

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Thompson S32016

f59GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/29/17

[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.]

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State of Georgia, County of Hancock

On this 4th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court of said County ~~while sitting as a Court of ordinary~~ Benjamin Thompson a resident of Hancock County and said State 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 7 June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In 1778 he was classed and called into service under the command of Captain John Ottery of Wilkes County Georgia under the command of Colonel Dooly [John Dooly] of Georgia fought the Indians and Tories near Newsom's Ponds then Wilkes now Warren County served in this year between three and four months.

In 1779 he was called into service under the same commanders, attacked the British and Tories at Carrs Fort¹ in Wilkes [County] he was under the command of Colonel Dooly and General Pickens [Andrew Pickens of South Carolina] – after an engagement against the British and Tories for several hours General Pickens from intelligence received of a lady of the enemy crossing Savannah River retreated from the fort, he was a few days thereafter in a battle under General Pickens at Kettle Creek,² was in service for the greater part of this year, if not the whole perhaps sometime all through the war a few days or weeks at home but subject to being called out at any moment, we marched this year under Colonel Dooly below Augusta where General Nash [sic, General John Ashe]³ was defeated but reached there after the engagement in time to bury the dead marched from thence to Mobly's Ponds and remained there till about the siege of Savannah⁴ he was in the action with Count d'Estaing under the command of Lieutenant David Phelps being a part of Captain Ottery's Company – Captain Ottery was not in this action.

After the Siege of Savannah he volunteered under Captain White and had to retire as refugee into South Carolina was at the first siege of Augusta⁵ under Captain White against

1 Robert Carr's fort on Beaverdam Creek. This engagement probably occurred about February 10, 1779 according to Lossing. <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Latest-News-Wires/2013/0506/Frontier-fort-found-Revolutionary-War-battle-in-Georgia> & www.thelamarinstitute.org/images/PDFs/publication_189.pdf

2 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/kettle.htm> This engagement occurred on February 14, 1779. <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

3 This reference is probably to the Battle of Briar Creek which occurred on March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

4 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

5 [September 12-18, 1780] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800914-augusta/>

Colonels Brown & Grayson [sic, Grierson], abandoned the siege on account of the reinforcement by Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger] a British officer returned into South & North Carolina as refugees joined the American Army in North Carolina – was in an engagement with British and Tories on the Black Stocks [sic, Blackstock's Plantation]⁶ on Tiger River [sic, Tyger River] South Carolina Colonel Clarke of Georgia & Colonel Williams~~on~~ of South Carolina was in command in this engagement, continued in service until the last siege of Augusta⁷ against Brown & Grayson when he was on a scouting party taken a prisoner and kept a prisoner about two months till retaken by the American Army – afterwards and after the siege of Augusta he volunteered under Captain Charles Williamson commanded by Colonel Mi. [sic, Micajah?] Williamson against the Tories and Indians.

He states that he was for about five years almost constantly in service or retired from home as a refugee, and that during the five years he was at no time at home so as to stay long enough to profit by a cessation of his services.

That he was born in Bute County North Carolina, has no record of his age, derives his knowledge thereof from the declaration of his parents in early life.

That he does not recollect ever to have received a formal written discharge.

That he does not recollect the names of any officers by whom formal discharges were given him, if any.

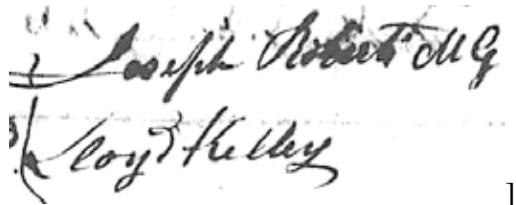
Has resided in Georgia of upwards of 60 years.

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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Benj. Thompson



[Joseph Roberts, a clergyman and Lloyd Kelley⁸ gave the standard supporting affidavit. "...and the said Lloyd Kelley further certifies that he knows that the said Benjamin Thompson did serve as a soldier in Captain Ottery's Company and that he was in service at the Battle fought at Carr's fort and Kettle Creek."



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State of Georgia, County of Hancock

On this second day of September 1833 personally appeared in open Court before John S. Swinney, John W. Rubens & Wilkins Smith Esquires Justices of the Inferior Court of said County Benjamin Thompson a resident of Hancock County and said State aged 74 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 7 June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and

⁶ November 20, 1780. Contrary to applicant's statement, General Thomas Sumter was the commanding officer of the Whigs at this engagement.

⁷ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

⁸ [Lloyd Kelley S31790](#)

served as herein stated.

In 1778 he was classed and called as a private soldier into service under the command of Captain John Ottery of Wilkes County Georgia, under the command of Colonel Dooly of Georgia, fought the Indians and Tories near Newsom's Ponds, then Wilkes now Warren County served in this year between three and four months.

In 1779 he was called into service under the same commanders during this year attacked the British & Tories at Carr's Fort in Wilkes County Georgia, commanded in this action by Colonel Dooly and General Pickens, after an engagement against the British and Tories for several hours, from intelligence received by General Pickens that a body of the enemy was crossing Savannah River, his Army retired from the fort, was a few days thereafter in a battle under General Pickens at Kettle Creek, he cannot state with precision how long he served, but can state positively he served more than half the year, he was from the commencement of the year till after the Forts at Augusta of Colonel Brown and Grayson [Grierson] constantly in active service or retired from home as a refugee a few weeks at intervals occasionally when he was permitted to return home, but such returns being of such short duration as to preclude the possibility of turning those intervals to any use or profit to himself; he would here remark that the section of State in which he resided was surrounded with the Indians and Tories; that he being more safe in the Army than at home, he considers that although some intervals above mentioned were had by him, that he may be said to have been from the commencement of the said year to the capture of said Forts the date of which is not recollected in service and as a refugee -- was held at times subject to be called at any moment marched this year under Colonel Dooly below Augusta where General Nash [sic, John Ashe] was defeated did not reach there till the engagement was ended, helped to bury the dead marched from there to Mobley's Ponds and remained there till about the siege of Savannah & was in the action of Count d'Estaing, under the command of Lieutenant David Philips, being a part of Captain Ottery's Company, Captain Ottery was not in the action.

Soon after the siege of Savannah, time not recollected he volunteered under Captain White and shortly afterwards with Captain White's company had to retire as a refugee into South Carolina, was at the first siege of Augusta as a private under Captain White against Colonels Brown & Grayson abandoned the Siege on account of reinforcement of Colonel Cruger a British officer, retired in South & North Carolina has refugees joined the American Army in North Carolina was in an engagement under the command of Captain White against the British and Tories at the Blackstocks on Tyger River South Carolina Colonel Clarke of Georgia & Col. Williams [sic, General Thomas Sumter] of South Carolina was in command of this engagement, continued from the time of retiring from the first siege at Augusta in constant service until the last siege of Augusta against Brown & Grayson, was under the Command of Captain White was at a scouting party taken a prisoner by the Tories and kept a prisoner at Augusta about two months till retaken by the American Army under the command of Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] & Shelby [Isaac Shelby] who took Brown's fort.

Afterwards and after the siege of Augusta he volunteered as a private under Captain Charles Williamson commanded by Colonel Mi. Williamson against the Tories & Indians was eight or nine months in service under the command of Captain Williamson.

He states that from the commencement of the year 1779 he was constantly in service or we were fired from home as a refugee and that from the first of the year 1779 till after his services rendered under Captain Williamson against the Indians and Tories he was at no time at home so as to profit by a cessation of his services.

That he was born in Bute County North Carolina has no record of his age derives his knowledge of his age from declarations of his parents in early life was born in the year 1758.

Was living in Wilkes County Georgia when called into service.

Has lived in Wilkes & Hancock [counties] since the Revolutionary war, lives now in Hancock County.

He was called into service at first by being drafted into sections, After the time he has already stated he volunteered, he served as a volunteer from thence to the end of his service.

Generals Wayne [Anthony Wayne] & Lincoln commanded the troops where he served at the siege of Savannah,⁹ Colonel Thompson's Regiment was at Savannah, Col. Lee's Regiment was at the siege of Augusta under his command – the circumstances of his services are already stated – Does not recollect to have received a discharge in writing.

He is known by every aged man in the County of Hancock who has lived in the County of as [sic] great length of time, Lloyd Kelley can testify as to his services in part, Dr. William Terrell & the Honorable Charles E. Haynes, can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution

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. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Henry Rogers, Clerk

S/ Benj. Thompson

[James Barnes, a clergyman, Charles E. Haynes & William Terrell gave the standards supporting affidavit.]

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Georgia, Hancock County

On the 3rd day of March 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court (Wilson Bird, John L. Swinney, Wilkins Smith Esquires Justices presiding) Benjamin Thompson a resident of said County & State who being duly sworn doth make this additional declaration & affidavit for the purpose of entitling himself to the benefit of the Pension act passed by the Congress of the United States on the 7th day of June 1832.

That Lloyd Kelley, now of the County of Hancock & State of Georgia is the only living witness now known to this deponent who has any acquaintance with his revolutionary services. He further deposes before the said Court, that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades, in the year 1778 in the grade of private soldier not less than three months – to wit from the middle of March to the middle of July. He again entered the service in December 1778 and continued in service until the Siege of Savannah acting as a Sergeant. This period of service was not less than nine months. Shortly after the Siege of Savannah, he volunteered under Captain White, as a private soldier and remained in service not less than three months. At the close of which period he was taken prisoner as heretofore stated, and retained as a prisoner for the term of two months until retaken by the American Army. Afterwards, he entered the service under the command of Captain Charles Williamson as Lieutenant and continued in service not less than eight months. During this tour of service he had no regular commissions but acted throughout the whole period as Lieutenant, it frequently happening at that period that the men chose there on officers & obeyed them without requiring commissions. These several periods, including the time he was prisoner, amounting to two years and one month, to which he might add, if specifications were necessary, his subsequent services for more than 12 months. He further states that, he is known to Captain Thomas Barnes, Samuel Ewing Esq., Philip Turner, Dr. William Terrell, Major Joel Crawford & Charles E. Haynes, with many others, who live in his

⁹ <https://allthingsliberty.com/2014/10/anthony-waynes-1782-savannah-campaign/>

present neighborhood, & can testify, as some of them have already testified to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. The Deponent further states that he was born in the County of Bute in the State of North Carolina in or about the year 1758 as he has been informed by his parents when they were in life. He also states that he has a family record which his mother informed him was not correct it having been made from memory after the close of the revolutionary War. That he was living in Wilkes County in the State of Georgia when he entered the service & has lived ever since in the said County of Wilkes or the County of Hancock his present place of residence. That he was called into service originally by draft or rotation, and afterwards acted as a volunteer. That he served with General Lincoln at Savannah as a regular officer. That he does not recollect ever having received a discharge.

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.

Sworn to & subscribed, in open Court, the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Rogers, Clk

S/ Benj. Thompson

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In the said Lloyd Kelly having appeared in open Court deposed & saith that he was acquainted with the said declarant Benjamin Thompson at the time he entered the service under the command of Captain John Ottery, and that to the best of deponent's recollection said Thompson went into the service about the last of November 1778 and continued in service until the close of the month of August 1779, making to the best of deponent's recollection a period of nine months. That this is all the knowledge deponent possesses of the revolutionary services of said Thompson, although deponent believes that such services worth faithfully performed as stated by said applicant. Sworn to in open court this third day of March 1834.

S/ Henry Rogers, Clerk

S/ Lloyd Kelley

[facts in file: Veteran died in March 1841, survived by his widow Lustasia who died in September 1849. The widow was survived by two children, not named in the files.]

Georgia, Hancock County

Whereas I Benjamin Thompson a revolutionary soldier residing in the County & State aforesaid have heretofore made application in the usual mode at the war department at Washington City for a pension under the act of Congress of the 7th day of June 1832, and whereas I have received notice from James L. Edwards Esq. Commissioner of Pensions under date of the 10th instant that a pension certificate will be issued to me for \$56.66 per annum on condition that I shall waive all other claims to a pension whatsoever, Now know ye that I do entirely and absolutely waive all and every other claim to pension whatever in consideration that there shall be issued to me a pension certificate for the said sum of \$56.66 per annum. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 23rd day of April 1834.

S/ Benjamin Thompson

Done in the presence of one of the presiding Justices of the Inferior Court for the County and State aforesaid.

S/ Wilson Bird, JIC

S/ John L. Swinney, JIC

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$34.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Georgia militia.]