Ingram, Sr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeremiah Ingram Sr." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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I hereby Certify that Charles Thomas now of the State of Kentucky, served three months under the Command of Colonel Malmedy in the Company commanded by Captain William Thomas, of dragoons, and was Ensign of said Company, the whole of the three months I having served in said Troops as a quarter master causes me to recollect that he did serve as above stated, this service was in the State of North Carolina in the year 1781 in the Revolution of the United States. I certify the above on Honor and I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of March 1834

S/ Philn. Thomas

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 4 months and 21 days and as a Sergeant for 2 months in the North Carolina and Virginia militias.]