

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Ramsay (Ramsey) S31922

fn17SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Georgia, Henry County

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court of Henry County, now sitting, Thomas Ramsay, a resident of the Third District of the County of Henry and State of Georgia, aged Eighty-two years on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 – to wit --

That he was born on the third day of July 1750 (Old Style) now 14<sup>th</sup> 1750 – in the County of York, State of Pennsylvania – his age was recorded in his Father's Bible from which he transcribed it into his own Bible now in his possession and before the Court. He volunteered in the Militia in the year 1775 in South Carolina (now Abbeville District but then Granville County one of the four counties the [illegible word] in the State). He was under the command of Captain James McCall, acted himself being elected as Lieutenant (first), James Baskins, second Lieutenant, Patrick Calhoun, Ensign (cousin to the Vice President, he thinks). He volunteered in the month of February and the officers were commissioned in March following by Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge]. His commission which was deposited in a Pocket Book laid by for 15 years is destroyed. He marched from near ninety six [Ninety Six District] where the Regiment under Col Andrew Williamson remained about two weeks, his Company was a part of said Regiment together with Captain John Irvine's company. A body of Tories under Col Robert Cunningham, afterwards Genl, in the British service, came to attack our forces at ninety six where we threw up a breastwork within which we remained two and a half days. Then, a cessation of war was agreed upon for Twenty five days. This took place in November 1775. Colonel Drayton [William Henry Drayton] commanding the State troops came to our aid. The forces were stationed there until new year's day when they were dismissed for a time. On the first of July 1776 the Indians commenced hostilities throughout the State. On the last of June, Captain McCall was taken prisoner & Lieutenant Calhoun was killed by the Indians. The command of the company devolved on the opponent who was continually in service until May 1780 or when Charleston was taken, when Deponent had to join the British, run away from the State or to lie out. Deponent chose the latter alternative and continued until Genl Greene [Nathanael Greene] came on in 1781 when Deponent left his hiding places and joined the Army under Greene as a private in Captain Robert Caruthers' company at ninety six which the American forces besieged four or five weeks, Deponent thinks, when the British received reinforcements and evacuated. Greene marched to East of Santee. Deponent followed in a month under Pickens [Andrew Pickens] and rejoined Greene then marched to Eutaw Springs – was joined there by the State Troops under Marion [Francis Marion] & Sumter [Thomas Sumter] where the famous General engagement took place. The day before the Battle took place, two rifle companies were raised to protect Col. Washington's Horse. Colonel Pickens gave Deponent command of one of them, stationed on the right wing – left of the enemy where his company remained in the Battle until near dark and then retreated under a general order to the Encampment. General Pickens sent for Deponent at his fire – he went to Pickens who accompanied him to Greene, who appointed him

commander of sixty men to eye the movements of the enemy – which service he performed by taking a stand near the enemy's encampment where he remained until the American Army marched up and remained there burying dead of both armies and then went home – and got home the last of September – 1781 – the battle he thinks was on the ninth – Deponent was in the Battle at Kettle Creek on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1780. Deponent with Charles Collins, Drake Kade & George Barber were acting as spies to ascertain the number of Tories then under arms – and marching to Savannah to join the British. Deponent stationed himself on the declivity of a Hill on one side of a Hill and George Barber on the declivity on the other side. The Tories were expected to pass on the road on the top of the Hill. They did pass & their number was computed at seven or eight hundred – when Deponent thought they had all passed, he fell back into the Trail behind them but about forty of the Tories had fallen behind the main body and approached within 15 paces of Deponent unobserved until then to each other. Deponent to save himself stepped aside & hollowed out to them [“]Boys, what are you doing here[?] – Colonel Boyd left me behind to tell you the rebels are close behind.[”] They dashed off on their horses – left Deponent safe. When Barber asked him how did you escape, to which he replied [“]Hell was never made for him[.”]--in two hours – after the rebels (so called) – overtook and beat them, losing 14 men & finding 47 of the Tories killed – Col Boyd of the Tories wounded -- & died in the evening – to resume the declaration – at the time of returning home before mentioned – Deponent, as a private, commenced the usual occupation of defending the frontier & continued until 15<sup>th</sup> March 1782 when Deponent marched as a militia man to Bacon's Bridge, 21 miles from Charleston – remained until relieved by another quota of Militia, last of May 1782, the end of this Deponent's service -- Deponent has omitted one service in July 1776. Deponent commanded a volunteer company in service with 2200 men under Genl Williamson embodied for the purpose of invading the Cherokee Country. They built Fort Rutlege [sic, Fort Rutledge]. Williamson took six or seven hundred men and destroyed a number of towns nearest the Fort – 62 men volunteered – as a scouting party – of which Deponent was one – Andrew Pickens & Robert Anderson, Captains had the command – they fell into an Indian ambush of five or six hundred Indians. The volunteers fought them 37 minutes, so said Genl Williamson who heard the firing – also John Presley who is now present – when a relief came up from the Army neigh at hand when the Indians retreated having first been driven back some distance by the volunteers – this Deponent with Williamson's aforesaid Army marched – passing through the Cherokee nation over the Cumberland mountain to the Tennessee [sic, Tennessee] Valley – down the Rivers of that country to the lowest Cherokee towns – during the march at the pass of the Cumberland mountain the Army engaged generally with the Indians – beat them found about one hundred dead – many were no doubt carried off – losing about forty man – they returned from this service last of November 1776 – and commenced guarding the Frontiers – In this service of five months – John Presley aforesaid who is now present was with Deponent – Micajah Brooks<sup>1</sup> – now present was in the service with Deponent at Bacon's Bridge in S. Carolina – also in one service in Georgia of which he will give a detailed statement. Deponent was born and raised partly in Pennsylvania, was moved into its S. Carolina at 14 years of age – settled in Abbeville District – lived there 39 years – moved into Jackson County – Georgia – then to Jasper County Georgia – then to Montgomery County Alabama – then to his present residence in Henry Georgia. Deponent recollects – scarcely any in S. C. who knew him who are not now dead [;] in Jackson County, Major Cochran & Doctor Singleton, know him, in Jasper, Charles Crigh [?] & Stokely Morgan – in Alabama he stayed but two years – in Henry, Col Solomon Strickland & his son Ephraim a minister of the Gospel, Major Tandy W. Key, Post M [postmaster] knows him – David Johnston, John Anderson, [illegible, could be “Genl”] W. Smith, Thomas Smith, P. M. [postmaster] & others in the second District of Henry County. Deponent prays that a reference may be had to the declarations of Micajah Brooks and John Presley as witnesses of a part of the services rendered -- Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name

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<sup>1</sup> [Micajah Brooks W27694](#)

is not on the pension roll of the agency [of] any State.

Deponent first served as a Lieutenant under a commission (last) dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 1775 – commenced active service 1 November 1775 until 1<sup>st</sup> Jany 1776 against Tories-- recommenced – 1 July 1776 – continued with a [illegible words] until 1<sup>st</sup> January 1777 in active service—Then commenced monthly duties until the British took Charleston, date, not recollected—which ended his service as Lieut.--thence on Greene's return 1<sup>st</sup> May 1781 entered service as a private & continued until 1<sup>st</sup> June 1782 which closed his service.

Sworn to & subscribed this 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1832.

S/ Thomas Ramsey

Georgia, Henry Inferior Court December Term 1832

In open Court personally came John Presley<sup>2</sup> who after being duly sworn, saith he was with Thomas Ramsay in the Cherokee expedition mentioned & that from the confidence reposed in his valor and judgment he was often selected to perform the most hazardous duties -- particularly as a reconnoitering spy. Their intimacy recommenced 7 or 8 years since and he knows him to be a man of veracity -- he was not intimate with him in the Army.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court -- this 18th December 1832

S/ John Presley, N his mark

[Ephraim Strickland, a clergyman, and Solomon Strickland gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Georgia Henry County

Before us Thomas Thaxton & E. M. K. McCutchen The justices of the peace in the District in which Thomas Ramsey, who has signed the foregoing declaration -- who after being duly sworn saith That his memory is strong and almost as perfect as any youth & can swear he thinks positively to the length of his service -- and according to his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grades --

I served as a Lieutenant for 2 years & 9 months -- viz. from November 1, 1775 to August 1778 as a private I served from August 1778 until the first or 2nd day of June 1782. 3 years and 10 months and for such service I claim a pension --

The weather being extremely cold & my health being in firm when I made oath to my declaration I did not because I could not sign my name but made my mark.

Sworn to & subscribed this first June 1833.

S/ Thos Ramsay

S/ E. W. K. McCutchen, JP

S/ Thomas Thaxton, JP

Georgia Henry County: Before me Thomas D. Johnston a Justice of the peace in said County personally came Thomas Ramsey a revolutionary soldier who after being duly sworn saith -- That he volunteered as stated in the declaration to which this paper is attached -- that he volunteered wants & but once, for the service as a Lieutenant. That during the whole 2 years & 9 months mentioned he was in actual service 2 years & more & during the balance of the time was subject home noticed at any moment -- went home upon parole -- That the intervals between the actual services were some short as to prevent any profitable labor for himself. The labor which he performed when on parole provided a little clothing & provisions -- & so far exempted he is Country from an expanse he never drew a rag of clothing from the public -- he did not volunteer for a continuous service of 2 years & 9 months -- but intended it for the war, and served that time as above mentioned -- the Deponent believes that having in the short intervals between his services from home provided himself with clothing & carried provisions

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<sup>2</sup> Sic, [John Presley S7338](#)

on his back in the service -- he was also part of the time out of the service -- The witness Micajah Brooks mentioned in the declaration -- & who was expected to have applied for a pension has left the Country so that his evidence cannot without great inconvenience be obtained his private service commenced after August 1778 as well as he recollects, he was drafted at that time. The militia were divided into classes -- Deponent upon hearing the affidavit of June 1<sup>st</sup> 1833 read over to him finds that he misunderstood its purport -- viz. That he understood himself as stating the [indecipherable word] between the dates mentioned as to his private service, & not the service continued for that time -- he was continually subject to orders without repeated drafts being made -- and was in the intervals between the different monthly or longer tours often called out at in services of a few days. He was in actual service one month into service & that one at home from the first of June 1789 [sic] until the British took Charleston which he thinks was in May 1780 -- He was then directed as mentioned in his declaration to look to his own safety, until called on for the ten succeeding months (as near as he recollects he was in the swamps, woods or hiding places sometimes running Tories & sometimes run by them -- during which time he performed no labor for himself -- -- Greene returned & he Deponent joined his Army at Ninety Six 1<sup>st</sup> May 1781 -- continued in constant active service until the last of September 1781 (5 months) he was then [indecipherable word] his returning home engaged defending the frontiers until 1<sup>st</sup> March 1782. 5 1/2 months -- making as Deponent considers 10 1/2 months continuous service -- he then marched to Bacon's Bridge and continued in service until the last of May 1782 -- 2 months and a half. The first 5 1/2 months service was a part of a 6 months tour for which he was called out and the part 2 1/2 months was a part of a 3 months Tour. Deponent knows of no person (now living whose testimony he can obtain) by whom he can make any additional proof of his services. Sworn to and subscribed this 26 January 1834

S/. Thomas D. Johnston, JP

S/ Thos. Ramsay