

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Thornhill S32557

f17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/8/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Illinois County of Madison: SS

On this [illegible] day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the County Commissioners Court of the County of Madison and State of Illinois, now sitting, Henry Thornhill a resident of Goshen Township in the County of Madison and State of Illinois, 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: The said Henry Thornhill volunteered as a private soldier in the County of Rockingham, State of Virginia under the command of Captain Robert Cravens, in the Virginia Militia, sometime in the months of April or May the year not recollected, and marched against the Indians to a place called the Tigers Valley [Tygart Valley], from thence to the West Fork of the Monongahela River, below Red Stone [Redstone] & there remained for about five months – was then discharged. He resided in the County of Rockingham and State of Virginia when he was discharged & when he volunteered, was in no battle although they marched in close pursuit of the Indians for two days through the "West Fork Country," so-called, but was not able to overtake them.

There was no other Company that marched with Captain Robert Cravens & he does not recollect the names of any officers in any other Company, or in any Regiment. He further states that Michael Trout was one of the lieutenants in said Company, & was left in the command of a part of the Company, consisting of 32 men, deponent being one, while the Captain took the balance of the Company and joined General McIntosh, who was then in pursuit of the Indians, from which Campaign, Captain Cravens did not return before deponent was discharged. He states that he received no discharge & he has no documentary evidence. He says that he was in the service at this time six months.

He further states that he again entered the service as a volunteer soldier in the Virginia Militia, County of Rockingham, State of Virginia in the month of July, year not recollected, under the command of Captain Ragan and marched from said County through Williamsburg to Yorktown, was at the siege of that place, and remained there until within five days of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781].

He states that he thinks Captain Ragans Company was attached to the 10th Virginia Regiment, but that he does not recollect the officers name commanding said Regiment.

He says that as Lord Cornwallis marched through Virginia from North Carolina, Captain Ragans & several other Companies marched after him, keeping, as is said, about 20 miles ahead of them. He does not recollect the names of the Lieutenants in Captain Ragans Company nor of any other officer that marched with them at that time. He says that on about two weeks after

their arrival at Yorktown General Washington arrived & took the command.

He says that he was discharged five days before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, & that he remained in service, at this time three months. He states that he received no discharge for this service – & that he has no documentary evidence. He says that he was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, and resided there until the year 1821, & then removed to the State of Illinois, where he has resided ever since.

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

S/ Henry Thornhill, X his mark

State of Illinois Madison County: SS

On this fifth day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the County Commissioners Court of the County of Madison, now sitting, Michael Deck¹ a resident of the County of Madison & State of Illinois, aged 73 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say that to his own knowledge, Henry Thornhill, who has signed the foregoing declaration, served the six months under the command of Captain Robert Cravens as stated by him – that witness resided in Rockingham County State of Virginia, where the said Thornhill volunteered & were said Thornhill resided – Witness went the Campaign with said Thornhill & in the Company was divided went with Captain Cravens & joined General McIntosh. He thinks this service was performed about two years before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, and that at this time, they were in service six months. Witness has known said Thornhill from a boy & believes him to be the age he states. Witness also knows that he served the three months as stated by him in the foregoing declaration, that he served under Captain Ragan as stated by him & that Jacob Linkhorn [Jacob Lincoln?] was the Lieutenant in said Company. Witness resided in Rockingham County at this time and although he did not belong to the same company that said Thornhill dated, yet he knows when he volunteered, saw him at Yorktown, & knows that he was discharged as stated by him, about five days before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis.

S/ Michael Deck, X his mark

[Washington C Ballard, a clergyman, and Michael Deck, Jr gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Illinois Madison County: Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in & for the County and State aforesaid Henry Thornhill who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and 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: For six months I served as a private under Captain Robert Cravens as intended to be stated in my former declaration. For three months I served as a private under Captain Ragan, as is also stated in my former declaration; and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ Henry Thornhill, U his mark

¹ FPA W22935

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