

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Hight S32321

f29VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/28/14

[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.]

State of Indiana Monroe County: SS

On this 18th day of February in the year of our Lord 1837 personally appeared in open court before me Aquilla Rogers Sole Judge of the Probate Court aforesaid in and for said County – the same being a Court of record and now in Session, Thomas Hight a Citizen & resident of the County aforesaid aged seventy-nine years five months and twenty-eight days, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That sometime towards the close of the year 1775 (the precise time not recollected) in the County of Charlotte in the State of Virginia where he the declarant resided he volunteered his services as a minute man to aid in the operations of the Revolutionary War whenever needed; that the next spring the precise time not recollected which was as he thinks in 1776 his services were required by the United States, and he then entered into the service of the United States Army as a volunteer in the militia of the State of Virginia as a private soldier under Captain Thomas Collier to go on a tour against Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, the last Royal Governor of the colony of Virginia) the old Colonial Governor of Virginia who had burnt Norfolk sometime in January before (1776). Said Dunmore in addition to the burning of Norfolk in said state took the people's Negroes. When this declarant arrived at Norfolk, which is distant from said County of Charlotte something upwards of one hundred miles as this declarant now recollects, said Dunmore was on Gwin's Island [Gwynn Island, July 8-10, 1776] some miles distant from Norfolk but the precise distance not recollected with his fleet & the Negroes – this declarant well recollects the following expression then hollowed [sic] by the Negroes or some person who imitated their voice (after this declarant had marched with the American Army opposite the Island) "All is well". Some war operations were there performed by the belligerent forces respectively, we entrenched against the British there to prevent them from landing and threw bombs in which this declarant was engaged – here this declarant recollects one circumstance one of our captains a Frenchman he thinks whose name he does not recollect was killed by the bursting of a hoop off the mortar in this bombarding which struck him on the head. After continuing some short time in these operations, the precise time not recollected said Dunmore with his fleet went up the Potomac, we pursued him some distance (the precise distance not recollected), and while thus in the pursuit of Dunmore orders were received by this part of the American Army requiring their services against the Cherokee Indians who then were committing depredations upon the frontiers, & as was reported in Camp that we then had to march to the distance of 500 miles. That the command of the same company to which this

declarant then belonged was given to the Lieutenant whose name was Watkins (his first name not recollected) [perhaps Joel Watkins]. That this declarant with said company (except the Captain) together with the residue of said Army immediately after said command reached Camp (the precise time not recollected) set out for the expedition against the said Indians, and we prosecuted the said expedition as far as the long Islands on Holston [River], distance as reported in Camp of 500 miles (but the precise distance not known by this declarant) – and at Holston sometime in the fall of 1776 we were discharged – my discharge was only a verbal one and not in writing – this declarant recollects that immediately after said discharge he returned home to Charlotte County aforesaid and on his way home at New River he saw & experienced severe frosts. That the length of this tour against Dunmore & the Indians as a volunteer is not precisely recollected, that it was at least ^{five}~~six~~ months. The name of his Ensign the [sic, then?] during the whole of this tour was Joshua Morris & his Lieutenant was said Watkins. This declarant recollects that during the Indian part of said tour John Glen [John Glenn] was Major & Haynes Morgan Lieutenant Colonel, and he believes that said Glenn was the Major in that part of said tour against Dunmore from the circumstance that Glenn was a large man & he frequently saw him playing Fives which he could not have done in that place of said tour against the Indians, the country being in the woods & brushy – This declarant does not recollect the names of any of the other officers who commanded in that part of the United States Army in said tour except those he has above named.

After this declarant returned home from said tour he resided in said Charlotte County until sometime in the year 1777 or 1778 the precise time not recollected he enlisted as a private for three years in the service of the United States under the authority of the State of Virginia (as he now recollects) in a company which was then called the Virginia Artillery Company under Edward Moody Captain whose first name was then familiarly called "Ned". And according to his best recollection he set out in said company sometime in 1778 at said County of Charlotte in the United States service for Fort Hampton in Virginia a distance of upwards of 100 miles from said County of Charlotte after we had reached the Fort and had been stationed there some months (the number not recollected) the smallpox got into the Army in the Fort. We were then removed to a house on James River called Celies where this declarant was inoculated for the smallpox & continued there about 21 days until we were fit for service when we were marched to Fort Portsmouth (which is now a town as this declarant is informed) in Virginia about 18 miles distant from Fort Hampton. The precise time this declarant remained at each of those places in the service of the United States is not recollected, but the whole length of time from the time he set out from Charlotte last aforesaid until he left said Fort Portsmouth as herein after mentioned was at least ten months. Immediately after this declarant reached Fort Hampton as above mentioned, his Captain (Moody) not getting his quota of men, became dissatisfied & resigned. George Mobile succeeded him in the command of our Artillery Company as Captain & remained with us until sometime just before the expiration of the said ten months when he left the artillery and applied for the office of Lieutenant Colonel in the Light Infantry and was invested with it & commissioned as such. He then sent to Fort Portsmouth for me & David Mann and had us detached from said company of Artillery and taken to Williamsburg, the time of which [is] not recollected by this declarant. That immediately after this declarant reached Williamsburg he received a written appointment from the then Governor of Virginia (P. Henry [Patrick Henry]) to enlist men as a Lieutenant in a company of Light Infantry. But in a few days and before he commenced his recruiting operations he received orders from the said Colonel but not in writing, that the Governor allowed & consented that the declarant should go into immediate service as a

Lieutenant in the Company of Light Infantry with assurances that he should have a Lieutenant's pay as though he had enlisted men and that the commission would in a short time be procured – he does not recollect the dates of these terminations nor the date of said appointment but the Governor's name was to it. He retained said appointment until about seven years ago when supposing it was a useless paper & nearly worn out he threw it away. This declarant remained at Williamsburg in the service of the United States in the command of said company of Light Infantry as Lieutenant training and preparing his men for service at least six months in the said Infantry when he received a commission from the Governor aforesaid as Ensign of said Company instead of Lieutenant which he refused to accept & sent it back to the Governor the next day and left the service of the United States. When he was at Fort Hampton Lieutenant Colonel George Muter commanded. When he was at said Fort Portsmouth Major Thomas Mathews commanded. The names of the other officers at said Forts, Celies, or at Williamsburg are not recollected. From Williamsburg he returned home to Charlotte thence before the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] he removed to Halifax County State of Virginia.

The battle of Guilford occurred 15th of March 1781 as this declarant is informed, and a few days thereafter he was drafted to aid in the operations of the Southern Army commanded by General Green [Nathanael Greene], and immediately mustered into service of the United States a company of militia of the state of Virginia as a private commanded by Captain King his first name he thinks was Edward, and marched with said company directly to the said Guilford Battleground in North Carolina and with said company lay upon said battle ground at the expiration of three weeks after said battle. From Guilford we marched to Camden near to which General Gates had the year before been defeated [Gates defeat or the Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. Then we marched to Fort Ninety Six which was then commanded by Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger] a British officer, we there joined the regular Army commanded by General Green we besieged [May 21-June 19, 1781] the Fort and expected to enter but the day before fixed for our entrance into the Fort the British received aid from Lord Rawdon by whose forces we were compelled to raise the siege & retreat. The British pursued us to Broad River of the distance perhaps of 50 miles but the precise distance not recollected & the distance between the several places above not recollected, neither the time employed at each of those places nor the dates not recollected. From Broad River we went to the High Hills of Santee where we again joined General Green's Army. Thence we went to Salisbury (North Carolina) where we gave up a number of British prisoners & Tories perhaps 120 persons. The declarant was some time the first part of the summer of the year 1781 verbally discharged from said service & he then returned home & on his return he recollects that the paper money had fallen and he could not get a cup of milk with his money. During this tour of service he has no recollection of the names of Officers in said Army than those above mentioned. The declarant served the United States in this tour of service at least three months – he does not recollect the time when he was discharged as last aforesaid nor the other dates of the transactions of this tour than those he has above mentioned.

This declarant remained at home in Halifax County Virginia thirty-five days when he was again drafted and immediately went into the service of the United States in a company of militia of the State of Virginia as a private commanded by Captain Rogers – his first name not recollected, and immediately went to aid in the siege against Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. He was marched to a place called the Newsome Springs within sight of the light & hearing of the noise occasioned by the firing of cannon at Yorktown which he saw & heard while there. At said Springs the sick of the United States Army was placed & the services of this declarant were

required & performed there in taking care of the sick until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis which was sometime in October 1781 and the 19th as he thinks when he was discharged and returned home to Halifax County, but his discharge was not in writing. He does not recollect the dates of this tour not other than he has given them here. Washington commanded at the siege of Lord Cornwallis. The names of other officers further than he has above named he does not recollect. The length of his last tour of service was at least three months. He continued to reside in Halifax about two years when he emigrated to the State of Kentucky where he continued to reside until some seven years ago, when he removed to this County where he yet continues to reside. He was born in Charlotte County aforesaid on the [text written over and illegible] day of September in the year 1757. That is a record of his age in a Bible once owned by his father which he this declarant yet has. He never received a written discharge from any of his tours or services. He cannot owing to the failure of his memory by age recollect anything more about the officers or their names of the United States in said war than he has above stated; neither can he recollect the names of the Continental and Militia Regiments or other things there with connected than he has above stated. He knows of no person living that knows of his said services as an enlisted private as aforesaid or while he was acting in the command of a Lieutenant as aforesaid; nor of any of his other said services; nor of any person by whom he could prove when he enlisted as aforesaid.

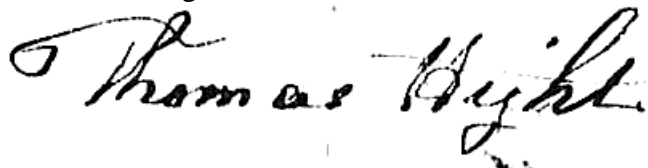
He has once before applied for pension,¹ but owing to some defect in the papers it was not obtained. It may be that his draftsman in his other application might have used terms not expressive of the kind of services performed by him; but in this application he has been careful to class his services as rendered by him to his best recollection; he however in justice to himself must state that with declining life his memory is rapidly failing and it has failed much since his other application – Some facts may have revived and others forgotten, which he finds a daily occurrence with him.

The declarant states that he is known to General Jacob B Lowe and Colonel John W Lee of the neighborhood in which he now resides who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He also states that there is no clergyman residing at this time in his immediate neighborhood to whom he is known, to testify.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.*

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Thomas Hight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Hight". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Thomas Hight".

[General Lowe and Colonel Lee gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

*This declarant further states that during the time he was at Forts Hampton & Portsmouth aforesaid he was first a gunner, then a Bombardier, & then an orderly Sergeant in said company of Artillery, but the time he served in the stations he does not recollect but can state he was at least two months an orderly Sergeant as aforesaid. When on said tour at Fort Ninety Six he was orderly Sergeant at least one month. He also states that he was a Sergeant but the kind he does not recollect when on the tour last above mentioned the Yorktown tour – during this last tour he

¹ There is no earlier application contained among the documents in this file.

was at least two months a Sergeant and thinks he was second Sergeant. These appointments were only verbal.

S/ Thomas Hight

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia.]